



COLLEGE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN

CWAJ annual report

2016-2017



APRIL 2017

Message from CWAJ's President

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings to you all. I am delighted to present highlights of our news and activities from 2016, a very successful year for CWAJ. Although it was highly unusual for CWAJ not to hold a Print Show in the fall and to organize a Traveling Show instead, everyone's faith and hard work exceeded our hopes.

The prints from the 60th CWAJ Print Show in 2015 ("Kanreki: A 60-Year Journey") were exhibited at Highfield Hall & Gardens in Falmouth, Cape Cod, in the United States from June to October 2016. The opening ceremony was held on June 23rd in the garden of Highfield Hall and the toast was proposed by the Acting Consul General of Japan in Boston, Jiro Usui, together with Peter Franklin, Executive Director of Highfield Hall & Gardens. Many guests, CWAJ members and their families including Overseas Members mainly from the US shared this special moment. The "Kanreki" Show was very well received in the area thanks to Highfield Hall's well-planned and interesting programs featuring many aspects of Japanese culture. We are so grateful for this opportunity to promote Japanese prints to a US audience. They were greatly appreciated and sold well.

In Tokyo we held a smaller scale print exhibition and sale called "Intimate Dimensions" in the Frederick Harris Gallery at the Tokyo American Club. This opened on September 26th for three weeks. This show featured only small prints but attracted many more visitors than predicted.

In October we held the inaugural CWAJ Art Gala, also at the Tokyo American Club, with live and silent auctions. This fundraising event was also very successful, not only raising much-needed funds for future scholarships but delighting the guests with excellent food and wine, and wonderful entertainment.

This year the 61st Print Show will be held at Hillside Forum in Daikanyama, a new venue, from October 25th to 29th, and the Associate Show will be held at Tokyo American Club from September 26th to October 15th. We look forward to seeing you all there.

I feel privileged to serve as President of the College Women's Association of Japan for another year. We are grateful that the Traveling Show, "Intimate Dimensions", and the CWAJ Art Gala were all successful and we would like to thank all those who supported these events. CWAJ remains committed to supporting the education of women and hopes that our scholars will be able to move ahead in society to break the glass ceiling, making the world a better place. With your interest and support, we can help them fulfill their far-reaching dreams. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributes to CWAJ.

Best Wishes,

Miyuki Fukuma, CWAJ President

CWAJ Art Gala

The CWAJ Art Gala held on October 8th 2016 was a huge success in every way! 180 people (100 guests and 80 members) enjoyed a fun evening of live and silent auctions of prints, artworks, and other exclusive items, live entertainment, and delicious food and wine at the Tokyo American Club. Auctioneer Jon Kabira, award-winning radio personality and TV presenter, led the exciting live auction, urging the audience to "dig into their pockets" to support CWAJ's scholarships -- and they did! During the crowdfunding, hands shot up around the room for the Fukushima Relief Scholarship and *Asobijutsu* art program for children in Fukushima. The rousing entertainment of Kodo's Taiko drum performance and Saori Mine of Takarazuka fame added to the memorable evening which was emceed by Kyoko Takano. The Art Gala raised 7.6

million yen thanks to the warm generosity of donors, guests, and performers.



Live auction at the Art Gala

SAVE THE DATES!

61st CWAJ Print Show
Hillside Forum,
Daikanyama, Tokyo
Wednesday 25th - Sunday
29th October 2017

Following CWAJ's "Kanreki" – "rebirth" – 60th Print Show in 2015, we relaunch at a brand new venue in fashionable Daikanyama! Make a note of the dates and plan to join us for this renowned exhibition and sale of contemporary Japanese prints.

"Chiseled Variations" –
Associate Show

With some 30 works on display, this exhibition shows the exciting diversity of contemporary Japanese woodblock printing.

Frederick Harris Gallery,
Tokyo American Club

September 26th (Tues) –
October 15th (Sun), 2017

CWAJ Print Show Preview
Celebration

Tokyo American Club
October 5th (Thurs), 2017

Kobe Show
The Kobe Club

KANREKI: A 60-Year Journey

60th CWAJ Traveling Print Show

In June 2016 CWAJ's 60th Anniversary Traveling Print Show opened at Highfield Hall & Gardens in Falmouth, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod. The exhibition and sales were very successful and received wide coverage all summer in the regional press and on TV.



