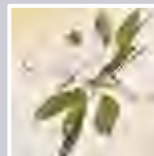
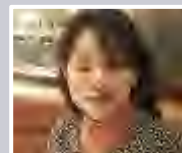




COLLEGE WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN

2021 - 2022 Annual Report

MARCH 2022



Carrying On: CWAJ Supports the Visually Impaired

CWAJ built its foundation on three important pillars: Scholarship, Educational Programs, and Print Show. Importantly, each of those pillars supports programs for the visually impaired, including Scholarship for the Visually Impaired (SVI), Volunteers for the Visually Impaired (VVI), and Hands-on Art (HoA).

The Scholarship for the Visually Impaired (SVI) was established in 1978 as the first scholarship in Japan for visually-impaired students. A total of 78 scholarships have been awarded to students for study in Japan and abroad. Notably, Makoto Ogoda, who graduated from law school as an SVI scholar, became the second totally blind lawyer in Japan, and Tomomi Ishiura, a 2008 SVI recipient, competed in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games as a para-swimmer, finishing in the top tier in three events. Former SVI scholarship recipients Masamitsu Misono and Shoto Yamada were selected as torchbearers for the Games.

Many SVI scholars have maintained warm ties with CWAJ long after their graduation, and three former scholars, Rie Yasuhara (2007), Kozue Handa (2007), and Eri Nakase (2004), have not only joined CWAJ, but also taken on vital roles with VVI. Yasuhara has written numerous substantial articles as editor-in-chief of the VVI Newsletter. Handa, an expert in art appreciation for the handicapped and lecturer at Meiji Gakuin University, has served as VVI co-chair since 2022. Nakase works as part of a strong team of proofreaders for the visually impaired.

VVI presents significant and memorable programs for CWAJ. In December 2021, at VVI's virtual English Conversation Gathering, Paralympian Ishiura shared her inspirational story, including her struggle when she could not devote herself to competition due to treatment for congenital glaucoma and eventually making a bold decision to undergo surgery and aim for the Paralympics, her inability to self-assess her athletic level during the pandemic, and her determination to compete in the Paris Games. In March 2022, VVI organized a fundraising concert at the Jiyu Gakuen Myonichi-kan, courtesy of Narimichi Kawabata, who is a world-class violinist with visual impairment. All net proceeds from the concert will fund scholarships and educational programs.

The Hands-on Art (HoA) program is an important aspect of the Print Show, providing raised images for visually-impaired visitors to touch with their fingertips while listening to audio explanations of the image. As part of the virtual 2021 Print Show, the Hands-on Art program shifted to an online format, featuring a discussion with artist Kayoko Miyayama about her beautiful woodblock print, "Magnolia 3." CWAJ sent a raised image of Magnolia 3 to visually-impaired participants in advance of the discussion and, at Miyayama's suggestion, also sent Japanese washi paper petals impregnated with the scent of magnolias, so that participants could touch the petals and the image together. Miyayama described her pursuit of the beauty of flowers, including how she climbed on a ladder to a high Magnolia branch to get a closer look at the flowers used for the print.

CWAJ will carry on with more fulfilling and engaging activities for the visually impaired, which will surely benefit all CWAJ members.

FUND THE FUTURE

A generous joint donation from National Basketball Association star Rui Hachimura and Taisho Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. boosted CWAJ fundraising in 2021. Hachimura had several reasons to support CWAJ, stating: "I hope to support women to reach their dreams and goals. I am grateful to the women in my life, my mother, grandmother and sisters, who supported me to become who I am today. I hope that women will have more opportunities to have active roles in society and flourish in the future. I recently discovered CWAJ and their outstanding work supporting women. With this donation, I hope to help women reach their dreams and goals."

In 2021, as in prior years, CWAJ was fortunate to receive individual donations in a total amount that will fully fund a scholarship. The generosity of all of our donors and sponsors makes it possible for CWAJ to accomplish its goals as well as to provide opportunities for students to pursue their education. By supporting CWAJ with a monetary donation, you can make a genuine and long-lasting impact on the lives of women and visually-impaired individuals, as well as communities both in Japan and beyond. CWAJ welcomes donations of any amount throughout the year.

For information about making a donation to CWAJ, please contact: donations@cwaj.org



SAVE THE DATE

for the 65th CWAJ PRINT SHOW

Wednesday to Sunday, October 19 - 23, 2022
Hillside Forum, Daikanyama, Tokyo

Online Gallery
will be held concurrently
<https://cwaj-gallery.jp/>



CWAJ 64th Print Show

64th Print Show Committee Award.
NOJIMA, Arata, "Leaves 02:homage to JS". The awardee will be invited to the 65th Print Show .

