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AATA NEWS

Preparations for the AATA's Annual Meeting of the Membership



AATA

Attention AATA Members: In preparation for the Annual Meeting of the Membership (AMM), July 9, 2016, at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront, please visit the [Members-Only](#) area of the AATA website to access the Meeting Agenda and supplemental documents. Please note: in keeping with the AATA's Green initiative, we kindly request that members download the e-documents in advance of the meeting, as Wi-Fi will not be accessible in the meeting room. We will make 250 printed copies of the Agenda available at the meeting, and ask that they be shared, and/or that you access it electronically (along with the other materials), in keeping with efforts to minimize our impact on the environment.

Art in the Heart: Call for Art in Response to the Orlando tragedy



Joseph Scarce, ATR-BC

Please feel free to express your feelings regarding this tragedy by creating art in the heart. Use the [provided template](#) as the foundation for your piece. If you are not attending the AATA Conference and would like your heart response displayed at the conference please mail these back before July, 1, 2016 to:

Joe's Art Time,
PO Box 17201
Tampa Fl. 33682-7201
[Artwork template](#)

READ MORE**What Are Your Brag Points?**

AATA

The largest AATA annual conference ever is two weeks away! So much has happened since we last gathered that we thought it a good time to celebrate all we have accomplished together and the wonderful energy each of you put into your work, as individuals and in support of the profession. We want to show off YOUR efforts! Whether you are one of the more than 1200 members coming to conference or not, we want to celebrate with you. Please take a minute to send us a line or two, ideally with a photo or picture of something you, your committee, chapter or peers have done— nothing is too small or too large an accomplishment because all of our efforts add up. **READ MORE**

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

**AATA Featured Member**

AATA



Mariah Gomas, a proud student member of the AATA, will obtain her MA in Art Therapy in August of 2016 from Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, CT. She appreciates the scholarship award opportunities that AATA provides for its student and New Professional members. Throughout her career as a graduate student Mariah has worked with numerous populations including homeless women, at-risk children and adolescents, individuals with eating disorders and LGBTQ adolescents. Mariah has experience leading anti-racism trainings, working with homeless mothers recovering from substance abuse in New York and New Jersey, and participating in trauma-informed training in South Africa and Connecticut. Additionally, she is a regular LGBTQ panelist for the U.S. Health Justice

Course at Yale School of Medicine.

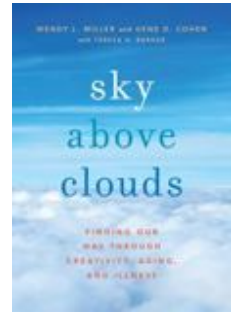
READ MORE**Book Review of Sky Above Clouds: Finding Our Way through Creativity, Aging, and Illness**

Angel C. Duncan, MA-MFT, ATR

Gene Cohen, M.D., was one of my heroes. His work and research in geriatric psychiatry, particularly with Alzheimer's, was ground breaking. To many of us, he was the standard-bearer who built the foundation from which the field developed. Cohen paved the way for medical professionals to recognize the expressive arts therapies as effective in treating patients.

Recently published, *Sky Above Clouds: Finding Our Way Through Creativity, Aging, and Illness* is the final book to bear Dr. Cohen's name. Written together with his wife and business partner, art therapist Wendy L.

Miller, and Teresa H. Barker, the book was released at the end of April. Initially conceived under a different title and concept, Sky Above Clouds is a book that almost wasn't.



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ART THERAPY IN THE NEWS

Creative therapy: Making art at any skill level reduces stress, cortisol levels [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [e](#)

Medical Daily

Making art at any skill level – from a stick figure to academic oil painting – can reduce stress levels, according to a new study out of Drexel University. The researchers found that pretty much anyone could benefit from making art, despite initially holding the belief that people with past artistic experience would benefit the most. "It was surprising and it also wasn't," said Girija Kaimal, assistant professor of creative arts therapies, in a press release. "It wasn't surprising because that's the core idea in art therapy: Everyone is creative and can be expressive in the visual arts when working in a supportive setting. That said, I did expect that perhaps the effects would be stronger for those with prior experience." **READ MORE**

Art Therapy Today

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