



COLLEGE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN

CWAJ

ANNUAL REPORT
2019-2020

MARCH 2020



Marking the 70th anniversary of its founding, 2019 was a special year for celebrating CWAJ's seven decades of promoting education, art, community service and cross-cultural understanding as well as an opportunity to look to the future. Two special events, a public symposium and a celebratory dinner, attracted members from overseas as well as from Japan. In addition, each area of CWAJ highlighted this landmark anniversary in its programs.

CWAJ 70th Anniversary Symposium

"Women Making a Sustainable Impact in Society"

The public symposium held on March 8th 2019, International Women's Day, showcased four inspiring panelists, all women leaders in Japan:

Kaori Kuroda, CSO Network Japan, "Sustainable Development Goals",

Yoko Tokunaga, Fundraising Labo, "How to raise funds for NPOs",

Minami Tsubouchi (2004 CWAJ Scholar), Global Fund for Education Assistance, "Why and how to pursue your own career goal",

Sayuri Daimon, *Japan Times*, "Your challenging power will change the world." The presentations were followed by a lively panel discussion and question & answer session. The evening program began with the showing of the "Women at Work" video featuring CWAJ, produced by Custom Media. Attended by 157 people, the symposium was also successful for raising public awareness of CWAJ.

CWAJ thanks The Tokyo Club for its support of this event.

CWAJ 70th Anniversary Dinner & Reception

"A Joyous Celebration of CWAJ's 70 years of History and Friendship"

On May 17th 2019 over 200 people, including many former presidents, artists, and CWAJ scholars, gathered at the Hotel Okura in Tokyo. The celebration began with a festive *kagami biraki*. The five women chosen to swing the mallet represented various facets of CWAJ's

activities: Barbara Knode, 1970 CWAJ President; Reiko Oshima, 2019 CWAJ President; Noriko Yanagisawa, longtime Print Show artist; and two CWAJ scholarship recipients, Miiko Kodama, one of the first scholars in 1972, and Ririna Kaneko, a young scholar with visual impairment.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of CWAJ's 2019 scholars, including the recipients of the 70th Anniversary Graduate Scholarships for Japanese Women to Study Abroad. Another highlight was a live auction conducted by Jon Kabira of unique CWAJ prizes - a handcrafted quilt, art, and stays in Fukushima and Kyoto. The evening concluded with a stellar performance by CWAJ members Dawn Blackwell and Kyoko Takano, 'Songs for Seven Decades'.

Additional programs arranged at around the time of the dinner enabled members visiting from overseas to renew friendships. These included a reunion trip to Atami, with a special performance of Japanese music and visits to local attractions.

In her speech at the 70th anniversary celebration, 1988 CWAJ President Bobbie Seligmann inspired us to recommit to CWAJ's mission: "Meeting the needs of the educational community and changes in society has accounted for the success of our 70 years. We must continue to be relevant and adapt to future challenges."

Six panels were created to show how CWAJ has made a difference in the last 70 years, highlighting the contributions made to education, art, and community. The panels were displayed at all key CWAJ events during the year and can be seen here: <https://bit.ly/3axJ6RV>



FUND THE FUTURE!

By supporting the CWAJ Scholarship and Education Programs, 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 Donations 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

SAVE THE DATE

64th CWAJ PRINT SHOW

Wednesday 21- Sunday 25
October 2020

Hillside Forum,
Daikanyama, Tokyo

CWAJ's renowned exhibition and sale of contemporary Japanese prints will be held at Hillside Forum in Daikanyama. Join us for a touch of "Fresh Wind": new ideas, innovations and a renewed look at how we approach, choose and interpret art and beauty.

63rd CWAJ PRINT SHOW

was held at the light-filled Hillside Forum gallery in Daikanyama where it has been continuously exhibited since 2017. This year's show was open to the public from October 23rd to 27th. The Opening Reception with over 200 guests took place on October 23rd in order to avoid an overlap with the new emperor's enthronement ceremonies (usually it is scheduled for the evening before the Opening).

Celebratory messages for CWAJ's 70th Anniversary were communicated in the catalogue, at the Opening reception and with prominent history panels at the exhibition venue. In addition, this year's Associate Show transformed into the "CWAJ 70th Anniversary Celebratory Exhibition" under the fetching name "Wonder Women!". Lively prints by six powerful women artists (OSAKA Chika, SAITO Rika, TOYOIZUMI Ayano, TSUCHIYA Misa [photo below], WAKAKI Kurumi, YAMADA Ayaka) composed this special exhibition.



