



AATJ

NEWSLETTER



Junko Mori

森純子

Message from the President

全米日本語教育学会 会員の皆様

前回のニュースレターで自己紹介をさせていただいた直後から、新型コロナウイルス感染症の世界的大流行により、当時想像もしていなかった事態に陥り、私たちの生活も激変しました。北米でも日本でも緊急事態宣言が発令され、緊迫した状況が続く中、会員、そしてご家族の皆様が安全かつ健康な日々を過ごしていच्छることを切に願っております。

このコロナ禍により、教育・研究の環境、そして当学会の活動も一変することになりました。事態に対応するのに精一杯の日々が続きましたが、ここで当学会としての2月下旬から今日に至るまでの取り組みを振り返り、その経緯をまとめておきたいと思います。

まず、3月19日にボストンで開催が予定されておりましたAATJ年次春季大会については、2月下旬より会場提供元となるAAS（アジア研究学会）の動向、CDC（アメリカ疫病予防管理センター）の声明を随時追いながらの判断を強いられる形となりました。アジアからの参加者の方々の事情を鑑みての遠隔発表の受け入れの承認に始まり、そのためのテクノロジー援助のボランティアの募集、その後最終的に3月9日時点での学会のキャンセル、参加登録費返金手続きのお知らせ、AATJ 2020 発表資料シェアポータル設置への移行と、当会からの連絡が二転三転し、会員の方々にご迷惑をおかけしたことをお詫び申し上げます。しかし、そのような緊急事態の中でも積極的に援助を申し出てくださった会員の方々が数多くいたこと、そしてポータルへの数多くの寄稿があったことは、当学会のネットワークの強さ、研究発表の場としてのAATJ年次大会の重要性を改めて認識する機会となりました。この時期の混乱を乗り越えるに当たっての大会実行委員長のガヤ先生、ナズキアン先生、そしてスーザン・シュミット事務局長の御奮闘に深謝いたします。さらに、本来なら、ボストンでの学会で表彰を授与することになっていたマグロイン花岡直美先生（ウィスコン

シン大学マディソン校名誉教授)の長年にわたる日本語教育界での偉大な業績についてもここに記しておきたいと思います。また、今年3月に5年にわたる任期を終えられた原秀樹国際交流基金ロサンゼルス日本文化センター前所長に対し、氏の当学会への多大なる貢献に感謝の意を表する予定でございましたが、その機会も失われたため、この紙面を借りて、改めてお礼を申し上げます。

次に、学会キャンセルの決定とほぼ軌を一にして、北米教育機関が次々と遠隔授業化を発表してきました。学習者との密なインタラクションが核となる語学教育をいかに新たな学習環境の中で達成していくのか、様々な家庭環境・経済状況にある学習者たちのテクノロジーへのアクセスの差にどのように対処していくのか、前代未聞の状況下、不安を覚える学習者たちをいかにケアしていくのか...等々。様々な課題に短期間で解決策を見出していくことが教育者に求められる中、この局面において、AATJとしてできること・すべきことは何なのか？3月中旬より、渡辺前会長、ジョーダン次期会長、札谷副会長、シュミット事務局長に、専門能力開発部門ディレクターの斎藤アボット先生を加えての6人で、度重なるZoomミーティングを持ち、会員の皆さんをどのようにサポートしていくことができるかを模索しました。その結果が、AATJウェブサイト、及びFacebookページを利用してのリソースのシェア、3月末から5月初旬までの5回にわたるウェビナーの開催です。緊急のお願いであったにも関わらず、快く講師役を引き受けてくださった先生方に深く感謝いたします。ウェビナーには多くの方々が参加してくださり、講師の方々から有益な情報を得るのみならず、チャットを通して参加者の方々の間でも活発な情報交換・意見交換がされているのを目の当たりにし、企画にあたった役員一同、このような場を提供することの意義を再認識しております。(ウェビナーの録画、および関連資料もAATJウェブサイト<https://www.aatj.org/teaching-resources>の方でご覧いただけます。)様々な緊急対応の取り組みが進む中で、アドボカシー部門ディレクターの山下先生には、いつもにまして情報発信の要の役割を果たしていただきました。

