



COLLEGE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN

MARCH 2019

CWAJ

ANNUAL REPORT
2018-2019CELEBRATING
70 YEARS OF CWAJ**Message from CWAJ's President**

Dear Friends,

In 2019 the College Women's Association of Japan celebrates its 70th Anniversary and remembers with much pride the remarkable beginnings of this organization.

In 1949, just after the end of World War II, a small group of Japanese and American women in Tokyo started raising travel funds for Japanese students to study in the US. The group quickly expanded to include women from other countries and became known as CWAJ. The travel grants developed into scholarships for women and in time the scholarship program expanded to include visually impaired Japanese men and women, artists, and more recently scholarships for nursing students in Fukushima. CWAJ has now supported 850 students in the total amount of 985,257,000 yen.

Since 1956, CWAJ's annual Print Show has raised funds for the scholarship

program as well as awards to encourage young print artists. In 2018 this very popular exhibition and sale of contemporary print art was held for the second time at Daikanyama Hillside Forum, with over 1000 local and international visitors and positive reviews.

CWAJ also offers many educational and cultural programs, including unique English-language programs for the visually impaired community in Tokyo. CWAJ now has 400 members from 25 countries and is an entirely volunteer-run organization, promoting cross-cultural understanding and friendship.

CWAJ's 70th anniversary is not only a time to celebrate seven decades of making a difference but also to look towards the future. In order to be a sustainable organization, we must continue to be innovative - and it is critical to raise public awareness of our work. We have recently relaunched our website and we are delighted to have been featured more in the media, including the first in an "In

Japan" web TV series, *Women at Work*, celebrating female excellence.

The first of this year's 70th anniversary events is a public symposium, "Women Making a Sustainable Impact in Society", held on 8th March 2019 (International Women's Day) and generously supported by The Tokyo Club. A panel of four women leaders in Japan will share their views and experiences on women's participation in society, education, and leadership. This will be followed by a networking reception. On 17th May there will be a special dinner for the extended CWAJ community, introducing the 2019 scholars.

It is a privilege to be President of this impressive organization as it commemorates this landmark anniversary and I would like to express our warm gratitude to you all for your support for CWAJ's mission, past, present and future.

Sincerely,
Reiko Oshima
CWAJ President

**CWAJ 70th Anniversary
Dinner and Reception**

Hotel Okura Tokyo, Ascot Hall

Friday 17th May 2019

Reception 5:30-6:30pm

Dinner 6:30-9:00pm

All are welcome to join this joyous celebration of our history and friendship, including the introduction of CWAJ's 2019 scholars, live entertainment and more.

63rd CWAJ Print Show

Hillside Forum, Daikanyama, Tokyo

Wednesday 23rd - Sunday 27th October 2019

CWAJ's renowned exhibition and sale of contemporary Japanese prints will be held again at light-filled Hillside Forum in Daikanyama.

Kobe CWAJ Print Show

The Kobe Club, Kobe

Thursday 7th - Sunday 10th November 2019

Exhibition and sale of selected works from the 63rd CWAJ Print Show and the CWAJ 70th Anniversary Show.

**CWAJ 70th Anniversary Show
"Wonder Women! The Power
of Women's Imagination"**Frederick Harris Gallery,
Tokyo American Club**Wednesday 16th October -
Monday 4th November 2019**

A special exhibition and sale of prints highlighting the imagination and power of female artists.

CWAJ 62nd PRINT SHOW

In October 2018, the 62nd CWAJ Print Show was held for the second time at Hillside Forum in Daikanyama. A total of 298 prints were exhibited in Daikanyama and at the Associate Show at the Tokyo American Club. The Show was attended by over a thousand visitors and was very well received, resulting in increased sales.



Guided tours offered in English, Japanese, French and Swedish were highly popular and provided much-appreciated background to the artists and their prints.

The cover artist, Yuki Hasegawa, whose print was made into an attractive scarf and sold alongside the perennially popular cards, calendars and diaries, made several appearances to sign copies of the catalogue.



For many years CWAJ has included "Hands-on Art" as part of the Print Show. Six prints were converted into tactile raised images designed primarily for visually impaired visitors. This unique and very valuable initiative is always a drawcard and the display table stayed busy throughout the exhibition, also appreciated by many sighted visitors, especially children.



Young printmakers were celebrated in a special section displaying three works by Ryo Nishimura, winner of the 2018 Young Printmaker Award (YPA), and also by Nao Masuda, winner of the award in 2015. Other YPA winners who have remained active as printmakers since funding of the award started in 2005 were showcased with one print each.

● 2018 Associate Show

CWAJ's traditional Associate Show was named "Beyond the First Impression – Prints from Cover Artists". This exquisitely curated exhibition showcased new works from artists whose prints had adorned past Print Show catalogues. These were displayed both at the Tokyo American Club and at the Hillside Forum and proved to be very successful with visitors, who got a fascinating glimpse into the long history of the CWAJ Print Show.

The 62nd CWAJ Print Show was once again a great success, promoting contemporary Japanese print art (*hanga*) while at the same time raising much-needed funds for CWAJ's various scholarship programs.