"SHINODA Toko and CWAJ" was a special exhibit at 64th Print Show.

PRPP prints were on sale at the CWAJ Narimichi Kawabata fundraising concert.

CWAJ Open Print Art Gallery

In 2021, the 64th CWAJ Print Show committee initiated plans for an in-person show at Daikanyama as well as a corresponding online show to serve customers who were unable to travel to Tokyo. When the pandemic forced the cancellation of the in-person show, the 64th Print Show was able to proceed smoothly as an online exhibition and sale.

New for 2021 was the digital submission of artist entries, together with remote jury selection using digital images. The broad experience of the jurors enabled them to easily discern the quality of the submitted works without reference to the physical prints.

The 2021 Online Print Art Gallery (OPAG) featured two special adjunct shows: "SHINODA Toko and CWAJ" and the Pandemic Response Print Project (PRPP). Shinoda, who was a true supporter of CWAJ and its core mission, passed away in March 2021 at the age of 107. For 55 years beginning in 1966, Shinoda shared a deep connection with CWAJ, submitting works to the main print show on 50 occasions. With the kind approval of Shinoda's family, CWAJ conducted a lottery sale of six of her prints and produced a video presentation titled "SHINODA Toko and CWAJ". This splendid video is a precious record of the history of CWAJ Print Show.

Another popular program at the 2021 OPAG was the "Magic of Printmaking" series of guided tours produced in both English and Japanese, featuring six popular CWAJ artists: Hirota Raifu (linocut), Ichino Yu (stone lithograph), Momma Hidemi (silkscreen), Omori Hiroyuki (mezzotint), Sekino Yowsaku (woodcut/gold leaf), and Sonoyama Harumi (lithograph). These videos were shared on SNS by artists and members and were extremely well-received.

A silver lining of the pandemic has been that overseas members were more involved in the planning of the Print Show since most of the committee meetings were held virtually.



Scan to view the Shinoda Toko and CWAJ Video



Scan to view the CWAJ 'The Magic of Print Making' Video

Pandemic Response Print Project (PRPP): Special Sale of Prints Donated by Artists

The Pandemic Response Print Project (PRPP) was a one-time special project focusing on raising funds to support the CWAJ Pandemic Response Scholarship for nursing students, which was created in 2020 to help nursing students facing financial hardship. Invited artists of the 64th Print Show were encouraged to donate small prints demonstrating their techniques and creativity to the PRPP for sale during the Print Show. Many artists immediately responded, recognizing that this program offered them a direct way to make a personal contribution toward pandemic relief.

Over 200 prints were donated by 47 artists, with an average print price of ¥9600. Customers from all over the world purchased PRPP prints as part of the online Print Show and the project raised over 1 million yen, which funded two Pandemic Response Scholarships. The PRPP also reflected the wishes of the artists to offer high-quality prints at affordable prices, making this project a wonderful introduction for customers purchasing prints for the first time.



CWAJ Young Printmaker Award (YPA)

CWAJ established the Young Printmaker Award (YPA) in 2005 as part of the 50th Print Show celebration to encourage the development of young artists. Eligible applicants are the creators of the top prints selected at the Annual Exhibition of the Association of Japan Art Colleges held every year in December.

The winner of the YPA in the amount of 500,000 yen receives an opportunity to exhibit his/her works at the CWAJ Print Show, as well as to present new work at the Print Show three years later. Many of the past winners have made steady progress as budding printmakers. At the 64th CWAJ Print Show Online Gallery in 2021, the following two artists exhibited their work:

2021 YPA Winner

OHYAMA, Kanna
Tokyo Zokei University
(Graduated March 2021) (left image)