また言うまでもなく、コロナ禍は私たちの学生・生徒たちにも大きな打撃を与えました。長年の夢だった日本留学を中断、または断念することを余儀なくし、National Japanese Exam, Japanese National Honor Society, AP Japanese等、日本語学習者の努力の成果を認めるに役立つ行事の実施にも大きな影響を及ぼしました。我々教師には、このような厳しい状況下でも日本語・日本文化の学習に取り組み続けてくれている学習者たちを励まし、支援していくことが求められています。先日発表された国際交流基金ロサンゼルス日本文化センターとの協働企画「#みんなでがんばりマスク」は、このような学習者たちの学習成果と情熱の発信の場を提供し、仲間意識を高めることを目的としております。どうぞ、皆さん、後述の詳細をご覧の上、積極的に参加をご検討ください。

春学期の授業を終えたばかりの方々、まだこれから数週間授業の続くの方々、状況は様々かと思いますが、夏休みを迎え、一息ついたところで、コロナ禍のもたらしたものが何なのか改めて振り返る機会もあることかと思います。私個人としては、想定外の事態で浮かび上がる諸問題にどう対処して行くのか、日々判断に苦しみ、慣れない遠隔授業での苦労を強いられる日々でしたが、一方で、自分を取り巻く様々な人たちとの絆の大切さを再認識したこと、これまで知り合う機会のなかった方々とテクノロジーを通じてつながりを作ることができたこと、教育者としての自分が最も大切にしていること・すべきことは何なのかを振り返ることができたこと、など得るものも多かったように思います。

この大流行がいつ終息するのか、その先に待ち受ける「ニュー・ノーマル」というものがどのようなものなのか、現段階ではなかなか予測もつかず、来年度からの教育現場の状況に不安を感じていらっしゃる会員の方も多いかと思います。AATJでは、引き続き、この夏・秋と、各地の日本語プログラムを取り巻く現状把握につとめ、会員の皆さんの声・ニーズを、アンケート調査等を通じて拾い上げつつ、会としてできること・すべきことは何かを考え実行していくつもりです。どうぞ、ご意見・ご提案をぜひお寄せください。

次号のニュースレターではより多くの明るい話題を提供できることを祈っています。
では、皆様、どうぞくれぐれもご自愛ください。

2020年5月3日

会長 森 純子

Dear Members of the American Association of Teachers of Japanese,

When I wrote my self-introduction for the previous issue, I never imagined how COVID-19 was about to change our lives completely. A state of emergency has been declared around the world, including North America and Japan, and it appears the current state will continue for a while on both sides of the Pacific. I sincerely hope all the members and their families are staying safe and well.

This pandemic has also drastically altered environments for education and research, as well as the activities of this association. Rapidly evolving situations called for prompt decision-making in many areas. In this column, I would like to reflect back on various developments since late February and report on our deliberations.

First, in regard to the AATJ Annual Spring Conference (scheduled to be held in Boston on March 19), we began in late February to closely monitor the statements from the Association of Asian Studies and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to determine our approach. The announcement of possible remote delivery of papers by international participants who could not travel, was followed by the call for technology support volunteers, and eventually the March 9th notification of conference cancellation, offer of refunds for registration fees, and establishment of a materials sharing portal. We apologize for any inconvenience that these changing messages might have caused to the members. In the meantime, we were truly impressed by how many members immediately volunteered to offer assistance and how many presenters submitted their materials to the portal. These developments made us re-appreciate the strong network of our members and the significance of AATJ's Annual Spring Conference as a site of dissemination of new knowledge. My sincere gratitude goes to the conference co-directors, Geyer-sensei and Nazikian-sensei, and the AATJ Executive Director, Susan Schmidt, who tirelessly worked to tackle this truly unexpected turn of events. Furthermore, I would like to recognize the following two individuals whom we planned to celebrate at the Boston meeting. AATJ presented the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award for Leadership in Japanese Language Education to Dr. Naomi Hanaoka McGloin (Professor Emerita, University of Wisconsin-Madison); AATJ also expressed our gratitude towards Mr. Hideki Hara, who served as Director of the Japan Foundation-Los Angeles for five years until this March, for his strong support of Japanese language education and AATJ's activities.

