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### AATA NEWS

## AATA Annual business meeting to take place on July 9, 2016



AATA

Attention AATA Members! This year's Annual Business Meeting of the Membership will take place on Saturday, July 9, 2016, from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. during the AATA's 47th Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. The Executive Director and the Board of Directors will provide updates on the overall status of the AATA, and present our strategic direction. Your participation is vital – all conference attendees are strongly encouraged to attend. Voting members must check in at the registration desk before entering. This is the main opportunity of the year for members to engage in the business of the Association, so we hope to see you there!

## Enactment of bill that includes title protection for art therapists in Connecticut



AATA

On May 11, 2016, Governor Daniel Malloy signed Public Act No. 16-66, which includes Statutory Recognition of art therapists in Connecticut. Henceforth, the terms "art therapist" and "licensed art therapist" gain title protection

in the state. Misuse of the term by any individual not appropriately credentialed or certified violates this section of the bill is subject to a class D felony. The attainment of Statutory Recognition is a momentous event for Connecticut art therapists and the Connecticut Art Therapy Association (CATA), but represents one step in a broader journey toward state licensure. **READ MORE**

## AATA supports the American Counseling Association's opposition to SB 1556/HB 1840



AATA



The AATA supports the American Counseling Association's decision to stand up against recent state laws that aim to perpetuate religious freedoms, but in actuality promote discrimination against LGBT people. SB 1556/HB 1840 "would allow counselors and therapists to discriminate against clients based on the counselor's own religious beliefs. By allowing discrimination against clients, this bill defies professional standards and could cause significant harm to vulnerable people who are seeking help" (ACLU). Mental health professions across the U.S. prohibit unfair discrimination against clients. **READ MORE**

**READ MORE**

## 2016 Annual Conference on track to be largest ever!



Jane DeSouza, MPS, ATR-BC, LCAT

If you have not already registered, you can lock in the advanced registration rates until May 27, at 5:00 p.m. EDT. You could pay more, but why? The conference website has all of the details about the program including an expansive conference brochure listing all of the sessions and program highlights. We want to be sure you attend this history-making conference and the last one planned for the summer. Register today!

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### PRODUCT SHOWCASE



#### Blick Art Materials

Blick believes that art inspires hope and healing. Our products cater to the full spectrum of artists — from the youngest child scribbling with a crayon to gallery-represented professionals. Competitive prices and superior customer service make Blick the best choice for anyone requiring quality art materials for instruction, work, or pleasure. **[DickBlick.com](http://DickBlick.com)**



#### Windsor & Newton

William and Henry's commitment to quality and innovation are part of a rich heritage which informs Winsor & Newton to this day. We're dedicated to the craft of the fine artist and to providing them with new ways to explore their creativity, allowing them to share their work with a worldwide community. **Read more**

## Raise awareness for children's mental health: Support local chapters in the creation of art-based community events



AATA

The campaign to raise awareness for children's mental health through the creation of art-based community events is now live! The AATA is teaming up with the [Florida Art Therapy Association](#) and the [New York Art Therapy Association](#) to help drive focus toward the mental health needs of families and children in their communities. Join us in making a difference – please visit our [campaign page](#) to learn more about what you can do to help.

## Resolutions committee now accepting 2016 resolutions



Matthew Bernier, MCAT, ATR-BC, 2016 Resolutions Committee Chair

AATA members are empowered to influence the policy and decision-making process of the American Art Therapy Association by proposing resolutions. Any member or group of members may propose ideas and actions that affect the AATA's mission, strategic plan, policies, organizational structure, or the use of resources, by submitting a resolution. The AATA's Board of Directors is obligated to consider and respond to any resolution formally presented to the membership and carried by their vote at the Annual Business Meeting which will take place during the AATA's 47th Annual Conference on Saturday, July 9. A sponsor or a proxy must be available to speak for the resolution at the Annual Business Meeting. You are encouraged to submit resolutions early by e-mailing [this form](#) to the Resolutions Committee through [info@arttherapy.org](mailto:info@arttherapy.org). **READ MORE**

## AATA Featured Member



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For Hollie B. French, LPC, ATR, finding art therapy was a bit like finding home. It combined her desire to help others with a sense of personal inspiration that seemed to be lacking in her solely art or psychology based courses. After deciding to pursue it, Hollie graduated with her master's degree in art therapy from the Adler School of Professional Psychology (class of '07), now Adler University. During her time as President of the Louisiana Art Therapy Association (LATA), she had the opportunity to become involved with advocacy and legislative efforts on behalf of art therapy licensure and cited support from the AATA, specifically Margaret Carlock-Russo and Dean Sagar, as a crucial component of that work.

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## New openings for art therapists with The Red Pencil (International)



AATA

The Red Pencil (International) is seeking art therapists and art therapy students for work on two upcoming humanitarian missions. Through their Art Therapy Response Team (ART), The Red Pencil (International) partners with local organizations to provide art therapy training and interventions in the service of children, adults and families caught in natural disasters and conflicts zones. Clinicians who are interested in working abroad and possess expertise in trauma, grief and loss are encouraged to apply for the following opportunities. **READ MORE**



## ART THERAPY IN THE NEWS

### Teen with autism creates art-filled book to help others with the disorder



TODAY

For Max Miller, what started as a hobby and a way to get his emotions out is now helping kids with autism around the world. The 14-year-old was told that he would never be able to speak when doctors diagnosed him with autism at the age of 5 – but boy were they wrong. At the age of 12, he became a published author with the book "Hello My Name Is Max and I Have Autism," which has now sold thousands of copies. "Art saved my life and completely changed me as a human," Max told TODAY. Since the teen from Thorton, Colorado, wasn't able to speak until he was 6 years old, he would communicate with his mom through drawings. **READ MORE**

### Transforming lives: Augusta artist helps troubled teens



The News Virginian

She spends her days at the Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center, working with teens. For one reason or another, each of these kids find themselves in the custody of Virginia's criminal justice system. Yet Michal Emmert-Hart isn't disciplining them. She uses paints, brushes and other art materials to help each one cope with their situation. "Basically what I do is try to assess each child's background or situation and then provide them with art

materials and corresponding projects," Emmert-Hart said. **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.

#### SUGGESTED COMPANIES



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## Art Therapy Today

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