The opening of the exhibition was also a time of celebration for CWAJ. One hundred and sixty-eight members and guests traveled to Cape Cod from all over the US, from Japan, and other countries around the world. They were joined for the opening ceremony by two hundred local dignitaries, including the Acting Consul General of Japan in Boston. The local community truly appreciated the

prints and the other aspects of the exhibition which included a display of 23 student prints from Fukushima, "Hands-on Art" materials (which CWAJ prepares annually for the visually impaired community), and also extensive descriptions of CWAJ's history and programs.

The Print Show was the impetus for a companion exhibition at the Woods Hole Historical Museum entitled "The Science Connection: Woods Hole and Japan."

Highfield Hall also created several special programs based on Japanese culture, including musical and culinary activities, and a children's summer art program. Our artists and prints received wide acclaim, making this an entirely successful and laudatory event for CWAJ.

The 2016 CWAJ Special Print Exhibition and Sale, "Intimate Dimensions"

In 2016, as CWAJ took its 60th Anniversary Print Show to Cape Cod in the USA and prepared to enter a new phase in Tokyo in 2017, the regular Show was replaced by a smaller scale but hugely successful exhibition, "Intimate Dimensions."

The Frederick Harris Gallery at the Tokyo American Club was filled with as many

small-sized prints as possible, creating a relaxed and welcoming ambience. During the three weeks of the exhibition, the timeframe and the compact space offered many opportunities for visitors and artists to interact, providing valuable insights. The popular docent tours held throughout the exhibition also enhanced enjoyment of the prints.

Works by recipients of the Young Printmaker Award (YPA) were also featured in "Intimate Dimensions", including a lithograph by the 2013 recipient, Yu Ichino, and three mezzotints by the 2016 YPA recipient, Hiroyuki Omori.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed so generously by exhibiting at the show, purchasing prints, and volunteering. Without your support, we could not have achieved these very gratifying results.

2017 CWAJ Young Printmaker Award

1 award of 500,000 yen

TAMAKI Ayano

Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts, MA
2nd year student

Ms Tamaki plans to use the award money to purchase silkscreen tools and materials to explore her artistic production and exhibit the results at a solo exhibition.

FUKUSHIMA RELIEF PROJECTS

The Fukushima Relief Projects were launched soon after the disasters of 2011. On the fifth anniversary of the launch of these projects, we received the very welcome news that CWAJ had been recognized by Fukushima Prefecture for its continuing support and contribution to Fukushima. The presentation ceremony and a lecture were held at the April luncheon by Dr Shinichi Niwa, Professor at Fukushima Medical University.

Nagomi Mental Health Care Center

CWAJ continued to support the Nagomi Center in the Soma area which was established to improve the quality of mental health care, offering medical care as well as social welfare. A van donated by CWAJ facilitates transportation for patients in the area.

Fukushima Relief Scholarship

Established in 2012, the Fukushima Relief Scholarship has now supported more than ten students at the Fukushima Medical University School of Nursing. Most of them have been dedicated to helping their local community as a nurse, a midwife or a health adviser. They have all expressed their appreciation to CWAJ

for providing such generous financial support. Two scholarships of 500,000 yen per year each were awarded to one undergraduate and one graduate student for the academic year 2016-2017. Three students have been selected for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Fukushima Art Project

For the third year running, *Asobijutsu* ("Art as Play") was held in three places at the end of hot July. The program "Let's Decorate Your Own Chair" was held both in Soma and Sukagawa. Under the enthusiastic guidance of Professor Ebizuka and his staff at the Tama University of Art, more than 50 children in each venue enjoyed creating their own chair by using a hammer, sandpaper and watercolor.



The third venue was Fukushima Museum of Art where 15 students were challenged by the new and unique theme of "Let's Explore Textures through Frottage".

20 Prints of Denzen Award winners charm Print Show visitors in Cape Cod

20 prints selected from the Denzen Memorial Print Competition held annually in Sukagawa were exhibited at the CWAJ's 60th Print Show in Cape Cod last summer. Visitors were fascinated by the heartwarming and expressive prints created by children in Japan.

English Program for Children

In 2016, CWAJ held four fun, multicultural English programs for children in Koriyama. The theme for the August program was Sports, an obvious choice in the year of the Rio Olympics. The children enjoyed getting "gold medals" for learning vocabulary, games and storytelling, based around the sports theme. The December program included action songs and games on the theme of winter, and Christmas fun including storytelling of "The Snowman", candy cane craft, and dressing up in a Santa outfit. A total of 84 children participated.