Around the same time as the conference cancellation decision, educational institutions in North America successively announced the suspension of in-person instruction and shifted to remote delivery. How can we successfully convert language instruction, for which an interactive process is essential, to remote delivery? How can we accommodate students from diverse familial and economic backgrounds by addressing equity issues associated with access to technology? How should we care for our students experiencing a tremendous amount of anxiety under this unprecedented circumstance? ... The list of questions goes on. While each of us is faced with the responsibility of identifying solutions to these various issues in an urgent manner, what can and should AATJ do? Since mid-March, Watanabe-sensei (Immediate Past President), Jordan-sensei (President-Elect), Satsutani-sensei (Vice President), Susan Schmidt-san (Executive Director), Saito-Abbott-sensei (newly appointed Director of Professional Development), and I held weekly Zoom meetings to explore ideas. The outcomes of these meetings resulted in the resources shared through AATJ's website and Facebook

page, as well as the hosting of five webinars from late March through early May. We sincerely appreciate all the presenters in these webinars who accepted our requests and put together informative presentations in a short time frame. We were very pleased to see these webinars were well-attended. The participants' engagement with the materials presented was evident in their lively chat exchanges, where they not only asked questions to the presenters, but also shared information among themselves.

(Recordings and other materials from the series of AATJ webinars can be found on our website: <https://www.aatj.org/teaching-resources>.) We also would like to acknowledge Yamashita-Iverson-sensei's (Advocacy Director) critical contribution in rapid dissemination of information in this area.



Needless to say, this pandemic has severely impacted our students' lives. Those who were studying abroad in Japan were asked to return to North America, and those who were planning to travel to Japan in the spring and summer were forced to give up their long-time dream. Activities such as the National Japanese Exam, Japanese National Honor Society, and AP Japanese, which serve to recognize these students' efforts and achievements, have also been impacted. As educators, we are expected to cheer up and support these students who are continuing their study of Japanese language and culture under the current unsettling conditions. The recently launched joint project with the Japan Foundation-Los Angeles, #みんなでがんばりマスク, is meant to provide space for Japanese language learners to showcase their achievement and passion for learning and to create a sense of community with each other. Please refer to the following article on this project for details, and consider submitting your students' work.

Some of you must have just completed your spring semester (like me), while others have a few more weeks to go. When the school year is over, you may finally have a chance to take time to consider what the pandemic has exposed in our daily lives. Tackling a never-ending list of emerging issues and adjusting myself to the new teaching environment have exhausted me, but at the same time, I also feel that these experiences have enabled me to gain opportunities to re-appreciate bonds with people who are shaping my life, to get to know new people through technology, and also to distill what I, as an educator, consider most essential for my teaching.

It is unpredictable at this point when this pandemic will be over and what the “new normal” will look like. Many of you must be concerned with the future operation of your institutions and programs. During the summer and fall, AATJ will continue to monitor the conditions of Japanese programs in different regions, survey the members’ concerns and needs, and explore what the association can and should do. So, please share your ideas and suggestions.

I hope to be able to deliver some uplifting news in the next issue. Please stay safe and well.

Junko Mori, President (2020)

May 3, 2020

AATJ & Japan Foundation LA invite you to participate in **#みんなでがんばりマスク**

A project connecting Japanese language learners around the US and beyond!