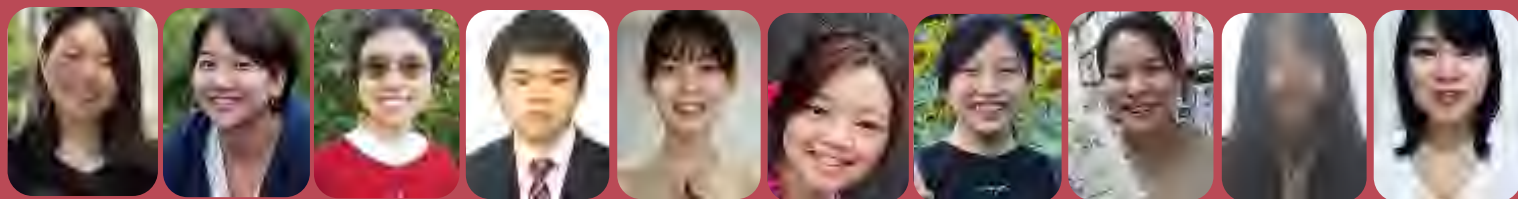
2018 YPA Winner

NISHIMURA, Ryo
Kyoto City University of Arts Graduate School
(Graduated March 2020) (right image)



Congratulations 2021 CWAJ Scholars!

CWAJ awarded scholarships in the following categories for the 2021 - 2022 academic year.



Scholarship is Carrying On and Innovating

CWAJ has not wavered from its main task of awarding scholarships. Significantly, we have decided to continue the Pandemic Response Scholarship for Nursing Students (NS) for another year, and our Study Abroad (SA) program is stronger than ever, celebrating its 50th anniversary. The Non-Japanese Graduate (NJG) program, which was suspended for one year, resumed in 2021 to commemorate its 40th year. Selection committees for the 2022 scholarships met virtually, which happily meant that overseas members were able to participate in scholarship selection activities.

Volunteers made an extraordinary effort to successfully complete the inaugural test of the online application submission process so that beginning in 2023, most applications will be submitted online.

Our past scholars embodied the spirit to carry on through their accomplishments in humanitarian support, international cooperation, and the environment.

Several past scholars are working internationally to realize positive change: Kentaro Fukuchi (SVI 2011) is on assignment in the Paraguay office of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); Eri Tayama (SA 2018) is serving with UNICEF; and Misaki Takahashi (SA 2018) is working with the Japan Forestry Association through the JICA Botswana office to support environmental work with the local government. Recently, more of our past scholars have joined as full CWAJ members, carrying on CWAJ's mission and contributing to society.

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

(Supported by the Japan Foundation)
¥3.0 million; one recipient

SONE, Mari

MSc in Psychology: Theory and Research,
Catholic University of Leuven (Kingdom of Belgium)

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

¥3.0 million; one recipient

SUEMURA, Moe

MS Aerospace Engineering Sciences,
University of Colorado Boulder (USA)

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

¥1.5 million; two recipients

SUGATA, Rika

3rd year, Education, Faculty of Education,
University of Tokyo

YAMADA, Shoto

4th year, Department of Law,
Doshisha University

CWAJ Pandemic Response Scholarship for Nursing Students (NS)

¥0.5 million; six recipients

HAYAKAWA, Meika

3rd year, Kanagawa Prefectural University of
Human Services

KAKIMOTO, Manaka

3rd year, Japan National College of Nursing

KOMUKU, Remi

3rd year, Saitama Prefectural University

MATSUSHITA, Ramu

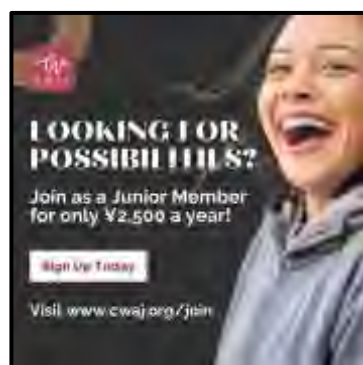
3rd year, St. Luke's International University

OYAMA, Takara

3rd year, Yokohama City University

YAMAGUCHI, Yu

4th year, Japan National College of Nursing



Note to Future Young Ambassadors

Young Ambassadors is an exciting new project that offers junior membership in CWAJ to women aged 28 years and younger. The members of the Young Ambassadors will promote CWAJ Junior Membership at their universities and within their social networks using their personal SNS and tagging CWAJ.

They will also distribute CWAJ print and virtual media within their communities. In return for promoting CWAJ, Young Ambassadors will receive numerous benefits, apart from being a member of this venerable organization, such as listing their activities on their resumes, receiving a tailored recommendation letter from CWAJ, and receiving a discounted Junior Membership rate (¥2,500) for as long as they retain CWAJ Junior Membership.

CWAJ presents unique opportunities for Young Ambassadors to establish or expand their professional and social networks. If you know a potential CWAJ Young Ambassador, please reach out to CWAJ membership or send an email to: vicepresident@cwaj.org.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteers for the Visually Impaired (VVI)

Volunteers for the Visually Impaired (VVI) provides a variety of educational and social opportunities for visually-impaired individuals. In 2021, VVI held programs and events virtually and met in person when conditions allowed.