Prints from 2019 Young Printmaker Award (YPA) winner YAMADA Hikaru and 2016 winner OMORI Hiroyuki also drew attention. In total, 212 prints were displayed in the main show, 48 prints in the "Wonder Women!" Celebratory Exhibition, 6 prints from the YPA winners plus 2 additional prints, donated by an artist's family.

Once again, the **Hands-on Art** subcommittee converted several prints into tactile versions for the visually impaired to read with their fingers. This much-appreciated and one of a kind experience continues to be an exceptional art offering at the CWAJ Print Show, and you most likely won't find anything comparable among international art exhibitions.

Guided tours included prints demonstrating the different techniques and many artistic styles which made them very popular with visitors, who gained deeper knowledge and understanding of both the artworks and artists.



In addition, **two woodblock printing technique demonstrations** were given by artist ISHIBASHI Yuichiro, whose nimble work and eloquent explanations impressed large crowds of visitors.



The bi-annual CWAJ Kobe Print Show was arranged for the 7th time in November and 70 specially selected prints were displayed at the Kobe Club. The 70th anniversary of CWAJ and the 150th anniversary of Kobe Club were both successfully celebrated with a glamorous charity concert titled "Opera & Takarazuka", performed by Ray Sanjo and Mariko Nishigawa in conjunction with the show.

2019 CWAJ Print Show Award

One award of 100,000 yen

OGOSHI Tomoko [Blue & Purple]

Juror's Award

KATSUKI Yuka [Step not to stop]
KUGO Ikuhiro [below ground-43]

2020 CWAJ Young Printmaker Award (YPA) One award of 500,000 yen

TASHIRO Yukari
University of Teacher Education Fukuoka Graduate, 2nd year

FUKUSHIMA RELIEF PROJECTS

CWAJ quickly responded to help the areas stricken by the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011 and has continued to support the health and welfare of the community through Fukushima Relief Projects.

■ Fukushima Relief Scholarships

Since 2012, CWAJ has awarded 20 scholarships to students of the Fukushima Medical University School of Nursing. The recipients have gone on to serve the community as nurses, midwives, and in public health.

■ Donation to aid Typhoon 19 victims in Fukushima

Typhoon 19 (Hagibis) struck Fukushima in early October 2019. CWAJ responded by donating ¥200,000 raised through the 70th Anniversary Raffle to aid typhoon victims in the devastated area. The donation was given to Nagomi Kokoro no Care Center with which CWAJ has had a strong connection since our first relief project in Fukushima.

■ Denzen Award

The Denzen Award, a woodblock print competition for elementary and middle school students, honors Aoudou Denzen, an Edo-period artist born in Sukagawa City, Fukushima. This year, as it has since 2013, CWAJ will exhibit the captivating prints by the young artists who won in each age category. They and their parents are invited to attend the Print Show.



Dear Friends,

CWAJ is a vital organization that offers women many opportunities to support women. We do this through education, art, community and friendship. Women supporting women is exhilarating and it is a privilege to be president of this spirited organization.

President's
Message



Women who have moved to Japan from other countries will find extraordinary possibilities for making connections through CWAJ's volunteer activities and cultural programs. Japanese women make multicultural friendships and connect to their home through meaningful volunteer work. All members benefit from better cross-cultural understanding. The bonds of friendship that are forged when women work together to accomplish the mission of CWAJ are indelible. Our primary mission is the provision of scholarships and our scholars have made a positive impact worldwide. We raise funds through a variety of activities. Because we are a 100% volunteer organization, all money raised goes toward subsidizing our scholarships.

CWAJ relies on donations from kind supporters like you in order to fully fund our scholarships. Allow me to express the gratitude of our entire organization for your support. For 70 years women have found a home in CWAJ. With your patronage, we are looking forward to supporting women for at least 70 more years.

Sincerely,
Jane Grimes
CWAJ President

CWAJ SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Seven Decades of Scholarships

In honor of CWAJ's 70th year, the Scholarship Committee awarded two scholarships titled "CWAJ 70th Anniversary Graduate Scholarship for Japanese Women to Study Abroad." Each was in the amount of 5 million yen, given over a two-year study period. This award was created to continue the assistance for overseas education that was started with Travel Grants (TG) in 1949.

