



COLLEGE WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN

# 2022 – 2023 Annual Report

APRIL 2023



*CWAJ International Women's Day event March 8, 2023: June Miyachi, Cartier Japan President and CEO with Rin Ishikawa, 2023 CWAJ Cartier scholar*

## CWAJ CARTIER SCHOLARSHIP

CWAJ is proud to introduce the 2023 CWAJ Cartier Scholarship recipient Rin Ishikawa. Rin will complete an MBA at Oxford University and is working to help solve global food chain problems. She has developed an e-commerce platform using the principles of Community Supported Agriculture, in which consumers buy directly from local farmers to support those who practice sustainable farming methods.

## Onward: Passing the Baton

In 1972, the year in which Sapporo held the Winter Olympics and the United States returned Okinawa to Japan, CWAJ—an organization committed to supporting the next generation of women leaders—launched its scholarship program by awarding its first scholarship: the Graduate Scholarship for Japanese Women to Study Abroad (SA). Almost ten years later, in 1981, CWAJ deepened its commitment to global women's empowerment by expanding its scholarship program to include the Non-Japanese Graduate Scholarship (NJG).

### Golden Anniversary

In 2022, the 50th anniversary of the SA program and the 41st anniversary of the NJG program are occasions worthy of commemoration. Together, the SA and NJG programs have awarded scholarships to 203 women. The Scholarship for the Visually Impaired, which CWAJ started in 1978, continues to be awarded to this day.

### Special Relief Scholarships

CWAJ has responded to natural disasters by offering Special Relief Scholarships to support the education of students in stricken areas. CWAJ funded the Hanshin Kobe Relief Scholarship in 1996 and 1997, the Fukushima Relief Scholarships from 2012 to 2020, and the Pandemic Response Scholarship for Nursing Students from 2021 to 2023. In total, if CWAJ's support of art programs and travel grants are included, the number of students who have received funding from CWAJ rises to almost 900.

### Past Scholars Helping CWAJ Move Onward

CWAJ's past scholars provide invaluable support as our scholarship programs move forward. Many past scholars have become full members of CWAJ and they have been instrumental in furthering our mission to give back to society through enthusiastic volunteering. Despite often tight work schedules, one past scholar is a current Board member, another is a committee Co-Chair, and others help translate applications or lend their technical skills to support CWAJ's online activities and social media. In addition, many are longtime donors who support younger students to follow their dreams through CWAJ Scholarship programs.

Our past scholars' courage to innovate is the greatest reward of CWAJ's Scholarship programs. In 2023, in addition to our existing Scholarship programs, CWAJ is thrilled to award the CWAJ Cartier Scholarship to Rin Ishikawa, a talented entrepreneur, who will move onward with CWAJ's trailblazing spirit.

## “ Reflections from past SA scholars who are members of CWAJ



*2013 SA scholar Ryoko Narui with her former UK professor*

"I would like to do something for CWAJ as my gratitude to CWAJ. I am now very happy that I can help with the translation of scholarship applicants."

"I am still truly grateful to CWAJ for its generous support."

*2001 SA scholar Mariko Kageyama*



*1986 SA scholar,  
Yasuko Fukuhara-Yamane*

"CWAJ SA Scholarship was the very first door that opened to me for many more special opportunities to come."