In two virtual English Conversation Gatherings (ECG) in 2021, visually-impaired guests and volunteers gathered to practice speaking English in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. The March ECG focused on spring traditions: US-based journalist Diane Parsell explained how Japanese cherry trees came to be planted in Washington D.C., and Nahid Yoshinari, an Iranian woman living in Japan, described the Persian New Year's celebrations held around the spring equinox. In December, paralympic swimmer and 2008 SVI scholar Tomomi Ishiura inspired us with behind-the-scenes stories of the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games. Everyone was excited to speak with an Olympian directly about her experiences. In each ECG, visually-impaired participants and volunteer moderators entered breakout rooms for further discussion in English.

In a special virtual event in July, the 8th Entaro Rakugo Master gave a private performance online to 20 visually-impaired guests and 65 CWAJ members. After telling the story of Umayo Kajji, the 8th Entaro answered questions about his career and his rakugo techniques and then chatted with guests in breakout rooms.

As part of CWAJ's educational mission, VVI volunteers taught English classes online, as well as in person when possible, at the Japan Vocational Development Center for the Blind (JVDCB), helping adult students build language skills that are valuable in the job market. Volunteers also conducted virtual mock EIKEN interviews with high school students at the Special Needs Education School for the Visually Impaired, University of Tsukuba to prepare for the proficiency test. The VVI Newsletter, which provides information about these and other CWAJ events, is regularly distributed electronically and in a braille version to CWAJ's visually-impaired friends.

Foreign Students' Circle (FSC)

FSC continues its online program series, "Presentation & Talk," which began in November 2020, during which FSC students and former FSC students introduced their home countries to the group. The programs were well attended by those in Japan as well as overseas, and provided opportunities to be reunited with former FSC students residing outside of Japan, who are either working or continuing with their studies. Small group programs were organized for foreign students by some FSC mentors, including a Kabuki program in summer and a walking program in autumn.

English Outreach for Children (EOC)

CWAJ has a long history of providing English lessons to Japanese children. For many years, volunteers provided a weekly English learning space for Japanese children who had previously lived overseas and who spoke English. In 2018, EOC shifted its focus to providing Fun-in-English literacy-based lessons to underprivileged children at St. Joseph's Home, a children's home in Nishi-Tokyo City, with the goal of making an important contribution to the children's English language learning.

When meeting in person became impossible, EOC began sending seasonally themed packages to the children at St. Joseph's Home that are filled with English language books, gifts, and games. We hope that these care packages will encourage the children to continue their English language study.

EOC members met in person in December and January to assemble the winter and Valentine's Day gift packages, and are now looking forward to the day when in-person visits at St. Joseph's Home can resume.

CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Monthly General Meetings

In April 2020, CWAJ began offering its monthly general meetings in a virtual format, which revealed opportunities beyond our expectations. It is now possible to invite speakers from around the world. The year started with sociologist **Chizuko Ueno's** lecture about the gender gap in Japan; in February, **Mark Bookman**, who uses a wheelchair, spoke about accessibility for the disabled in Japan; in March, **Madeleine Umewaka** and daughter **Soraya** gave a lecture on the world of Noh; in April, **Robin Harding**, Financial Times Tokyo Bureau Chief, spoke about the challenges newspapers face in the age of social media developments, and in June, **Alice Gordenker** presented "Stigma or Art?", a refreshing view on Japanese tattoos. In September, textile designer **Reiko Sudo** and architect/writer **Naomi Pollock** spoke to us live from Japan and the U.S.; in October, printmaker **Ayomi Yoshida** provided a fascinating explanation of woodblock prints; and in November, **David Atkinson**, spoke from his perspective as a non-Japanese president of a company engaged in restoring Japanese temples and national treasures.

The number of attendees consistently exceeded 100, far more than the average number of participants at our former face-to-face monthly meetings. As much as our virtual lecture series have been well-received both at home and abroad, the hybrid meeting held in December at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan provided an opportunity to see a spectacular samba dance performance, as well as to experience the joy of an in-person gathering. The Monthly General Meetings are open in-person or on-line to the public. Please visit the CWAJ website for details.

Top row: General Meeting speaker Chizuko Ueno. and speaker Alice Gordenker. Bottom row: Samba dancers including Tomoko Yamashige-Mark, Yumiko Harada, and Chisato Mori.