CWAJ SCHOLARSHIP

Empowering and Enabling Leadership

At CWAJ's annual scholarship luncheon in May, the guest speaker was Dr Samata Tamrakar, the recipient of the 2015 scholarship funded by the Tokyo American Club Women's Group. She said this: *"Your decision [to offer me a scholarship] has played a crucial role in boosting my confidence and has empowered me to make changes in my life so that I can change the lives of others in turn... Your dedication and generosity have inspired me to carry this torch of kindness with me and I hope to make a significant contribution towards women's empowerment when I return to my country."* Although Samata could not be present at the luncheon in person due to a personal bereavement, her words exemplify the aim of the CWAJ scholarship program: to inspire leadership and inculcate a spirit of giving back, making changes for the better throughout our global community.

The May luncheon is inarguably the highlight of the year. But the work of the

Past CWAJ Scholars

				
Yoko Narahashi Casting Director, Hollywood movie "The Last Samurai" etc.	Takashi Inoguchi Political Science, President, Univ. of Niigata Prefecture	Yukiko Fukagawa Int'l Economist, Professor, Graduate School of Economics at Waseda Univ.	Makoto Ogoda Lawyer, Author "The reason I, though blind, became a lawyer"	Ewa Machotka Associate Professor at Stockholm Univ. Asia, Middle East Art Japanese Art Curator

scholarship committee begins in September the year before when a group of dedicated and enthusiastic CWAJ members embarks upon the exciting task of selecting the recipients of the various categories of scholarship. The process begins with the orientation of the selection committee coordinators who then guide the committee members through the review of the applications, interviews with the finalists and, finally, the discussion to choose the winning scholars.

This year has been an exciting one for the scholarship committee. Our scholars have ranged from a wide variety of disciplines - from researching hate speech to public health to music. We have continued to develop warm relationships with our past and present scholars. Many of the current scholars and alumni attended the Art Gala and Eri

Nakase, the visually impaired recipient of a scholarship in 2004, was truly inspiring as the speaker for the evening.

While the selection process requires many volunteer hours, we would not be able to maintain CWAJ's core mission of awarding scholarships without the large and small donations we receive from individuals, groups and corporate supporters, as well as from the proceeds of the Print Show. In 2016 CWAJ was able to award nine scholarships, including two for visually impaired students and two for nursing students. Please take a look at the full list of 2016 scholars below and read more about them on the CWAJ website. The details of the Fukushima Relief Scholarships are on page 2. We invite you to continue to support CWAJ's work by making a donation in 2017. For more details, please see the information on page 4.

2016 CWAJ SCHOLARS

CWAJ Graduate Scholarship for Japanese Women to Study Abroad (SA)

Two scholarships of 3 million yen each

SASAMOTO, Naoko

Study program: MA, Public Health, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (USA)

SUZUKI, Akiko

Study program: PhD, Architecture, University of Naples, Federico II (Italy)



CWAJ Graduate Scholarship for Non-Japanese Women to Study in Japan (NJG)

CWAJ Sano Chikara Scholarship

One scholarship of 2 million yen

BAE, AhRan Ellie (Republic of Korea)

Study program: PhD, Social Studies, Rikkyo University Graduate School of Social Design

CWAJ Cultural Exchange Graduate Scholarship for Non-Japanese Women to Study in Japan (NJG)

One scholarship of 2 million yen

LAZIC, Dragana (Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Study program: PhD, International and Advanced Japanese Studies, University of Tsukuba Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences

CWAJ Scholarship for the Visually Impaired to Study in Japan (SVI-SJ)

Two scholarships of 1.5 million yen each

SAITO, Rena

Study program: 4th year student, Music (Piano Major), Toho Gakuen College Music Department

YOSHIDA, Yuji

Study program: PhD, Medical Sciences, Tohoku University Sendai Graduate School

CWAJ-Tokyo American Club Women's Group Non-Japanese Graduate Scholarship

One scholarship of 2 million yen

ZAMARBIDE URDANIZ, Alba Victoria (Spain)

Study program: PhD, Urban Planning, Waseda University Faculty of Creative Science and Engineering

CWAJ Fukushima Relief Scholarship (FRS)

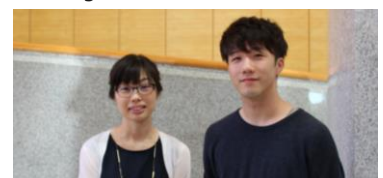
2 scholarships of 0.5 million yen each

SHIKE, Tomoe

Study program : Nursing Science Cancer Center, Fukushima Medical University Graduate Center

