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March 16, 2016



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### AATA NEWS AND EVENTS

## National Recognition for Art Therapy through AATA's Partnership with Americans for the Arts



Donna Betts, PhD, ATR - BC, AATA President



It's national Creative Arts Therapies Week, and I'm delighted to present this timely report on an event that took place last week in Washington, DC. On March 7 & 8, AATA Executive Director Cynthia Woodruff, and President Dr. Donna Betts, ATR-BC, represented the American Art Therapy Association at the Arts Advocacy Day National Arts Action Summit. This annual event provides attendees with advocacy training and an opportunity to attend coordinated visits with Members of Congress. Hosted by Americans for the

Arts in partnership with over 85 national arts – related organizations, Arts Advocacy Day is the largest gathering of its kind, bringing together a broad variety of the nation's civic and cultural groups. **READ MORE**

## Scholarship Committee Accepting Applications through April 1



Michele D. Rattigan, MA, ATR-BC, NCC, LPC

The Scholarship Committee reminds all AATA members that applications with full attachments for the 2016 scholarships will be accepted through April 1, 2016. The American Art Therapy Association and its generous donors provide a number of scholarships annually. They encourage the growth of the profession by rewarding excellence and enabling access to information and resources for the members who are selected by the Scholarship Committee. Incomplete application packets and those postmarked after April 1 will not be considered. Scholarships are announced each year at the American Art Therapy Association Annual

Conference Awards ceremony. Recipients will be notified in May about the decision on their application. **READ MORE**

## PRODUCT SHOWCASE

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New cohorts begin each summer. Learn more at [www.mtmary.edu/dat](http://www.mtmary.edu/dat)

## #CATW2016 Week Kicks Off March 13-19!



AATA

It's Creative Arts Therapies Week! Join the National Coalition of Creative Arts Therapies Associations (NCCATA) in celebrating, and spread the word using #CATW2016 on social media. Check out what's happening in your area by visiting NCCATA's website and Facebook page. There is still time to join together and represent art therapy; take photos of your event and tag them with #CATW2016! NCCATA organizes this week every year in order to recognize and to educate communities about the creative arts therapies.

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## AATA Featured Member



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Mary Ellen Hluska, MA, ATR-BC, attends the annual AATA conference when she can, citing it as a way to stay connected: "My time in hospitals often meant I was not working with art therapists, but with Child Life Specialists, Nurses, Medical Doctors and Social Workers. So attending the AATA conference has always been important." Today, Mary Ellen provides art therapy services through private practice with children and adolescents. Before pursuing her art therapy training, Mary Ellen was an art school graduate who was seeking a way to synthesize art making with her desire to help people. As she learned more about art therapy, she recognized it as a fulfillment of that desire. **READ MORE**

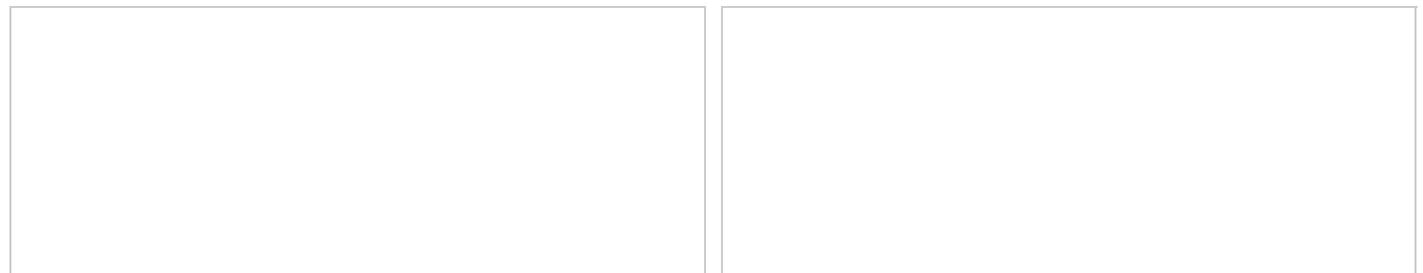
## Art Therapist Needed for Work in Kenya