## SAVE THE DATE

### for the 66th CWAJ PRINT SHOW

**Wednesday to Sunday, October 18 - 22, 2023**  
Hillside Forum, Daikanyama, Tokyo

**Mid September - October 2**  
Associate Show at Frederick Harris Gallery  
Tokyo American Club, Azabudai

**Online Gallery**

<https://cwaj-gallery.jp/>

## FUND THE FUTURE

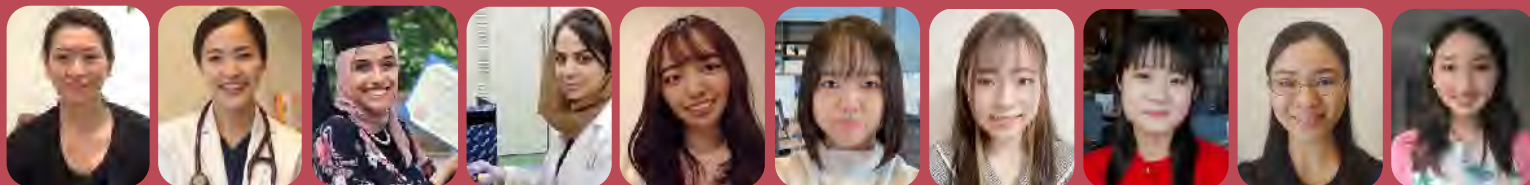
The generosity of all of our donors and sponsors makes it possible for CWAJ to continue to provide opportunities for students to pursue their dreams. By supporting CWAJ with a monetary donation, you can make a genuine and lasting impact on the lives of future leaders, young artists, and visually-impaired scholars. CWAJ welcomes donations of any amount throughout the year. With the support of the Japan Foundation Designated Donations program, a tax deduction receipt is available for donors to CWAJ who file tax return forms in Japan.

For information about making a donation to CWAJ, please contact [donations@cwaj.org](mailto:donations@cwaj.org)



# Congratulations 2022 CWAJ Scholars!

CWAJ awarded scholarships in the following categories for the 2022 - 2023 academic year.



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

Supported by the Japan Foundation  
¥3.0 million; one recipient

### HIRABAYASHI Ai

Master of Science Applied, Couple and Family Therapy  
McGill University, Canada

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

¥3.0 million; one recipient

### NAKAYASU Yuna

Master of Public Health  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA

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

Supported by the Japan Foundation  
¥2.0 million; one recipient

### YASSIN Eiman (Egypt)

Doctoral Course  
Department of Education & Psychology,  
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences  
International Christian University,  
Tokyo, Japan

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

¥2.0 million; one recipient

### AHMADI Parnian (Afghanistan)

Doctoral Course  
Interdisciplinary Graduate  
School of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine,  
University of Miyazaki, Japan

## CWAJ Pandemic Response Scholarship for Nursing Students (NS)

¥0.5 million; six recipients

### TAKAHASHI Nanasa

4th year, Midwifery  
Japan National College of Nursing

### HYUGA Sakura

3rd year, Nursing & Social Welfare  
for Human Services  
Kanagawa University of Human  
Services

### OIKAWA Mikuni

4th year, Public Health Nursing  
Nihon Institute of Medical Science

### UESUGI Nami

3rd year, Child Health and  
Development  
Japan National College of Nursing

### TAMAOKA Yuki

3rd year, Public Health  
St. Luke's International University

### NEGISHI Misa

3rd year, International Disaster  
Nursing  
St. Luke's International University

## May Scholarship General Meeting

Every year, CWAJ introduces its new scholars to members and supporters at the May General Meeting. At the 2022 meeting, held virtually, the 2022 scholars, including the six recipients of the Pandemic Relief Scholarship for Nursing Students, introduced themselves to the many overseas members and past scholars who joined on this special occasion to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the scholarship program.

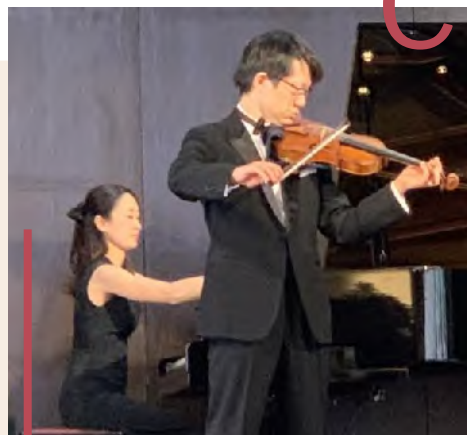


Past CWAJ Scholarship recipients who attended this meeting included inaugural SA scholar Miiko Kodama (1972), Mayumi Imahashi (2015), Shio Sakon (2019) and Sayoko Kawabata (2020)

## Fundraising Concert for

# CWAJ

## Scholarships



On Monday March 21, 2022, CWAJ organized a fundraising concert with the internationally-acclaimed Narimichi Kawabata and piano accompanist, Yumiko Emura.

The venue was the Prairie-style Jiyu Gakuen Myonichikan, which survived the war and has been designated an Important Cultural Asset. Directions to Myonichikan from JR Mejiro Station were provided by Koto Navi, an application specially designed for the visually impaired that was created by the accredited non-profit organization, Kotoba no Michiannai.

Although attendance at the venue was limited due to self-imposed restrictions by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the concert attendees filled almost all the available seats. The performance by Narimichi Kawabata, who is visually impaired but has made extraordinary efforts to become a world-renowned violin soloist, was in keeping with the atmosphere of the venue and was very moving. The concert concluded with three encores played to thunderous applause from the audience. All proceeds went to CWAJ's Scholarship and Education programs.