NAGASAWA, Mikihisa

Study program : 3rd year student, Nursing Science, Fukushima Medical University School of Nursing



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

Volunteers for the Visually Impaired (VVI)

At the heart of CWAJ's community service initiative, the VVI group has been developing and delivering its pioneering programs for the visually impaired community for more than 40 years. These programs include teaching English twice weekly at the Japan Vocational Development Center for the Blind to improve job skills. Another valuable program is providing mock interviews to prepare VI high school students for the Eiken English proficiency test. The English Conversation Gatherings are another popular way of providing our VI friends with an opportunity to enjoy English conversation through fun cross-cultural programs. All of the VVI program information is disseminated through CWAJ's newsletter which is distributed to approximately 150 visually impaired individuals through various mediums.

Children's Special Project

Children's English Circle closed its doors in 2016 after serving returnee children for almost 40 years. In order to meet changing needs and to continue with CWAJ's mission in education, Children's Special Project has been launched. Two programs are scheduled to start in 2017: an introductory English program for children living at St. Joseph's Children's Home, as well as an after-school program called "Fun in English" for elementary schoolchildren at Azabu Kids to Teens Hall.

Foreign Students' Circle (FSC)

Japan has become an increasingly popular destination for foreign students. Many of them live in the Tokyo Metropolitan area and spend their time studying diligently, working hard at their research, and maintaining part-time jobs. FSC's purpose is to give the students opportunities to enjoy their stay in Japan by learning and experiencing Japanese customs and culture in a relaxing atmosphere. Past events have included hanami, Kabuki, day trips, and Japanese cooking. FSC mentors also take care of students individually by inviting them to their homes and providing advice about how to live in Japan.



CULTURAL PROGRAMS

2016 was an unusual year, not just for Cultural Programs but for the entire organization as for the first time in the history of CWAJ a fundraising gala was held. In addition to contributing towards the Art Gala, the Cultural Programs team organized two events.

In September, CWAJ members went to the Yokohama Museum of Art to see an exhibition of the work of the pioneer impressionist artist, Mary Cassatt, known for her paintings themed around the social and private lives of women. Participants also had the opportunity to attend a talk by the curator of the museum and afterwards enjoyed lunch together.



In November, a musical program was organized at Engaku-ji temple located on the slopes of Kita-Kamakura's forested hills and known for its fall colors. The two musicians, Ms Nobuko Baba on the koto and Mr Keisuke Zenyoji on the shakuhachi, played a total of eight pieces of music and gave exemplary performances. The concert was a huge success and was enjoyed by all.

CWAJ PROMOTION EVENT

Dr Calder's Lecture



In June, we co-hosted a US/Japan relations program highlighting the 2016 US Presidential Election given by Professor Kent E. Calder, PhD. Dr Calder is an intercultural expert whose editorials on urgent political matters have been published in the *Nikkei Shimbun*. A luncheon for industry leaders and press plus a seminar for CWAJ members were held. Everyone walked away with a better understanding of how US elections work, how the 2016 candidates were selected, and how future policy could be affected. We are honored by Dr Calder's generous time and commitment.



CWAJ Art Gala
Kodo's Taiko drum performance,

Fund the Future!

By supporting the CWAJ Scholarship and Education Programs and the CWAJ Fukushima Relief Projects, you can make a genuine and long-lasting impact on the lives of individuals and communities both in Japan and beyond. CWAJ welcomes donations of any amount throughout the year.

The support of the Japan Foundation Designated Donation Program enables CWAJ to award more scholarships to women graduate students who have chosen to study abroad. A tax deduction receipt from the Japan Foundation is available for donors to CWAJ who file tax return forms in Japan.

For further information about making a donation to CWAJ, please contact one of the Donations/Sponsorships Co-Chairs, Miki Komakoshi or Laura Malory:

donations@cwaj.org

About CWAJ

Founded in 1949, College Women's Association of Japan (CWAJ) promotes education and cross-cultural exchange through its scholarship programs, the annual Print Show, and other programs that support the community. A volunteer, not-for-profit organization, CWAJ has 450 members from over 20 countries who work together in many diverse areas of activity. Offering opportunities for women from all over the world to share valuable cultural experiences, CWAJ provides a long-term link with Japan as well as the immediate benefits of a wide range of activities in and around Tokyo. Interested in joining CWAJ? Please contact membership@cwaj.org for more information. If you know of former CWAJ members who have repatriated and may be interested in becoming an overseas member, please contact cwajoverseas@cwaj.org.



CWAJ College Women's Association of Japan

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