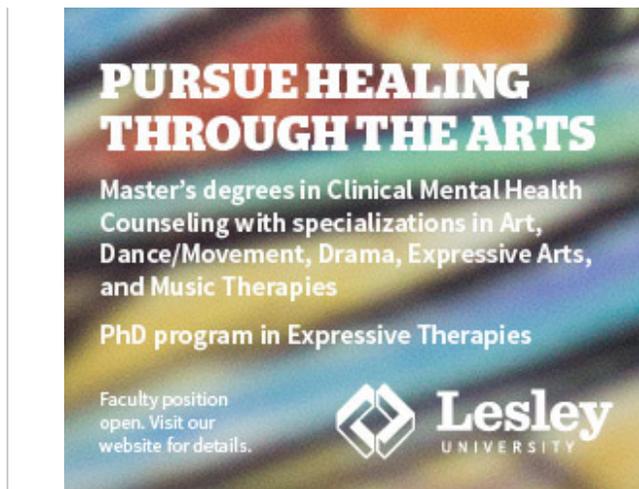


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The [Faraja Cancer Support Trust](#) and [The Red Pencil International](#), an affiliate of the AATA, are working in joint collaboration in Kenya to provide complementary therapies support to individuals affected by cancer and to help raise awareness about cancer. The focus of this initiative is to implement the "Train the Trainer" program, during which medical professionals, caregivers, and staff will be taught basic knowledge about art therapy and "visual journaling" techniques. They are seeking one art therapist with experience in hospital settings and work with individuals diagnosed with cancer, conducted through an African/multicultural context. Full details about this opportunity can be viewed on The Red Pencil International's [Facebook page](#). Interested parties are asked to submit their resumes before [March 20, 2016](#) to [welcomed@redpencil.org](mailto:welcomed@redpencil.org).

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## 2016 VSA Call for Abstracts Examining the Intersection of Arts and Special Education



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The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Office of VSA and Accessibility is planning a third volume of *Examining the Intersection of Arts and Special Education*. This collection of white papers will provide information on research and innovative or exemplary practice in teaching music, visual art, drama, and dance/movement to students with disabilities. A **\$1,000 per paper honorarium** will be given to authors of selected papers. For more information, or to submit an abstract by Monday, April 18, 2016, 11:59 PM EDT visit [their website](#).

## Call for Art! Celebrate the AGPA's 75th Anniversary



AATA

The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) wants your help to commemorate its 75th Anniversary by submitting a piece of art that represents its continued commitment to community, connection, and creativity in group settings. A high quality limited edition print of the chosen piece will be sold as a fundraiser for the AGPA and a digital version will be published on the AGPA's website. The artist will be given full credit for the work and will receive a **\$1,500 honorarium**. The deadline for submissions is April 20, 2016. Full submission details can be viewed on [their website](#).

## ART THERAPY IN THE NEWS

### Paint me a memory



Long-Term Living Magazine

Art can provide a way for people with dementia to express themselves even after their memories and words have begun to fade away. Artistic activities give residents an outlet for emotional responses and can boost their self-esteem, help them relax, reduce their isolation and increase their attention span. "For people with dementia, verbal interactions may remain at the level of 'social niceties only,' but art mixes tactile activities with emotion, engaging neuropathological pathways in a different way," says Michele Tarsitano-Amato, director of creative arts and a therapy/dementia specialist at Kendal at Oberlin, a continuing care retirement community in Oberlin, Ohio.

**READ MORE**

### 'Collective Voices, Shared Journeys': Art that pays homage to survivors of gender violence



Medill Reports Chicago

Malala Yousafzai. Benazir Bhutto. Gloria Gaynor. These women of color — activists, leaders, cultural icons — stand in sharp relief against the sky-blue background of the collage. Pasted together, their edges overlapping, the figures pay homage to survivors of sexual violence, domestic violence, political violence, deportation, incarceration and hate crimes. "They kept going," said the artist, Naomi Anurag Lahiri, gazing at her framed collage on the wall. Sometimes it's hard for her to get out of bed in the morning, she said; this piece is a

reminder to push onward. **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 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.

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