- Students submit a photo, short video, or original drawing and a positive message in Japanese that reflect the theme/s: **Hope, Appreciation, Encouragement, Community**
- Include **#みんなでがんばりマスク** somewhere in the post.
- For details, examples, and submission instructions go to this link:
<https://bit.ly/35QGTjl>

And search **#みんなでがんばりマスク** on Instagram to check out all the great posts so far!



Message from the Vice President

【副会長からのご挨拶】

2020年1月から副会長として活動している札谷新吾です。就任早々、私たち日本語教師にとって最大ともいえる困難な状況に直面しています。突然遠隔授業となった全米ほぼすべての学校では、全くの手探り状態で毎日の授業に臨んでおられると思います。AATJとしても先生方のためにテーマを設定したウェビナーに定期的にご招待するとともにホームページやフェイスブックにて様々な情報を共有しています。

AATJの春の学会の中止（AATJのポータルサイトにて学会発表として継続中）、今秋マカオにて開催予定だった日本語教育国際研究大会（ICJLE）も延期、それに伴い2022年のアメリカでの同大会の開催も白紙となりました。夏期講座を実施している大学は春学期に引き続き遠隔授業継続、一部の大学では既に秋学期の遠隔授業化も決定されています。小中高校の秋の授業形態に関してはまだは不透明な部分が多いですが、AATJも全力を挙げて様々な形で先生方を応援していきますので、よろしくお願い申し上げます。

JAPANESE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY やTEACHER AWARDなどは例年通り継続中です。AATJから先生方へ配信されるメールにてその詳細をお知らせいたします。

個人的には12人の学生を引率して京都へ花見研修は勿論中止。夏の5週間の京都プログラムも10人以上が既に登録してましたが中止。代わりに夏期講座を遠隔授業で行うことになっています。娘たちの小中学校は学区から貸し出されているクロームブックを使つての遠隔授業が春学期終了まで続きます。娘が所属している全米フィギュアスケート連盟もその公式シーズン開始を7月1日まで延期しています。

新型コロナウイルス感染防止措置による厳しい状況がしばらく続きますが、みんなで協力しながら乗り越えていきましょう。

地方の教師会に属していらない先生方やAATJの傘下に入っていない教師会の先生方のお話も聞かせていただきたいのでsatsutan@cod.eduまでいつでもご連絡ください。



Shingo Satsutani

札谷新吾

SHINGO SATSUTANI, Vice President of AATJ

AATJ 2020 Spring Conference in Conjunction with AAS

Naomi Geyer and Fumiko Nazikian, 2019 Spring Conference Co-Directors

AATJ's 2020 Spring Conference, scheduled to be held on March 19 in Boston, was officially cancelled (along with the Association for Asian Studies conference held at the same venue on the same weekend) just a few days before it was to have taken place. The cancellation, although it was unavoidable in view of the worldwide crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, was a great disappointment to all of us.

We are grateful to the AATJ officers, who worked tirelessly before and after the cancellation to make plans and inform members of the changing situation, as well as to the members who submitted paper and panel proposals, reviewed the submitted proposals, planned the program, and volunteered their services as session chairs.

We also thank the many registered attendees who declined to be reimbursed for their conference registration fees, instead contributing them to AATJ.

As a service to the conference presenters and attendees, AATJ members, and others who are interested in the research that always highlights this event, a special Material Sharing Portal was added to the AATJ website, and all presenters were invited to submit their work for posting there, available to all.

More than half of the 96 presentations scheduled for the conference have been posted. You can find them online, along with the complete conference program, at:

<https://www.aatj.org/aatj-2020-spring-conference-materials-sharing>

The presentations cover all of the topic areas that AATJ members specialize in – from language pedagogy and linguistics to classroom technology and literature – in the form of recorded talks, PowerPoint slides, and written texts.