2018 CWAJ Print Show Award

One award of 100,000 yen

KIM Sohee 「Way Home II」

Juror's Award

IKUTA Koji 「Mirror X」

SAKAKIBARA Kei 「Crack in forest」

2019 CWAJ Young Printmaker Award (YPA)

One award of 500,000 yen

YAMADA Hikaru

Musashino Art University Graduate,
2nd year

FUKUSHIMA RELIEF PROJECTS

CWAJ is proud to have responded quickly to support the areas stricken by the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011 and continues to support the health and welfare of the community through its Fukushima Relief Projects.

● Fukushima Relief Scholarships

Since the beginning of the Fukushima Relief Scholarship program in 2012, CWAJ has awarded 18 scholarships to students of the Fukushima Medical University School of Nursing. Two additional scholarships will be awarded in 2019.

The 2018 FRS recipients were Ms Kazumi Kokubun, whose goal is to use nursing interventions to provide psychological support to people in crisis, and Ms Ayaka Munakata, who wishes to specialize in oncology nursing to ease the pain of patients and their families. Previous scholars now serve the community as nurses, midwives, and in public health.

● Asobijutsu ("Art as Play")

In late July 2018, CWAJ volunteers were delighted to bring the *Asobijutsu* ("Art as Play") program back to Soma, Sukagawa and Fukushima City. Led by Professor Koichi Ebizuka of Tama Art University, these unique, creative experiences have brightened the spirits of the children of Fukushima every summer since 2014.

In Soma and Sukagawa each child painted 25 small wooden plaques which were

strung together in five columns of five to fashion a dynamic hanging artwork.



There was a different program at the Fukushima Prefectural Museum of Art, drawing inspiration from works currently on display. After the curator explained the works and the stencil medium, participants from elementary to high school age made their own stencils and prints.



Mr Ren Otani of Soma Psychiatric Care Center Nagomi drove the CWAJ-donated

van between the various venues to transport volunteers and materials. CWAJ Fukushima Relief scholar Kazumi Kokubun joined the events in Sukagawa and Fukushima City, adding to the happy community spirit. We received a gracious thank you note from the museum staff.

Asobijutsu 2018 was a splendid conclusion to CWAJ's participation in this "Art as Play" Program.

● Denzen Award

The Denzen Award, a competition for elementary and middle school students, honors Aoudou Denzen, an Edo-period artist born in Sukagawa. Since 2013 CWAJ has invited the top winner in each age category to attend the Print Show with their parents. It will be exciting to see the young artists and their dynamic prints at Daikanyama this fall.



Visit CWAJ's website for an overview of Fukushima Relief Projects:
<https://cwaj.org/education/fukushima-relief-projects/>

CWAJ SCHOLARSHIP

CWAJ's Scholarship Network for Our Scholars

As mentioned in the President's message, CWAJ has long supported outstanding students, first with travel grants, then later scholarships. Hearing about their achievements is always exciting!

At the CWAJ luncheon in May 2018, Hiroko Sano (1978 scholar SA*), Professor Emerita at Aoyama Gakuin University, spoke about the value of studying humanities. She encouraged the new scholars to make and keep friendships active throughout their lives, as her network had helped greatly when organizing international events.



Other CWAJ scholars who have sent interesting updates include: Alba Zamarbide (2016 NJG) received her PhD

from Waseda University in April 2018 and was appointed an Invited Researcher. Her PhD dissertation received the 2018 European Network on Cultural Management and Policy's Research Award and will be published in ENCATC's book series.



Ririna Kaneko (2017 SVI) is no stranger to the stage, having been a ballet dancer, lecturer, and president of Toastmasters Club Tokyo. In February 2018 she participated in the University of Tokyo English Speaking Society's 12th annual speech contest. In her speech, entitled "Line", she suggested that people might perceive her white cane as a symbol of the boundary between disabled and non-disabled. Exhorting everyone to "break

this line", she dramatically broke her cane and threw it on the stage. She won the Audience Prize!

Noriko Kanno (2017 FRS) earned her Master's degree and is excited about applying her learning and research as a Clinical Research Coordinator at Fukushima Medical University Hospital.

Miyuki Mori (2017 FRS) is to be appointed an assistant professor at the Fukushima Medical University School of Nursing after graduation in September 2019.

Fusae Nara (1988 SA), now a New York-based lawyer, was pleased and impressed to be introduced by CWAJ to Columbia University students Shoko Hirose (2017 SA) and Eri Tayama (2018 SA).

We are always grateful to our generous donors, including the Tokyo American Club Women's Group. In 2018 CWAJ was able to award nine scholarships.

*See below for the meaning of the Scholarship abbreviations.

