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AMERICAN arttherapy ASSOCIATION

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AATA NEWS

AATA Conference Kick-Off! An Announcement from Dr. Sarah Deaver, ATR-BC



AATA



For this week's Special Conference Issue of Art Therapy Today, we are pleased to feature long-time member and AATA Past-President, Dr. Sarah Deaver, ATR-BC! Dr. Deaver shares her enthusiasm for the AATA: "I am so excited to be attending our 47th annual conference! I am very fortunate to have attended many conferences. In fact, one year I wandered into a meeting of art therapy researchers, and this brief encounter changed the direction of my career, pointing me toward the research focus I've maintained for the past 15 years. Every AATA conference is a wonderful opportunity to renew ties with colleagues across the nation and the world, and this conference will be the most well-attended in AATA's history! There are so many excellent papers, panels, and other offerings each day, it's hard to decide which sessions to attend. My career-long friendships with art therapy colleagues are among the most meaningful in my life; our common concerns, beliefs, and professional priorities have been made possible through our shared membership in AATA. I hope to see many of you in Baltimore!" **READ MORE**

The Remarkable Rawley Silver, 1917 - 2016



Myra Levick, PhD, ATR, HLM; Bobbi Stoll, ATR-BC, HLM; & Judy Rubin, PhD, ATR-BC, HLM

To honor the life of Rawley Silver, EdD, ATR-BC, HLM, three AATA Honorary Lifetime Members – Myra Levick,

Bobbi Stoll, and Judy Rubin – discuss her impact and share some memories that highlight her enduring and indefatigable spirit.



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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 Supports the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2015



AATA

Through our contacts at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the AATA recently signed a letter in support of H.R. 2646, the *Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2015*, addressed to House Speaker Paul Ryan and House Minority Leader, Nancy Pelosi. This bipartisan legislation enhances mental health services and supports for families. H.R. 2646 addresses our severe workforce shortage, promotes integrated service delivery, early identification and intervention, and provides the full range of EPSDT services to children in IMDs. In addition, the bill also supports suicide prevention and peer support services, clarifies and provides training regarding communications under HIPAA, affords liability protections for volunteer health professionals, strengthens crisis services and provides greater clarity on mental health parity. The AATA is pleased to join NAMI, the National Council for Behavioral Health, Mental Health America, and the broad mental health community in the effort to ensure that this important step in mental health reform is realized.

ART THERAPY IN THE NEWS

Group art therapy shows promise in treating Syrian refugee children with psychological problems



The Medical News

Group art therapy shows promise in reducing a wide range of psychological symptoms commonly experienced by refugee children, according to a pilot study of Syrian refugee children living in Turkey, published in the journal, *Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies*. Numerous studies have shown that refugee children are at high risk of a broad range of psychological problems including depression, behavioral problems, aggression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. With almost 1.5 million refugee children from Syria currently living in Turkey, effective programs to improve their mental health are sorely needed. [READ MORE](#)

Art therapy helping patients with cancer at St Bartholomew's



Charity Today

Patients with cancer at St Bartholomew's Hospital – part of Barts Health NHS Trust – are benefiting from art therapy sessions to reduce feelings of anxiety. Art therapy can be a powerful tool for reducing anxiety, as well as expressing feelings. This new project, which was funded by Barts Charity, will expand the existing service, aiming to improve patient well-being. A new art therapist is working with patients on the chemotherapy and radiotherapy wards, spending time chatting with patients and exploring whether they'd like to take part in an art therapy session. [READ MORE](#)

7 science-backed reasons you should make art, even if you're bad at it



Tech Insider

Art is intrinsically linked to humanity. We've been making it for about as long as we've been called humans, and few would argue against its value as culturally enriching as well as emotionally and often intellectually rewarding. Making art for art's sake is plenty. Yet as scientific research has shown, our minds seem built to enjoy and analyze art deeply, and creating it, no matter your skill level, is good for you. [READ MORE](#)

Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, an artist turns her MRIs into art



Fast Co. Design

In the 1970s and '80s, Elizabeth Jameson was a civil rights lawyer, first defending children with chronic illness and disabilities, then fighting for gender equality. She worked in the prison system and in the White House on health policy alongside then-First Lady Hillary Clinton. In the late '80s, she was playing with her kids on a local playground when she suddenly found that she couldn't speak; later, she learned the cause was a lesion in a part of her brain called Broca's area. Jameson regained her ability to speak through intense therapy, but in 1991 was diagnosed with a progressive form of multiple sclerosis. No longer able to practice law, she went to art school for painting and found she had a talent for it. Today, she's known for her silk paintings and copper etching prints that are derived from a very personal source: her own MRI scans. [READ MORE](#)

Art Therapy Today

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