The website also includes a recording of the keynote address by Professor Naomi Hanaoka McGloin, who was to have received AATJ's Lifetime Achievement Award in person at the conference.

2021 Spring Conference

We do not yet know in what ways the COVID-19 epidemic will change the way that conferences are held in the future, but we are hopeful that the 2021 conference (scheduled to be held on March 26, 2021) can be held in a way that allows us to gather in person in Seattle. We will be issuing a Call for Proposals in late summer, and will begin a planning process that allows for various options for presenting and disseminating the outstanding work of the Japanese language education community.

AP Japanese Exam 2020

Ann Jordan, President-Elect

Veteran AP Japanese teachers Koji Otani and Dan Carolin presented “Preparing for the AP Japanese Exam 2020”, the final installment for this school year in AATJ’s webinar series supporting Japanese teachers as they address the challenges of teaching during a pandemic. The purpose of the session was to make sure that teachers clearly understood the details of the exam delivery this year and to provide tips and teaching strategies for the few weeks remaining until the May 19 exam date.

The regular exam, which normally consists of free response speaking and writing, and multiple choice reading and listening sections, has been reduced to just the two free response speaking sections, Cultural Perspective Presentation and Conversation. Students will take the exam at home on smartphones or tablets.

For those who attended the webinar, please note the following corrections: **1) The conversation task for Japanese and Chinese for 2020, as in the past years, can be a conversation with a peer or with an adult and therefore, could be either informal or formal. 2) The make-up exam will be June 5th, not June 2nd.** Members were notified via email bulletin and AATJ social media shortly after the webinar, and the correction has been made to the video and powerpoint available on the AATJ website.

Just two short months ago we shared that the feedback and data generated by last May’s AATJ survey of AP Japanese teachers had resulted in the College Board making a few improvements to tech related teacher preparation procedures and exam day problems that that were much more serious last year than usual. The most exciting news was that after the regular exam ended this year, the College Board was planning to pilot an online test delivery

Japanese National Honor Society Update

AATJ office staff members are working remotely from home, but we are continuing to process your applications for Japanese National Honor Society (JNHS) recognition for your students. Many members have let us know that even though their students are not able to attend classes in person this spring, they are excited to participate in JNHS and to receive the certificates and honor cords.

You can continue to mail your applications and payments to the AATJ office; however, applications by email will reach us faster. We can arrange for credit card payment of the induction fees.

It is taking longer than in past years to process the applications, and we appreciate your patience. We’ll do our best to send the packages to you in a timely manner.

We will continue to process applications as long as we receive them; the May 1 deadline of past years has been extended.

Many teachers are not able to receive mail at their schools. If your home address is a better one at this time, please be sure to provide it and indicate that it is the best one to use.

Information and application forms are available online at <https://www.aatj.org/jnhs> . Please email Maiko Bacha, at jnhs@aatj.org, with any questions.

Thank you!



(continued on next page)

platform (instead of the outdated CDs), and AATJ had just begun the process of assisting with recruitment of participant schools. We announced this good news on AATJ's Facebook page on March 2, and then just one week later, a link about school closures and remote learning appeared. It was the first of the now many, many COVID-19 related posts.

For now, we need to push the pause button on the work that was started to improve the exam delivery for AP Japanese. However, I am confident that once things settle down, these efforts will resume and we will benefit from the things that we learn from this year's most unusual AP exam.

Professional Development News: Support for Online Teaching

The global pandemic crisis hit our community in several ways, but the most dramatic may have been the quick pivot by schools and colleges to remote instruction in mid-March of this year. Often with only a few days' notice, teachers had to retool their curricula and move their classes online. While some Japanese language teachers have had experience with remote instruction and tools for synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning, for many the learning curve was a steep one.

But our community responded with generosity and a wealth of support. Within days of the announcements of school closings, teachers had founded a Facebook group – COVID-19. They also set up a Zoom webinar on a Friday night, at which Ayako Anderson (who had had long experience teaching online) described the use of common tools and techniques for keeping students engaged. Almost 500 people attended the webinar!

