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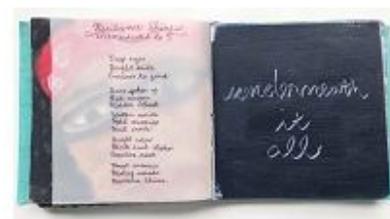
AATA NEWS AND EVENTS

Art Therapy and Social Justice at Chicago-based Women's Shelter



Sangeetha Ravichandran, MAAT, ATR, LPC

ApnaGhar, Inc., ("Our Home" in Urdu/Hindi,) provides holistic services, education, and advocacy across immigrant communities to end the different manifestations of gender violence. Gender violence can be broadly understood as violence impacting women and girls who are part of various margins of society. They are denied access, rights, and privileges and are stripped of personal power through forms of control exerted by an individual, a group, and/or systems of oppression, including domestic and family violence, forced marriage, trafficking, and honor killings. At Apna Ghar, we address issues of gender violence using a client-centered, trauma -focused, and empowerment-based approach. **READ MORE**



Making the Most of Membership: What's Available to you as an American Art Therapy Association Member in 2016



AATA

With the New Year just around the corner, the AATA wanted to take this opportunity to remind current and prospective members about the wide range of benefits available through AATA membership. Here are some examples of what to expect with your 2016 Membership. **READ MORE**

AATA Featured Member



AATA

Amy K. Backos, Ph.D., ATR-BC, is the current Chair of the Graduate Art Therapy Psychology Department at Notre Dame de Namur University, where she teaches Master's and Doctoral level courses that focus on research and community engagement on the local and international levels. For three years, Amy has served as a member of AATA's Research Committee. She notes, "I rely on AATA to define the research needs of our profession and the research that comes from our department attempts to address the needs of the profession as outlined in the Delphi Study (Kaiser & Deaver, 2013). Serving on the RC has enhanced my ability to teach master's and doctoral students about research." **READ MORE**

The Red Pencil International seeks 2 art therapists for work with refugees



AATA

The Red Pencil International is now working in joint collaboration with the Jiyan Foundation to bring art therapy services to refugees and Internationally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Kurdistan. They are looking for two art therapists with knowledge and expertise in trauma, loss and displacement, multicultural settings, and art therapy training to join them in 2016. These art therapists will be expected to provide training in basic art therapy skills to local counselors and will facilitate art therapy sessions for individuals in a nearby Syrian refugee camp. For more information about the positions and how to apply, click [here](#). The deadline for applications is December 15, 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

World AIDS Day art mosaic raises awareness for disease



Newswise

In honor of World Aids Day Tuesday, December 1, University Hospitals Case Medical Center patients, staff, and community members joined to create a 100-piece art mosaic in an effort to revitalize HIV/AIDS awareness. Art therapist and AATA member Stephen Macek co-organized the project. Macek said patients created their pieces based on three prompts: 1) identify a personal symbol, 2) show the challenges that come with either being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS or being around the disease, and 3) express a hope for the future. **READ MORE**

Hamburg, Germany helps traumatized refugees



DW.com

The first thing you notice entering the room are the colorful bolts of fabric that have been set up on stands to create a backdrop with small woven mats forming a circle in front. Children from families that have fled persecution and conflict in countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq start to arrive in the refugee camp's activity room. The camp called Jungenparkweg is home to about 130 people and is located in the town of Langenhorn, in the city-state of Hamburg. Entering the room, children aged between four and 12, who have just finished preschool and school classes in the nearby town, greet their storytellers Roana Falkenberg and Asma Qwaider. Tellers without Borders is a project initiated by Micaela Sauber, a storyteller with experience working in war zones, including with the Friends of Waldorf Education's trauma initiative. In Hamburg, Germany, TWB delivers workshops designed to build up a sense of stability for children who are living in refugee camps, using a diverse toolbox of techniques including art, play and storytelling to reconnect children with their inner selves. **READ MORE**



Mindfulness may improve depression and anxiety in cancer

Medscape

Some mindfulness-based interventions significantly improve depression and anxiety related to a cancer diagnosis, according to a meta-analysis published in the November issue of *Medicine*. "Our overall findings indicated that mindfulness-based therapy is effective for reducing anxiety and depression, whereas our subgroup analysis findings indicated that this may depend on the type of therapy administered and that the effect of treatment may not last longer than 12 weeks," wrote first author Mei-Fen Zhang, PhD, RN, of the School of Nursing at Sun Yat-sen University, in Guangzhou, China, and colleagues. **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. Publication of any guest article is at the sole discretion of the American Art Therapy Association.

Art Therapy Today

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