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September 28, 2016



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AATA NEWS

Meeting AATA's Mission through Increased Chapter Support



Margaret Carlock-Russo, Ed.D., LCAT(NY), ATR-BC, Speaker of the Assembly of Chapters



Historically, the Assembly of Chapters has been the binding agent for the AATA affiliate chapters. Each year during the annual conference, chapter representatives meet to work out challenges, share ideas, progress toward goals, highlight successes, and celebrate growth. This year's meeting, held on July 6th in Baltimore, was no different. More than 20 chapter representatives reported significant accomplishments achieved during the past year. Activity in the areas of advocacy and licensure for the profession was noted among 28 chapters. The work of our

chapters is what drives the AATA forward and helps promote a strong professional identity across the nation. **READ MORE**

Attention Members: Important Membership Survey Opens Tonight



AATA

Every few years the American Art Therapy Association conducts a Membership Survey to gather information that is vital to AATA's success in achieving the goals tied to our critical priorities. Member participation is of vital importance, as it allows the AATA to understand and advance the profession through research, to respond to communications inquiries, to accurately describe key employment information, and to track emerging trends and changes in the profession over time. **This survey will be anonymous and the deadline for completion is before close of business on Nov. 7, 2016. A link to the survey will be sent to all members via email on the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2016.** AATA will be continuing our work to assess and understand members and their needs in similar but separate instances throughout the year—further details will be announced as they begin.

Join AATA in Promoting Questions About Mental Health at the Presidential Town Hall Debate



AATA



The American Art Therapy Association has joined an effort alongside the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, Mental Health America, NAMI, Sandy Hook Promise, and related organizations – we have collectively signed on to support an open letter to Anderson Cooper and Martha Raddatz, Moderators of the Presidential Town Hall Debate in St. Louis, Missouri, on Oct. 9, 2016. In order to prompt candidates' deliberation of relevant positions and plans, the letter urges the Moderators to address critical issues in mental health, such as accessibility to mental health care, increased suicide rates, youth and teen hospitalization, overrepresentation of mental illness in jails, and funding for mental health resources. **READ MORE**

Professional Doctorate of Art Therapy

This Mount Mary University program advances working professionals' careers through an annual, summer 12-day residency, online coursework and practitioner-generated research to transform the profession.

AATA Featured Member



AATA



C. Alexis Decosimo, MA, LPCA, is a graduate of The George Washington University Art Therapy Program (class of '14) and is currently a doctoral candidate in Public Health. Her passion is for work that utilizes cultural arts for trauma-informed care, a desire that stemmed from her experience abroad in Liberia and Jamaica. She is the founder and executive director of Playing to Live!, a non-profit that builds arts-based and psychosocial support programming for low resource, high trauma communities across the globe. Membership with the AATA has been crucial for her continued work in these realms. **READ MORE**

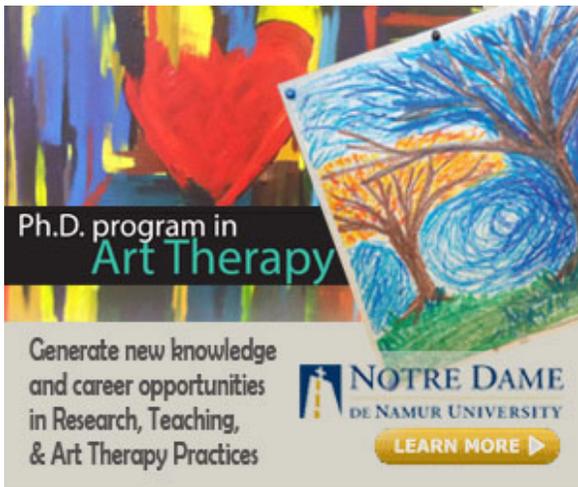
United States Mint Calls For Artists



AATA

The United States Mint recently launched a public competition for artists to design the obverse and reverse (heads and tails) of the 2018 Breast Cancer Awareness Commemorative Coin. The competition is an opportunity to pay lasting tribute to the fight against breast cancer. The winner of the design will receive \$10,000 and will have their initials printed on the coin. To enter or learn more, please click [here](#). **Applicants must submit three to five work samples before the Oct. 17, 2016 deadline.**

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IN THE NEWS

Art therapy helps breast cancer patients cope



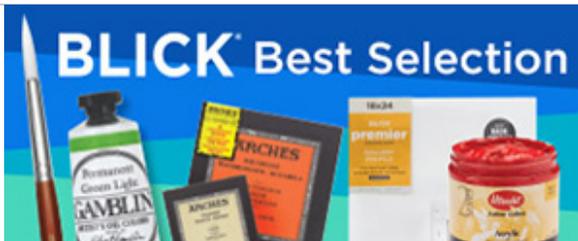
Cure
Art therapy provides a creative outlet for women with breast cancer and aids in reducing stress. Many hospitals now provide art therapy through cancer wellness centers. A trained art therapist administers art therapy sessions and a variety of art materials are made available to the people with breast cancer. The goal of the art therapy sessions is to give support, restore body image and reduce stress by giving patients sufficient time and space to reflect and express themselves. By providing a creative outlet, art therapy also allows women to learn the art of mindfulness. [READ MORE](#)

Kids with cancer



South County Times
In the Art Therapy Program at the Cardinals Kids Cancer Center at Mercy Children's Hospital, children and teens enter a room filled with a myriad of art supplies. Under the guidance of art therapist Natasha Westrich-Wood, who also leads the program at the Bob Costas Cancer Center at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, young people are given choices to create art from their hearts. Often they create feelings they cannot voice. "Putting their feelings into picture form allows them to express themselves through different art mediums," Wood said. [READ MORE](#)

PRODUCT SHOWCASE



Blick Art Materials

At Blick, you'll find the largest selection of art materials available. We carry high-quality products from the best brands in the industry. No matter the medium, Blick has the supplies you need to promote creativity through the visual arts.



Windsor & Newton

William and Henry's commitment to quality and innovation are part of a rich heritage which informs Windsor & Newton to this day. We're dedicated to the craft of the fine artist and to providing them with new ways to explore their creativity, allowing them to share their work with a worldwide community. [Read more](#)

Taking over the asylum: Art made at Bedlam and beyond



The Guardian

A new exhibition, Bedlam, collects together artwork made by patients in mental hospitals – either before they were committed or afterwards, either made as therapy or protest. **READ MORE**

Let's call mental health stigma what it really is: Discrimination



The Huffington Post

It's no secret that there's a veil of shame surrounding mental illness. Nearly one in five American adults will experience a mental health disorder in a given year. Yet only 25 percent of people with a psychological condition feel that others are understanding or compassionate about their illness, according to the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. Typically, we refer to this dissonance as stigma, but we have been wrong to do so. **READ MORE**

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