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AATA NEWS

Voices of Art Therapy: Trust and the Therapeutic Alliance



AATA National Office

"She cannot make

The therapeutic alliance between art therapist and client is the foundation for the clinical session, and it is through the quality and nature of this relationship that goals are set and achieved, and positive change occurs. A core part of this is the idea of trust: trust in the safety of the clinical space, trust in confidentiality, trust in a nonjudgmental approach to art making, and more. The following stories from *Voices of Art Therapy* highlight moments during which art therapists were able to meet clients at their levels, build rapport, and establish trust, all

through the "simple" act of art making. **READ MORE**



In Tribute to Frances F. Kaplan



Joan Bloomgarden, PhD, LCAT, MHC, ATR-BC and Margaret Carlock Russo, EdD, LCAT (NY), ATR-BC



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Frances Fisher Kaplan on March 17, 2018. Frances was a well-known, welcoming contributing figure in the art therapy community and in 2003 received the *Distinguished Service Award from the American Art Therapy Association* for her years of service and outstanding dedication. Frances F. Kaplan was a unique individual who touched many lives in the art therapy community and communities working toward peaceful solutions and social justice. By example she encouraged art therapists to expand traditional roles and reach outside their traditional therapeutic space of invisible structures to resonate with voices in the communities of

social action, cultural competence, and peaceful mediation. [READ MORE](#)

## Call for Nominations and Applications



AATA National Office

The American Art Therapy Association (AATA) is now accepting nominations for annual Honors Awards as well as Volunteer Officers and Directors of the Board. Applications are also open for annual scholarships, the new Research Seed Grants, and a new Governmental Affairs Award. Read below for details and deadlines for each opportunity. [READ MORE](#)

## Featured Member



AATA National Office



Deborah Bunkley MA, ATR-BC, LCPAT works as a Clinical Services Supervisor managing the clinical team of therapists and social workers on the Behavioral Health Unit of Washington Adventist Hospital. She also continues her therapeutic work at the hospital and teaches as an adjunct professor at The George Washington University (GWU) art therapy program and served on the board and as Chair of the CREATE Arts Center in Silver Spring, MD. She is passionate about working to help grow the field of art therapy as a vital service to the mental health community. “My hopes are to see the art therapy profession continue to be accepted as an evidence-based practice,” Bunkley elaborates, “And that art therapists become more widely viewed as a viable resource who can contribute valuable information to treatment teams, whether in a clinical, school or community setting.”

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### ART THERAPY IN THE NEWS

## Expressing the Inexpressible Through Art Therapy



Miami University

Science tells us that physical activity benefits both the body and the mind. A quick run or swim can renew our mental focus for reading or studying. Science also tells us that creating and appreciating art can boost our emotional health, preparing us to deal with life's challenges. Pediatric medical art therapist Emily Allbery works with patients and their families within a children's hospital. According to Allbery, art therapy is not about what the finished product looks like, but that it makes you feel something. [READ MORE](#)

## Berkshires Art Therapist Awarded at Statehouse for Work in Youth Suicide Prevention



Berkshire Eagle

Clearing a cloudy mind, healing a heavy heart and calming an angry voice can be both messy and colorful work. So why not work it out in the art studio? In the mind of local artist and art therapist Marney Schorr, and in a growing body of research and evidence, art studios — with thoughtful instructions and structure — can offer a safe haven for freedom of expression through paint and clay versus fists and fear. There are no clinician's clipboards or couches in the art studio, just chairs, canvases and an open invitation to find creative release.

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## Artist Finds Voice Through Paintings



WOWT-TV

Verla Collier was born with autism. As she grew older, she didn't talk much. She didn't interact with the other children and the other children were mean to her because they didn't understand. “They teased and taunted her, sometimes you can call it horse play but sometimes horseplay becomes violent,” said Verla's mother, Michelle Collier. “She became a victim of being bullied all through school and it was very hard.” Now a college student, Verla has found her voice. These days she lets her voice be heard through her paintings. [READ MORE](#)

The AATA's Art Therapy Today includes a digest of the most important news selected for the AATA from thousands of sources. Guest articles may be submitted to Clara Keane at [ckeane@arttherapy.org](mailto:ckeane@arttherapy.org). Publication of any guest article is at the sole discretion of the AATA. The opinions expressed and/or contents of guest articles, advertisements, and external links included in any AATA publication do not represent the positions or policies of the AATA. The AATA makes no warranty or representation concerning the accuracy of such content.

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