AATJ's professional development team, under the leadership of the Professional Development Director, also swung into action, scheduling a series of webinars on remote teaching for Japanese language educators. As of the beginning of May, five webinars have been held:

- Flying by the Seat of Your Pants: Crisis Teaching Without Sacrificing Proficiency (March 28)
- Pivoting to Remote Assessment (April 11)
- Remote Teaching for Younger Students (April 18)
- Social Emotional Learning in the Classroom (April 25)
- Preparing for the 2020 AP Exam (May 2)

Links to recordings, slides, and other resource materials from these webinars, which featured presentations from experts and experienced AATJ mentors, can all be found online at <https://www.aatj.org/teaching-resources>. Links to other resources from ACTFL, AATJ affiliates, and other sources are also available on that page.

AATJ will continue to plan a program of online workshops and webinars to meet the changing needs of our community in the coming months, as we prepare for the fall school term.

Please check the website for updates: <https://www.aatj.org/teaching-resources>.

Language Advocacy Day 2020

Kazumi Yamashita-Iverson, AATJ Advocacy Director

Language Advocacy Day 2020 was held on February 6th and 7th in Washington D.C. The Joint National Committee for Languages and the National Council for Languages and International Studies (JNCL-NCLIS) organized this great event once again. AATJ was one of the sponsors for the event this year and we contributed a sticky notepad and pens for all participants, which was a great promotion for our organization.

171 participants from 43 states participated in the event this year, the largest number ever, with AATJ being represented by Junko Mori (AATJ President), Kazumi Yamashita-Iverson (AATJ Advocacy Director), and Nichole Tsuruta (Fairfax County Public Schools). All participants visited their state's Senators and House Representatives to promote language and international education. The following are our main requests this year:



1. Join the newly created America's Languages Caucus in Congress
2. Sign on to the *Dear Colleague Letter* supporting FY21 funding for the new K-12 language grant program, the World Language Advancement and Readiness Program
3. Become a co-sponsor on the World Language Teacher Student Debt Reduction Act
4. Become a co-sponsor on the Biliteracy Education Seal and Teaching (BEST) Act

For detailed information, please go to: <https://www.languagepolicy.org/resources>

Advocating for language education is an ongoing effort. Whenever you have a chance to contact your state and regional representatives, please do so to promote our field.



2020 Annual Fall Conference at ACTFL

Yasuo Uotate and Takayuki Masai, Fall Conference Co-Directors

The AATJ Fall Conference will be held during the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Annual Convention and World Languages Expo, Friday, November 20, through Sunday, November 22, 2020 in San Antonio, Texas. The goal of the ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo is to provide a comprehensive professional development experience that will have an impact on language educators at all levels of teaching and in turn enable their students to succeed in their language learning process. The ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo is where language educators from around the world come to meet! This global event brings together more than 7,000 language educators from all languages, levels, and assignments.

Online registration and housing is now open.

Registration:

Early-Bird Registration	by Wednesday, August 19, 2020
Advance Registration	by Wednesday, October 28, 2020
Onsite	after Wednesday, October 28, 2020

	Early bird (by 8/19/20)	Advance (by 10/28/20)	Late/Onsite (after 10/28/20)
FULL CONVENTION REGISTRATION			
Member	\$270	\$285	\$395
Non-Member	\$380	\$395	\$495
DAILY REGISTRATION			
One day member	\$240	\$255	\$355
One day non-member	\$335	\$350	\$450

To register for the ACTFL Convention, please go to the website (<https://www.actfl.org/convention-expo/registration>)

IF YOU ARE A CURRENT AATJ MEMBER, BE SURE TO SCROLL DOWN AND USE “CONVENTION PARTNER ORGANIZATION REGISTRATION” UNDER OPTION 2 IN ORDER TO REGISTER AT THE LOWER MEMBER RATE.