2018 CWAJ SCHOLARS



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

One scholarship of 3 million yen

TAKAHASHI, Misaki

MSc, Forest and Nature Conservation, Wageningen University & Research (Kingdom of the Netherlands)

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

One scholarship of 3 million yen

ZHANG, Yangyu (People's Republic of China)

MA, Art Produce, Department of Arts Studies and Curatorial Practice Graduate School of Global Arts, Tokyo Univ. of the Arts

CWAJ-Tokyo American Club Women's Group Graduate Scholarship for Non-Japanese Women to Study in Japan (NJG)

One scholarship of 2 million yen

AZHARY, Jerilee (Malaysia)

PhD, Reproductive Endocrinology, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Graduate School of Medicine, The University of Tokyo

CWAJ Fukushima Relief Scholarship (FRS)

Two scholarships of 500,000 yen each

KOKUBUN, Kazumi

3rd year student, Fukushima Medical Univ. School of Nursing

MUNAKATA, Ayaka

3rd year student, Fukushima Medical Univ. School of Nursing

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

One scholarship of 3 million yen

TAYAMA, Eri

MIA, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University (USA)

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

One scholarship of 2 million yen

GANIEVA, Umida (Republic of Uzbekistan)

PhD, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Graduate School of Medicine, Nagoya University

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

Two scholarships of 1.5 million yen each

ITONO, Kaiki

MA, Education and Psychology, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, International Christian University

AMIMOTO, Marina

Bachelor's Degree, Department of Social Work, College of Community and Human Services, Rikkyo University

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

● Volunteers for the Visually Impaired (VVI)

With more than 40 years of history, VVI's mainstay services are English language lessons at the Japan Vocational Development Center for the Blind and mock interviews for students at Tsukuba High School. The English lessons, which have become increasingly popular, enhance the participants' job skills. News and information about CWAJ and its VVI programs are included in the VVI newsletter which in 2018 was distributed three times to nearly 200 VI friends.



This year's two English conversation gatherings (ECG) had themes of "the American south" and "winter traditions." On each occasion, participants had fun learning about the topic by listening to the

speaker in English, handling various related objects, listening to music or singing, and tasting treats prepared by the speakers. Always popular, attendance was about 60 each time.

● Foreign Students' Circle (FSC)

FSC had four events in 2018: Visiting a disaster prevention center in April, watching a kabuki play in July, zazen meditation in October, and visiting the CWAJ Print Show in November. An average of 5-10 foreign students participated on each occasion. Kabuki was the most popular event, with 15 students and alumni participating. FSC volunteers also act as mentors for the foreign students, offering support when needed.



CULTURAL PROGRAMS

● Cultural Program

CWAJ's Cultural Programs provide stimulating cultural events for members and the community at large. Open to all, these events are held twice a year and usually conducted in English.

On 21st May 2018, fifty people enjoyed visiting two lesser known temples in the seaside outskirts of Kamakura. Participants first took an exclusive private tour of the small Renjo-in, guided by the Head Priest who talked about Amida and Jōdo-shū (Pure Land Buddhism). The group then moved on to nearby Kōmyō-ji (a larger and important teaching temple). This visit included a guided tour of the magnificent buildings and garden (rebuilt in the 17th century), a discussion about Buddhism, and further comments and questions about food over a wonderful temple meal (authentic shōjin-ryōri, typical Japanese vegetarian Buddhist cuisine). Many of the group then joined the optional climb up to the great sanmon (main gate).



The autumn program (including lunch at a traditional Japanese eatery) was a guided tour of the Kao Museum, situated at their corporate complex in Sumida-ku.

The museum traces the early history of soap and "cleanliness" as well as recounting the company's history from its founding in 1890. Eye-catching and detailed exhibits recreate the social history of Japan in the 20th century through developments in soap, other household products, and cosmetics. The group also explored hands-on demonstrations and exhibits of more recently developed eco-conscious products.

● Luncheon Program

CWAJ's monthly luncheon program offers unique opportunities for inspiration and personal enrichment, for promoting cross-cultural values, for entertainment, and for connecting with old friends and meeting new ones.

In 2018, we offered ten diverse programs – from classical Japanese dance and music to a talk and fashion show by a legendary Japanese designer. We learned about the challenges women face in the media industry, and we heard from a development practitioner with over thirty years' experience of the United Nations Development Program about ways to help women enlarge their international networks. In October, just ahead of the Print Show, we were addressed by a member of the selection committee. Finally, we were fortunate to be entertained by two professional musicians, both daughters of CWAJ members. There are further details about all of these programs on the CWAJ website.



CWAJ supports SDGs,

OTHER FUNDRAISING

● The Art and Gourmet Raffle

The Art and Gourmet Raffle proved to be a wonderful effort, adding to the success of the 62nd Print Show. With more than 80 prizes on offer, including vacation and dining packages, a lovely Shinoda print, Dom Perignon champagne, beauty packages, and many more, the Art and Gourmet Raffle raised 865,000 yen for CWAJ's scholarship programs. The raffle kicked-off in September, as CWAJ members did an exceptional job selling raffle tickets ahead of the Print Show. In addition, many of the 1,000 Print Show attendees bought tickets when visiting the show which also played a big role in the overwhelming success of the raffle.

..... 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, 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

(Ippan Shadan Hojin CWAJ)
CWAJ Center
2-24-13-703 Kami-Osaki
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-0021
Tel/Fax : 03-3491-2091
<https://cwaj.org/>