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## AATA NEWS AND EVENTS

### Important Notice from the AATA



AATA

In light of recent tragedies and incidents of terror around the world, the AATA acknowledges the dire circumstances and struggles affecting so many – our hearts and thoughts are with the peoples of all nations. We are reminded of the work to be done in communities across the globe in helping those directly impacted to cope with the aftermath and trauma caused by such events. We are also reminded of the positive impact of art and art therapy in the prevention of violence and teachings of peace.

The following resources may be of interest:

AATA's Emergency Trauma Guide:

<http://www.arttherapy.org/upload/emergencytraumaguideexcerpts.pdf>

American Psychological Association on Coping with Terrorism:

<http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/terrorism.aspx>

SAMSHA on Incidents of Mass Violence and guidelines:

<http://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline/disaster-types/mass-violence>

US Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for PTSD:

<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/types/terrorism>

### The Next Chapter: Altered Book Making Group for Pediatric BMT/Oncology Caregivers



Abbien Crowley Ciucci, MA, ATR-BC, LPC and Hope Heffner, MA, ATR-BC, LPC

The diagnosis of a serious illness is often life-altering. When given to a child, the news of disease can be indescribable. The story of hope that parents had written for their child may be disrupted with a few words. Whether newly diagnosed, or informed of a relapse, parents and caregivers might find themselves asking, what's next? The engagement in treatment or return to the hospital can feel like another chapter in a daunting and distressing story. Separation from family, financial strain, and lack of sleep contribute to caregiver stress, all



while a child suffers needle pricks and surgeries; helplessness and hopelessness can threaten to overwhelm. Thus, the need for a unique and accessible, but non-threatening, therapeutic support for caregivers was recognized. **READ MORE**



## Support a New Professional on Giving Tuesday: Your Donation Will be Matched



AATA

Join AATA on December 1, 2015 for the 4th annual #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. On **Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015**, charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give. AATA members are joining together to donate and to spread the word in support of art therapists just entering the profession. Our goal is to send as many as 10 new professionals to the American Art Therapy Association's national conference, the largest education event of the year. **READ MORE**

## AATA Featured Member



AATA



Margaret V. Prescott, MA, LMFT, ATR - BC, is President of the Evergreen Art Therapy Association. She has great appreciation for the AATA and EATA communities, in particular all that she has learned from colleagues, the support and encouragement she has received, and the friendships that have developed. According to Margaret, "There are so many opportunities for learning and support at the local chapter level." Margaret was always passionate about art and helping others. She is grateful to a high school art teacher who recognized Margaret's interests and introduced her to art therapy. She had used art as a way to express, process, and take refuge – it was a lifesaver for her.

**READ MORE**

## Participate in Strategic Planning Survey



AATA

Attention all AATA Members! The Association is conducting a broad survey of the membership to aid in our strategic planning process and invites you to take part today. Check your email to gain access to this survey. Please take the time to complete this, as it will give you the opportunity to be heard in matters involving strategic planning and the future of the AATA. **The survey will close to responders at 5 p.m. EST on Dec. 7, 2015.**

## Seasonal Apparel is Available Now



AATA



Looking for something special to add to your holiday shopping? The AATA Store may have just the thing you're looking for. Keep warm through the winter with our new fleece jacket and beanie. Or cuddle up and stay cozy with an AATA fleece blanket.

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**ART THERAPY IN THE NEWS**

## Art therapy proves lifeline for wounded warriors



U.S. Department of Defense

Service members who take part in art therapy to soothe the symptoms of war's invisible wounds display acts of courage and resilience to put them in control of their lives, the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs said today. Speaking at the 2015 Wounded Warrior Healing Arts Recognition "Show of Strength" event at the Pentagon, Dr. Jonathan Woodson said service members, professionals, families and other caregivers have critical roles by supporting art therapy and ensuring its success. Woodson said a wide variety of wounded service members' "museum quality" art on display at the event caught his eye. **READ MORE**

## Art in transition



The Press and Journal

This month sees a stunning collection of artwork go on display for the first time at Eden Court, Inverness. The Art in Transition exhibition showcases a range of artwork created by local young people with autism through an art therapy program at Leonard Cheshire Disability's Cheshire House in Inverness. Now in its second year, the program supports 16 young people, aged 18-25, using art to increase their confidence, self-esteem and enable them to communicate with the world around them. The artwork on display ranges from striking painted canvases to contemporary sculpture and photography. **READ MORE**

## Montreal Museum of Fine Arts bets on art education



CBC News

The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts is redefining what an art museum can and should be. At an event that attracted everyone from the premier of Quebec to experts in mental health, homelessness, eating disorders and even cardiac-health researchers, MMFA director Nathalie Bondil announced plans to completely reshape the direction of the Montreal institution. She made the announcement one year ahead of the opening of the new Michel De La Chenelière International Atelier for Education and Art Therapy. It will be part of the new Michal and Renata Hornstein Pavilion for Peace now under construction. **READ MORE**

## Healing colors: Art therapy helps the young resolve issues they can't explain



Images

Imagine you're in a room filled with a wide range of art materials. Next, you are given a blank piece of paper and told to "draw anything that you like, just remember there is no right or wrong". You sit there thinking that the last time you drew something was in primary school and you question why you are in an art therapy session in the first place. Then the words "there is no right or wrong" come back to you. You hesitantly pick up a pencil and begin to make marks on the paper. This is your introduction to an art therapy session. **READ MORE**

## The indestructible foundations of identity: With and without Alzheimer's disease



The Huffington Post

Angel Duncan, art therapist, writes: "'Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory banks of our children.' I reflect on Charles R. Swindoll's words and the memory formations made while visiting an Alzheimer's memory care community. I was, yet again, amazed at how our brains fire up, connecting neurons to recall deep seeded thoughts and emotions, and how that affects us as individuals and in our relationships. As I was setting up the table to prepare for an art therapy session, I found two women in the advancing stages of Alzheimer's disease looking at magazines. As one lady turned a page it revealed an attractive, fit model posing in a plaid outfit, the other lady, "Cathy" sat in her wheelchair next to the other lady and peered over and pointed to the model saying, 'I can't wear patterns because I'm fat and it looks bad.' The other lady didn't react; she just stared at her magazine." **READ MORE**

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](mailto: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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