Housing: For details regarding hotel reservations, please go to (<https://www.actfl.org/convention-expo/housing>).

Official Hotels:

Grand Hyatt San Antonio -ACTFL Headquarters hotel \$225 sgl/dbl or \$250 trpl/quad	San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter \$220 sgl/dbl \$240 trpl or \$260 quad
Hilton Palacio Del Rio \$222 sgl/dbl or \$247 trpl/quad	San Antonio Marriott Riverwalk \$220 sgl/dbl \$240 trpl or \$260 quad
La Quinta Inn & Suites San Antonio Riverwalk \$199sgl/dbl/trpl/quad	Westin Riverwalk San Antonio \$215 sgl/dbl or \$235 trpl/quad

For best availability and immediate confirmation, make your reservation online. Requests received via fax or mail may take longer to process. All hotel requests are processed on an availability basis. Please note that Orchid.Events is ACTFL's official housing company. Also, please note that no one will contact you directly via phone/email to book your hotel room(s) or offer you a "special discounted conference rate." There are multiple scamming companies that call and/or email exhibitors claiming to represent ACTFL housing. To be clear, these companies are in no way affiliated with ACTFL. Please disregard any calls or emails you may receive.

Scholarship Opportunities:

To apply, please go to (<https://www.actfl.org/convention-expo/convention-scholarships>).

ACTFL First Time Attendee Scholarship Program

This scholarship program offers ACTFL members who have never attended an ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo the opportunity to apply for a \$250 scholarship. This scholarship is to provide some assistance with the expenses associated with attending the convention.

New Teacher Scholarship Program

Rolando Hernandez Scholarship Fund

The Rolando Hernandez/ACTFL Scholarship Fund was created in 2013 with support from four major publishing houses (Cengage, Pearson, McGraw Hill, and Wiley) to honor the legacy of Rolando Hernandez who dedicated more than three decades to the service and passion for teaching languages. A \$250 scholarship will be awarded to four (4) world language teachers to provide assistance with the expenses associated with attending the convention. Scholarship applicants must be ACTFL members, be registered as a first-time attendee of the ACTFL Annual Convention, and be within the first three years of their teaching career.

Robert J. Ludwig Scholarship Program

Robert Ludwig, former ACTFL President in 1989, left a bequest to ACTFL to create the Robert J. Ludwig Scholarship Program, which annually awards three (3) world language teachers with a \$250 scholarship that is to provide assistance with the expenses associated with attending the convention. Scholarship applicants must be ACTFL members, first-time attendees of the ACTFL Annual Convention, and within the first three years of their teaching career.

Stephen L. Levy New Teacher Scholarships

Beginning with the 2017 ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo, ACTFL will award two scholarships of \$250 each to new teachers to attend the convention. These awards are given in honor of Stephen L. Levy, leader, author, and world language advocate who served the language profession for over 50 years.

2020 AATJ Meetings/Reception/Luncheon

Friday, 11/20, from 12:45 -1:30pm

AATJ Affiliate Council Meeting: The AATJ Affiliate Council Meeting will be held from 12:45-1:30PM on Fri, 11/20. Any AATJ member is welcome to attend. Lunch will not be served; please bring your own lunch.

Saturday, 11/21, from 12:15-1:15pm

AATJ Teacher Award Luncheon: The AATJ Teacher Award Luncheon will be held from 12:15-1:15PM on Sat, 11/21. This is a great opportunity to network with Japanese educators, supporters, and guests from the local community. **Luncheon tickets are \$45 each, and the last day to purchase tickets is November 15. Please purchase a luncheon ticket when you register for the conference.** *AATJ will not sell tickets at our booth, and ACTFL will not have tickets for sale on-site.* If you have already registered but did not request a luncheon ticket, you can still purchase one until November 15. Please go back online to your account on the ACTFL website and add the luncheon to your registration, or contact ACTFL.

