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November 11, 2015



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AATA NEWS AND EVENTS

Welcome to *Art Therapy Today!*



Donna Betts, PhD, ATR-BC, AATA President



Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Art Therapy Today!* The American Art Therapy Association (AATA) is pleased to offer our members this new, weekly e-news format. *Art Therapy Today* will help increase AATA's connectedness to our community, and help you stay up-to-date on the AATA's activities as well as current events relating to the profession. *Art Therapy Today* will be your main source of information about the AATA National Office team's and our volunteers' daily efforts in meeting the Association's mission and objectives. Other ways to stay connected to the AATA include our [Facebook page](#) and our [Twitter feed](#). **READ MORE**

Art Therapy with Veterans: The Art Room is a Container



Rosemarie Rogers, ATR-BC, L-CAT

Art is a visual language. Human beings have been using art for this purpose for thousands of years. The cave paintings discovered in Lascaux, France and Picasso's *Guernica* are celebrated examples. Visual arts offer veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) a nonthreatening alternative to compose in images what is inexpressible to them with words. It is a way in and often the first step to organize and express overwhelming feelings and sensations they experience. Most importantly, their own artwork becomes the narrative to tell their story and is the foundation that we use to begin therapy. **READ MORE**

Conference news: Early bird registration opens Dec. 1, 2015



Jane DeSouza, MPS, ATR-BC, LCAT, Conference Chair

Early bird registration for the 47th Annual Conference will open soon! There are several reasons to register early such as paying the lowest conference registration fees to be offered, and making sure you reserve seats in the workshops, advanced practice courses, and special "ticketed" events that are your top choices. Be sure to mark your calendar for the 2016 conference, to be held in Baltimore, Maryland, July 6-10, 2016. **READ MORE**



2016 Call for Honors

Craig Siegel, MA, ATR-BC, ATCS, Chair

The Honors Committee has opened the Call for Honors nominations. Professional Members of the Association can make nominations for art therapists to be considered for honors in 2016 for their outstanding contributions to the American Art Therapy Association (AATA), the profession of art therapy, art therapy education, and clinical work. The Honors Committee encourages all Professional Members to review the award categories and nominate the art therapist(s) who best fits the description(s). For details and the applications, please click on the link below:

- [Rudolph Arnheim Award \(RAA\)](#)
- [Jim Consoli Video/Film Award \(JCA\)](#)
- [Distinguished Clinician Award \(DCA\)](#)
- [Distinguished Educator Award \(DEA\)](#)
- [Distinguished Service Award \(DSA\)](#)
- [Honorary Life Member Award \(HLM\)](#)
- [Other Award](#)

All Nomination Packets (with the exception of the Jim Consoli Video/Film Award) **should be sent via email to honors@arttherapy.org, or faxed to (703) 783-8468.**

The deadline for all honors nominations is Feb.1, 2016.

AATA Featured Member

AATA



Ji Young Yoon is an AATA student member, and a recent graduate of the George Washington University. Ji is currently working toward her ATR credential, at the Accotink Academy Therapeutic Day School, where she serves children and adolescents with emotional and developmental disabilities, communication disorders, and specific learning challenges. During her career changes over the years, helping others has been at the center of Ji's road map. Her pursuit of undergraduate studies at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) led Ji to realize that anyone can enjoy and appreciate art. Just as she used art to communicate with the world, she wanted to assist children in communicating through art instead of limiting themselves to expressing their ideas with words. She is passionate about helping people, and appreciates the ways in which her membership with the AATA advances her development as an art therapist. **READ MORE**



Participate in our Outcomes Bibliography survey

The Research Committee

Please support our Research Committee by completing the [Outcomes Bibliography survey](#). This survey is comprised of eight brief questions that address the design and use of the Outcomes Bibliography. Participation in this survey is anonymous and results will be summarized by the Research Committee. Your input is valuable and will help to strengthen the art therapy profession by providing support for research, grant writing, and art therapy programs. **The survey will close to respondents on Nov. 30, 2015.**



Strategic Planning Survey

The American Art Therapy Association

Attention all AATA Members! The Association will be conducting a broad survey of the membership to aid in our



strategic planning process and invites you to take part beginning on **Nov. 16, 2015**. Please take the time to complete the survey, as it will give you the opportunity to be heard in matters involving strategic planning and the future of AATA. Keep an eye out for future announcements that will direct you on where to go.

ART THERAPY IN THE NEWS

Artist Denise Tomasura finds painting relieves her pain



Times Leader

Denise Tomasura turned a freak fall, a rare diagnosis and a lot of fear into an expressive art career that features her creativity and eases her pain. Denise, who will turn 51 in December, shared her story. She fell on ice in front of her Sweet Valley home in 2011. Soon after, her "hands weren't working right" and she had limited mobility. She was told she had spinal stenosis — a flattening of the spine. She said doctors told her she had Arnold-Chiari malformation, a condition that affects the brain where the cerebellar tonsils are blocking the opening at the base of the skull. When she learned of her diagnosis, Denise went into "complete depression." Her husband suggested she think of something she loves to do. That's when she turned to art. **READ MORE**

Art therapy 'best way' to fight intellectual disability



Yahoo News

Students with intellectual disabilities need a special approach in education to refine their lives and artistic skills so that they become more useful and productive members of society. Zaki Alloaim, a professor of art education in Al-Ahsa, has contributed in the treatment of special needs students by exploring their abilities and talents, and then implementing them through several types of activities and art works. **READ MORE**

Through the power of their creativity, our veterans continue to serve



The Huffington Post

A remarkable community activist, an entrepreneur and an artist, Curtis Bean is doing transformational work through the arts. He is also a Veteran. Straight out of high school and over the course of five years and two tours in Iraq, he completed his military service as an Army sniper. Like many others, Curtis returned home with post-traumatic stress disorder. He planned on being a fireman, but anger and nightmares were interfering with his life. His girlfriend, an art student, suggested he try painting when counseling wasn't enough, and that's when something clicked. **READ MORE**

THE LATEST HEALTHCARE NEWS

5 lies ruining your mental health



Psychology Today

One in five Americans experience a mental health problem in any given year. Yet many people suffer with their symptoms in silence. The stigma that continues to surround mental health problems prevents individuals from getting the help they need. It's a common problem I've seen in my therapy office. People often waited years to seek help. Even though their symptoms were treatable, they were afraid to tell anyone about the symptoms they were experiencing. **READ MORE**

Disclaimer: The AATA's Art Therapy Today includes a digest of the most important news selected for AATA from thousands of sources. Guest articles may be submitted to Kat Michel at kmichel@arttherapy.org. Publication of any guest article is at the sole discretion of the American Art Therapy Association.

Art Therapy Today

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