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AATA Represents the Art Therapy Profession at Mental Health Awareness Month Briefings on Capitol Hill



AATA



The AATA actively participated in several events throughout May to ensure representation of the art therapy profession in support of National Mental Health Awareness Month. In addition to AATA's collaboration with SAMHSA for Children's National Mental Health Awareness Day (May 5th), several AATA personnel attended a number of briefings on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. In his Presidential Proclamation, Mr. Obama called upon the nation to raise

awareness: "Although we have made progress expanding mental health coverage and elevating the conversation about mental health, too many people still do not get the help they need." To convey how people are helped by art therapy, on May 25th, AATA President Dr. Donna Betts gave opening remarks at a briefing and exhibition in the Cannon House Office Building hosted by the Congressional Military Mental Health Caucus, the Congressional Mental Health Caucus, and the Congressional Arts Caucus. This event brought attention to the benefits of art therapy in treating soldiers and veterans with PTSD, TBI, and other debilitating conditions. **READ MORE**

The AATA Supports Title IX Protection of Students Based on Gender Identity



AATA

The AATA has signed a letter in support of the Dear Colleague statement issued by the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice on May 13, 2016. [The Dear Colleague Letter on Transgender Students](#) and the

accompanying publication, *Examples of Policies and Emerging Practices for Supporting Transgender Students*, clarify the Administration's position that Title IX protects students based on gender identity and serve as references for inclusive policy and practice. In signing this letter, the AATA joins with the National Alliance of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (NASISP) and related organizations that represent educators, school support staff and students, to applaud the Administration's work on developing and implementing these guidelines.

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- [This year's SVA MPS Art Therapy conference features Pablo Helguera. Click here to join us on September 23, 2016!](#)



How to Submit 2016 Resolutions to Resolutions Committee



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. [READ MORE](#)

AATA Featured Member



AATA



Owen Karcher, MA, LPC-IT, is a bilingual art therapist (English/Spanish) with a private practice in Madison, Wisconsin. He works predominantly with trans and gender nonconforming clients, ages 8-60. Owen graduated from Naropa University in 2013, where he studied Transpersonal Counseling Psychology and Art Therapy. He is drawn to transpersonal perspectives of art therapy because he knows there is wisdom in the material and process that is beyond his conscious understanding and theoretical categorization. As an AATA member, Owen attended and presented at the conference in 2015 and has enjoyed reading the Journal for several years.

[READ MORE](#)

Over \$3600 Raised for the Campaign to Raise Awareness for Children's Mental Health



AATA

The fundraising campaign to help support the development of arts-based community events hosted by the New York Art Therapy Association (NYATA) and the Florida Art Therapy Association (FATA) ended last week. Thanks to all of those who supported the campaign, donors and fundraisers alike, the chapters raised \$3628, which exceeded the original goal of \$2600. Get updates and details about the events that this campaign has supported by connecting with the [NYATA](#), the [FATA](#), and upcoming issues of ATT.

AATA NEWS

Quiet hero turns lives around with paintbrushes



The Chicago Tribune

Some students arrive at Jose de Diego Elementary Community Academy having never held a paintbrush. The Chicago public school on the western edge of trendy Wicker Park serves close to 700 kids, 92 percent of whom come from low-income homes. "Their families are working at survival level," Ruth Evermann, de Diego's art therapist, told me. "Our kids carry an anger with them that takes your breath away." **READ MORE**

Art therapy: Loss, grief, & transformation



Virginia Art Therapy Association

Becky Jacobson MA, ATR, CMT writes: "When starting out my career as an art therapist I did not seek out work in the field of grief and loss or death and dying, but somehow it found me. The universe works in mysterious ways and after being hired as an art therapist at a nearby hospice I realized that this was the perfect place for my professional identity to blossom. In school I had learned a great deal about how art therapy can benefit those facing emotionally charged, traumatic, and existential experiences. Suddenly the benefits of art therapy came to life when putting my training to use when working with individuals and families facing grief and loss and death and dying." **READ MORE**

Art Therapy Today

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American Art Therapy Association

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