Saturday, 11/21, from 6:30-7:30PM

AATJ General Meeting

AATJ Sponsored Sessions

Presentation Sessions: This year, AATJ plans to sponsor two concurrent sessions including 4 research-oriented paper presentations, 5 practice-oriented paper presentations, and 26 45-minute session presentations. The complete schedule will be posted at <https://www.aatj.org/conferences-fall> in June.

* Special thanks to Junko Tokuda-sensei, 2021-2022 Fall Conference Co-director, who has been helping us prepare for the 2020 ACTFL conference, including this article.

AATJ Teacher Awards

The AATJ Teacher Awards recognize outstanding teachers who demonstrate excellence in teaching, advocacy, and leadership in Japanese education both locally and regionally.

2020 NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Awards are given annually in two categories:

- K-12 Level Teacher Award
- Community College/College and University Level Teacher Award

ELIGIBILITY:

Candidates must have a minimum of three years' teaching experience at the level for which they are nominated, and also must hold a current membership in AATJ. Nominators may be anyone familiar with the nominee's teaching (e.g., a colleague, administrator, parent, or student). Nominators who are teachers of Japanese (language, literature, culture etc.) must be current members of AATJ. No AATJ board member is eligible for nomination for these awards.

NOMINATION PROCESS:

The nominator completes a [Nomination Form](#), assembles the required supporting documents, and submits all documents electronically to aatj@aatj.org by the deadline.

NOMINATION DEADLINE:

June 30, 2020.

NOMINATION MUST INCLUDE:

1. A completed [Nomination Form](#);
2. The candidate's CV (not to exceed 3 pages), which includes professional development activities and leadership efforts;
3. The nominator's letter and two additional letters of recommendation, signed and scanned.

SELECTION PROCESS:

A selection committee of 3-5 members, which may include AATJ Board members, examines the dossiers submitted and chooses the recipients. Finalists may be contacted for a telephone interview. The committee is interested in knowing the particular way in which a candidate demonstrated his or her abilities to best enhance the quality of teaching in large or small classes and/or as a guide for students in their independent projects.

The committee is concerned with the candidate's rigor as a teacher and wants to know that the candidate has been doing not simply a good job but a distinguished one and that his or her dedication and contributions to the students, to the school, or to the college and university have been an inspiration to students and colleagues.

The committee also wishes to know if the candidate has been instrumental and has shown leadership in the promotion of the study of Japanese (language, literature, culture, etc.) by keeping current with developments in the field beyond her(his) classroom such as:

K-12 Level: beyond her (his) own program (e.g., entire school, community, and regional level)

College and University Level: beyond her (his) own institution (e.g., community, state, and national level).

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RECIPIENTS: Recipients are notified on September 15.

For complete details, please see the AATJ website: <https://www.aatj.org/prodev-awards>

SEATJ Conference Report



The Southeastern Association of Teachers of Japanese (SEATJ) is pleased to announce that the 2020 SEATJ Teacher of the Year Award was awarded to Yoshimi Yamagata Aoyagi (Chapel Hill High School/East Chapel Hill High School) and Yoko Kano (University of North Carolina Wilmington), at the 35th SEATJ Conference at the University of Memphis on February 22, 2020.

SEATJ also recognized the outgoing officer Yasuko Takata Rallings (Wake Forest University) and the conference keynote speaker Jae Dibello Takeuchi (Clemson University).



Job Opening Announcements

Beginning with this issue, the AATJ Newsletter will not contain printed job opening announcements. Job openings continue to be posted online; new K-12 openings as well as college positions have been posted recently.

Please see the latest notices at <https://www.aatj.org/jobs>.



**American Association of
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<https://m.facebook.com/AATJ2012/>



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If you have any news to share on our Social Media,
please email Kazumi Yamashita-Iverson at:

kyamashita@waterbury.k12.ct.us