CWAJ is proud of the connections maintained with Scholars. Attending the March 8th Symposium allowed five past Scholars the chance to meet: Ryoko Narui (SA 2013), Lucia Vancura (IUC 2006), Miiko Kodama (SA 1972), Rie Yasuhara

(SVI 2007), and Minami Tsubouchi (SA 2004, one of the speakers).

The following seven Scholars, one from each decade, offer a small sample of the 850 scholarship recipients of CWAJ scholarships over 70 years. These women and men are pursuing a range of professions in sciences, arts, academia and business, effecting positive change all over the world.

- **Hiroko Nakamoto** TG 1951: Founder, Hiroshima Gateway to World Peace; career in architectural interior design
- **Yoko Narahashi** TG 1969: Casting director, Film producer
- **Ryoichi Namai** SVI-SJ 1978: *First SVI recipient; First totally blind person in*

Japan to receive PhD in science; Professor, Kaetsu University

- **Masako Egawa** SA 1984: *First female Executive Vice President of the University of Tokyo; Professor, Graduate School of Business Administration, Hitotsubashi University*

- **Reiko Takahashi** SVI-SJ 1990: *Subsection Chief of Universal Toy Design Section, Takara Tomy*

- **Ewa Machotka** NJG 2006: *CWAJ 50th Print Show scholar; Assoc. Professor, Japanese Language and Culture, Stockholm University, Sweden*

- **Kentaro Fukuchi** SVI-SA 2011: *Formerly at Japan Red Cross, now at JICA to support minorities in developing countries*

See below for the meaning of the Scholarship abbreviations.



2019 CWAJ SCHOLARS



CWAJ 70th Anniversary Graduate Scholarship for Japanese Women to Study Abroad (SA) total ¥5 million each for two academic years

SAKON, Shio

PhD, Department of Physics, Pennsylvania State University (USA)

SHIIMA, Yuko

MRes Medical Research, Brighton and Sussex Medical School (UK)

CWAJ Cultural Exchange Graduate Scholarship for Non-Japanese Women to Study in Japan (NJG) ¥ 2 million

ERMILOVA, Mariia Eduardovna (Russian Federation)

PhD Environmental Science and Landscape Architecture, Spatial Planning Laboratory, Graduate School of Horticulture, Chiba University

CWAJ Sano Chikara Scholarship for Non-Japanese Women to Study in Japan (NJG) ¥2 million

CHOUCHANE, Hanna Mejah (Republic of Tunisia)

PhD Policy and Planning Sciences, Graduate School of Systems and Information Engineering, University of Tsukuba

CWAJ-Tokyo American Club Women's Group Graduate Scholarship for Non-Japanese Women to Study in Japan (TACWG-NJG) ¥2 million

ZBLACKAITE, Giedre (Republic of Lithuania)

PhD Nuclear Engineering, Tokyo Institute of Technology

CWAJ Scholarship for the Visually Impaired to Study in Japan (SVI-SJ) ¥1.5 million each

MATSUOKA, Kotono

3rd year, Special Needs Program, Department of Education and Child Development, Faculty of Psychology, Meiji Gakuin University

YANASHIMA, Shun

MS Mathematical Sciences, Graduate School of Science, Tokyo Metropolitan University

CWAJ Fukushima Relief Scholarship (FRS) ¥500,000 each

IIMA, Tamaki

3rd year student, Fukushima Medical University School of Nursing

TSUGAWA, Rina

3rd year student, Fukushima Medical University School of Nursing

ABOUT CWAJ

The College Women's Association of Japan, a 100% volunteer organization is a singular group of women supporting women through education, arts, community and friendship. Founded in 1949, our primary mission is the provision of scholarships. These scholarships are funded by donations and proceeds from the CWAJ Print Show, an internationally acclaimed annual exhibition and sale that promotes contemporary Japanese print art. CWAJ serves the community by providing educational services for children and

adults, including innovative programs for visually impaired individuals. Friendship is built by engaging in meaningful volunteer projects together and joining in shared interest groups. Opportunities to participate include activities that promote our organization's commitment to education and cross-cultural understanding, and a wide range of unique cultural and social events. CWAJ offers the chance to make friendships with women from around the world as well as to develop long-term links with Japan. Please join us, contact: membership@cwaj.org

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

■ Volunteers for the Visually Impaired (VVI)



VVI hosted various English language and outreach activities including an English Conversation Gathering (ECG) at The Special Needs Education School for the Visually Impaired, University of Tsukuba on Saturday, November 17th. Mr. Junichi Kawai, a legendary Paralympic swimmer, was invited as guest speaker. Mr. Kawai spoke about his successful career and achievements. Visitors were allowed to handle one of his gold medals which is inscribed with Braille. Mr. Kawai shared his daily, disciplined routine as a roadmap to achieving his goals. The discussion concluded with a spirited Q&A. Participants included VI friends, CWAJ volunteers, students from Tsukuba School and the American School in Japan who were given a sound table tennis demonstration which is played using a ball with a bell inside. Visually impaired individuals follow the sound in order to play. Visitors and volunteers were offered blindfolds and the

opportunity to experience sound table tennis as a non-sighted person.