# The 65<sup>th</sup> CWAJ Print Show

MIYAZAKI Fumiko  
"Stroll"

The 65th CWAJ Print Show Committee Award



## First In-Person Show in Three Years Opens to Great Success

The 2022 65th CWAJ Print Show was held in person for the first time in three years at Daikanyama. The general public and the CWAJ community were delighted to participate in the return of the in-person show—with its buzz and excitement—and to reconnect with the artists on opening night and throughout the show.

At the opening reception, a long-time friend of CWAJ, Nakabayashi Tadayoshi, gave a moving toast about the entirely volunteer-run print show. Miyazaki Fumiko was presented with the CWAJ Print Show Committee Award.



The 2022 show continued the 2021 initiative of digital submission of artist entries, which were then remotely selected by jurors. This process substantially reduced the work of the Print Show Committee during selection. In the end, CWAJ exhibited a total of 221 pieces at the show: 149 pieces from public submissions, 57 pieces from invited artists, 14 pieces from Young Printmaker Award winners, and 1 piece from the CWAJ Print Show Loro Piana Woman Artist Award recipient.



Other features of the Daikanyama show included the return of our Hands-on Art program for the visually impaired. Prints by two artists were transcribed into raised images with the assistance of the Japan Braille Library. Volunteers interpreted these to visually-impaired attendees and guided them through the exhibition.

There was also a small display and sale of prints that had been donated to CWAJ. Most of these prints were donated by artists to support the Pandemic Response Print Project in 2021, while others were donated in 2022 to support our ongoing pandemic response work.

Following the positive feedback and international reach of last year's print information videos, three more were produced this year: "Sosaku-Hanga – Creative Prints," "Light and Shadow," and "Light and Color." A leaflet introducing the 19 prints featured in the videos was distributed at the show and the videos were played in the gallery in lieu of a guided tour program.

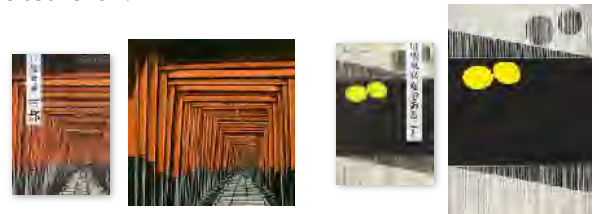


The in-person show was accompanied by an online gallery, making the 65th Print Show the first-ever hybrid show held by CWAJ. An online gallery will also be available in 2023 at the following website.  
(<https://cwaj-gallery.jp>)

## Shincho Library Book Covers Exhibition

CWAJ was honored to hold a special exhibition at the 65th Print Show: "Visualizing the works of Kawabata Yasunari Through Prints: Shincho Library Book Covers Exhibition."

Shinchosha Publishing Co, Ltd of Tokyo, selected 14 prints from past CWAJ print shows to honor the 50th anniversary of the passing of author Kawabata Yasunari, Japan's first winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature. These prints were used on the covers of new editions of 14 of his books. The original CWAJ prints and the new books bearing these images were displayed and sold at the 65th show.



## Denzen Award

Since 2013, the CWAJ Print Show has exhibited the two winning prints of Sukagawa City, Fukushima's annual Denzen Award. CWAJ invited four students, including two 2020 winners, and their parents, to the 65th Print Show. Attendees were impressed and inspired by the prints on display.



Ohtsuki Momoko, Usui Risa, Hosoda Ichiha and Katagiri Masaaki

## 2022 CWAJ Young Printmaker Award



**NAGANUMA Sho**  
Graduate School of Nihon University  
Photo-engraved copperplates

Sho plans to use this award to buy a printing press and other equipment.

"When I make my copperplate prints, I always try to make my latest work my masterpiece."

## Loro Piana Woman Artist Award

Loro Piana Japan, a leading Italian fashion brand, generously funded a one-time special award, the "CWAJ Print Show Loro Piana Woman Artist Award," of 500,000 yen to encourage a young female artist. The recipient of this award, **ONODERA Yui**, uses water-based woodcuts to express humanity. She was one of the 2022 Young Printmaker Award applicants and received this award at the opening reception in recognition of her printmaking potential.



Onodera Yui with Marco Spola, Vice President Loro Piana

## Volunteers for the Visually Impaired (VVI)

The Volunteers for the Visually Impaired (VVI) serve visually-impaired children and adults with English-language programs and special events. In 2022, VVI started a new program, English Conversation Partners, for high-school students at the Special Needs Education School for the Visually-Impaired, University of Tsukuba. This program gives students a chance to build confidence in speaking English through one-on-one online or telephone conversations with volunteers. VVI also continued its mock interview program at this school in June and October, helping 29 students to prepare for the EIKEN test of practical English proficiency. This test is used by some universities as part of their entrance exams and is useful in applying for jobs.

Throughout 2022, VVI continued to hold classes in person at the Japan Vocational Development Center for the Blind and Low-Vision, where twice a week, volunteers help adults, who are re-training for jobs, brush up on their English skills.

In July, VVI held an English Conversation Gathering at the Cinema Chupki Theater. Attendees watched a movie in English together (with narration in Japanese) and had a discussion afterward.

Finally, information about VVI and CWAJ events was sent to 181 visually-impaired friends through our newsletter with electronic and braille editions.



## Foreign Students' Circle (FSC)

Foreign Students' Circle (FSC) provides opportunities for foreign students to understand and enjoy Japanese customs and culture. Most FSC volunteers support FSC students privately as mentors.

FSC held six in-person outings and one online program in 2022. In-person outings included:

- Attendance at CWAJ's Narimichi Kawabata Fundraising Concert held at Myounichikan.
- A guided walking tour from Sakuradamon Gate to Sengakuji Temple.
- A visit to Suntory Art Museum in Roppongi.
- A Kabuki show, "Momijigari," at the National Theater.
- A visit to the 65th CWAJ Print Show.
- A trip to the Bonsai Museum and Bonsai shops in Toro, Saitama City.

FSC also held an online program, "All About Kimono," in September. The participants included former FSC students who are currently living in European countries, such as Germany and Spain. Attendees enjoyed watching guides on how to wear gorgeous kimono for both men and women.

## English Outreach for Children (EOC)

CWAJ has a long history of providing English lessons to Japanese children. This year, EOC has been able to visit with the children on two occasions, but regular lessons, due to COVID-19 precautions, have not been possible. EOC has continued to send seasonally-themed packages with English language books, gifts, and games to encourage the children to continue their English language study.



One addition that EOC made in 2022 was to record CWAJ members reading books in English (with a Japanese translation) before sending them. EOC then shared a QR code link to the recordings on the back of the books. It is EOC's hope that an adult at St. Joseph's can use their smartphone to access the link and play the book recording whenever the children want to hear the story. EOC is looking forward to the day when monthly in-person visits at St. Joseph's Home can resume.

## MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS

Throughout 2022, the pandemic continued to place restrictions on CWAJ's general meetings. As a result, monthly programs presented to our community were mostly via virtual format.



January: **Melanie Brock**, founder of the not-for-profit organisation Celebrating Women in Japan, profiled Japanese women who excel in their chosen fields and challenge commonly-held stereotypes.



September: Professor **Sven Saaler** from Sophia University, talked about the factors that shape our historical perception, including the way that history can be manipulated for political ends.



February: **Wakayu Sato**, talked us through the ways that social media platforms enable companies to tailor advertising to the user based on their search history.



Artist **Noriko Yanagisawa** talked about her lifelong challenges with themes and techniques at the in-person October Printshow Kickoff at Daikanyama Hillside Banquet Hall.



March: **Izumi Duvalier**, from Bank of America Merrill Lynch, offered us insight into the factors that drive up inflation.



November: **Hannah Kirshner**, who commutes between New York and Yamanaka, a small village in the Nakano mountains of Japan, discussed the crafts and cultural activities in that aging community.



April: artist **Kate Thomson** enchanted us with a lively talk about her white marble sculptures and her community work in Scotland and Japan.



December: **Grace Mahya**, a talented jazz singer and pianist, serenaded us with songs from around the world in celebration of the global nature of the CWAJ membership.



June: **Vicky Bowman**, a former British Ambassador to Myanmar, talked about responsible business practices. Shortly after the talk, CWAJ was shocked to learn of her incarceration by the Myanmar military junta and was relieved to hear of her release in late November.

This was also the occasion of our first in-person luncheon in three years! 66 members enjoyed this event at the new Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in Marunouchi.