Recently, Mr. Kawai was appointed as chairperson of the Japanese Paralympic Committee and the head of the Paralympic delegation. Other VVI Programs:

- Twice-weekly English language lessons at Japan Vocational Development Center for the Blind, 25 students.
- Twice-annual mock interviews at The Special Needs Education School for the Visually Impaired, University of Tsukuba to help prepare students for English proficiency exams.
- The VVI newsletter sent to 200 VI friends three times in 2019.

■ Foreign Students' Circle (FSC)



FSC had four events in 2019: Tea Party for new students in April, Kabuki Viewing in July, Visiting Print Show in October and Visiting National Museum of Western Art in November. Twelve students and alumni participated in Tea

Party and Kabuki Viewing events, and enjoyed learning about traditional Japanese arts, while 16 students including four alumni and three FSC students' friends came to Print Show Visiting. It was rewarding for FSC volunteers, who also act as mentors for these students, to see the students listen intently to the guide's explanations of prints.

■ English Outreach for Children (EOC)



Launched in March 2019, English Outreach for Children (EOC) is a new program aimed at providing "fun-in-English" programs for residents at St. Joseph Children's Home. EOC volunteers visit the home monthly and children participate in a literacy-based program. The highlight of the lesson is post-reading activities such as acting out the actions and adventures of the story, crafts, fun games and singing. Special programs are prepared for Easter, Halloween and Christmas. The Home, located in Nishi Tokyo City, western Tokyo, was originally founded by a Catholic missionary in 1946 to foster war orphans.

CULTURAL PROGRAMS

■ Cultural Program

CWAJ's 70th Anniversary Culture Program titled "Let's Get to Know Indonesia - Through Music, Storytelling and Food," was held at Yotsuya Nicolas Barre Hall on October 6th 2019 with 120 participants (two-thirds non-CWAJ members). All had a good time.

Journalist Myra Junor, who lives in Tokyo, talked about her country's diverse terrain, ethnicities, and religions, as well as women who play an active role in their society and internationally, including the first female president Megawati (2001-2004).



The participants then enjoyed an Indonesian folk instrument performance by three performers from the group 'Indha Putri' using the *angklung* (an instrument made of bamboo) who played classical and Japanese pieces along with Indonesian folk songs. Although this was the first time most of the participants had seen or heard this instrument, everyone had a fun time at the end trying their hand at a smaller

version of the *angklung* used by the performers. After expert instruction, all participants managed a full performance together.

The program ended with tea time and networking while enjoying four kinds of Indonesian sweets and Indonesian tea. All proceeds were donated to CWAJ Scholarships.

■ Luncheon Program

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

In 2019 CWAJ presented many diverse programs - Kristin Newton taught attendees to develop creativity through art, Kenneth Tanaka spoke on Buddhism in everyday life, celebrating individuality and diversity, Izena Natsuko powerfully illustrated that those with physical challenges lead full personal and professional lives, participants learned about the strength of women artists in Finland from Dr. Anna-Maria Wiljanen. Lord Gregory Mostyn shared the life of a Welsh royal and the Fujisawa Male Voice acapella group serenaded the group at Christmas time. Again this year, the monthly meeting program challenged our thinking, educated, inspired and entertained throughout 2019.

OTHER FUNDRAISING



This raffle was a great success and welcome addition to this year's 63rd Print Show.

Many donors generously provided 45 exciting prizes, proceeds from which support CWAJ Fukushima Relief and Scholarship Programs.

Air Canada provided the grand prize: two round-trip tickets for the North American continent. Other prizes included: a distinctive graphic art set and high-end pens from **Faber-Castell**, **RIEDEL** decanter and glasses, treatments from **Hollywood Beauty**, European wine sets, and restaurant and entertainment vouchers.

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SCAN ME

