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December 22, 2016


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As 2016 comes to a close, the AATA would like to wish its members, partners and other industry professionals a safe and happy holiday season. As we reflect on the past year for the industry, we would like to provide the readers of *Art Therapy Today* a look at the most accessed articles from the year. Our regular publication will resume Thursday, Jan. 5.

The AATA Board of Directors Propels the Profession Forward with New Mission and Vision Statements



Cynthia Woodruff, AATA Executive Director, and Donna Betts, PhD, ATR-BC, AATA President

From Aug. 31: On Aug. 29th, 2016, the AATA Board of Directors unanimously approved new Mission and Vision statements for the Association. The statements articulate the AATA's purpose and inform goals and objectives set forth in the strategic plan. The AATA mission statement was last updated in 2008. The new statements reflect AATA's momentum and future direction. We are pleased to announce the Association's new Mission and Vision statements. [READ MORE](#)

Behind-the-Scenes: A Glimpse of the Annual Conference's Inner Workings



AATA

From July 20: A great deal of work and coordination was involved in making the 2016 annual AATA Conference a success! Our largest conference to date, with 1274 attendees, was an historic event, thanks in large part to the team that made it happen behind the scenes. Conference days often mean early mornings and late nights for our National Office Staff, our Conference Committee, and Local Arrangements Committee (LAC). Appearing effortless involves dedication and determination! Those who volunteered their time to ensure a smoothly-run conference did so with grace and good-naturedness. We are very grateful for these individuals and want to provide a brief glimpse into what it takes to run an event of this scale. [READ MORE](#)

New Online Courses Now Available through the AATA's Institute of Continuing Education in Art Therapy



AATA

From Aug. 17: If you are looking for a way to expand your knowledge about the most current theories and approaches in art therapy, or want to earn continuing education, check out the AATA's Institute for Continuing Education in Art Therapy (ICE/AT)! During the AATA's 47th Annual Conference held this past July in Baltimore, Maryland, more than 30 educational sessions were recorded, converted into brand new online courses and added to the course catalog. **READ MORE**



School of Arts & Sciences | Art Therapy

The Undergraduate Art Therapy major will provide students with both theoretical foundations and practical experience while learning the diverse application of art therapy.

My Pal Harriet Wadeson — A Pioneer Powerhouse



Judith Rubin, PhD, ATR-BC, HLM



From Feb. 3: In September of 1970 while attending the first Conference of AATA, I met a woman who was to become one of my favorite colleagues — Harriet Wadeson, PhD, LCSW, ATR-BC, HLM. I had already read and admired some of her 60s publications (as Harriet Sinrod) in the Bulletin of Art Therapy. The person I met was as smart and thoughtful as her writing; she was also friendly, attractive, and lots of fun. Harriet Claire Wadeson was that rare individual whose verbal and nonverbal hemispheres were equally creative throughout her long productive life. She was a terrific scholar, but she was also extremely playful. Harriet deserved her many awards and honors, because she contributed so much to AATA and the art therapy profession. **READ**

MORE

Art Therapy and Coloring Books: AATA Draws the Line



AATA

From Jan. 6: Some coloring book publishers are inaccurately using the term "art therapy" in their branding. The popularity of adult coloring seems to indicate a renewed public awakening to the use of this activity for self-care. However, coloring books are not "art therapy," and AATA endeavors to promote accurate information that distinguishes between engaging with coloring for self-care and accessing art therapy services provided by a credentialed art therapist. We also acknowledge the coloring book trend as an opportunity for the AATA to help educate the public about the evidence-based integrative mental health profession, art therapy.

The AATA has taken a proactive stance on this, and over the past several months, we have: **READ MORE**

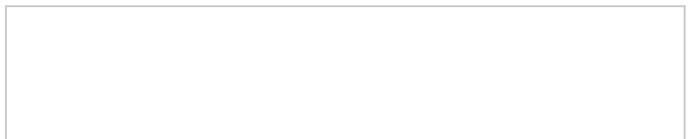
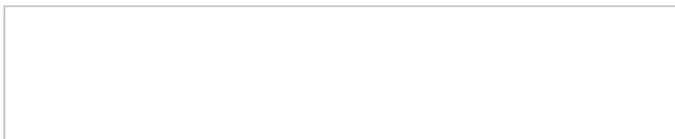
New Jersey Passes Bill for Art Therapy Licensure

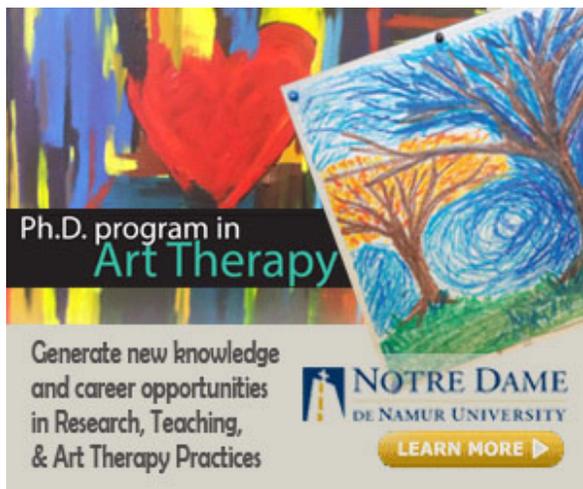


AATA

From Jan. 13: On January 11, 2016, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie signed the bill that provides for the licensure of art therapists in the state of NJ, A-1783/S-2020 (McKeon, Rible, Sumter, Moriarty/Vitale, Cunningham) – "Art Therapist Licensing Act." All current practitioners with the ATR-BC credentials will be grandfathered in, while those who have their ATR will be required to obtain the BC in order to become licensed. Development of the application and the licensing board will take place in the next year. **READ MORE**

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A Step Forward for Distinct Classification of Art Therapy through the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Dean Sagar, AATA Public Policy Advisor

From Aug. 10: The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has released a preliminary listing of Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes to take effect on January 1, 2018, that will classify art therapists within the 29-0000 occupation group for Healthcare Practitioners and under a 29-1129 sub-code for "Therapists: All Other." The proposed reclassification is a marked improvement over the current 2010 SOC system in which art therapists were inappropriately classified within the 29-1125 occupational code for recreational therapists. The Standard Occupational Classifications cover all professions in which work is performed for pay or profit in both government and private employment. SOC codes are revised every 8 years by a Standard Occupational Classification Policy Committee (SOCPC) comprised of representatives of the ten federal agencies with primary responsibility for collecting statistical data and with input from other federal agencies and the public. **READ MORE**



Postpartum Imagery: Finding the "Good Enough"



Kathryn Snyder, MA, ATR-BC, LPC



From Jan. 20: The postpartum period in the family life cycle is one that is fraught with ambivalence and anxiety. While a new mother's body is flooded with the oxytocin meant to link her in love with her helpless charge, it is also, often, simultaneously flooded with the hormones of fear and worry, combined with the foggy of sleep deprivation and the stress of learning to take care of this fragile, small human. It is this latter group of feelings that often go unattended to and are found ignored in new mothers, leaving them feeling helpless and alone. **READ MORE**

Charleston Heals Through Art: HeArts Mend Hearts



Dianne Tennyson Vincent, MAT, ATR-BC

From March 2: June 17, 2015 was a peaceful evening in downtown Charleston, SC. A regular Wednesday night prayer meeting service was taking place in the historic Emanuel AME Church. After an hour of Bible study and prayer, the unthinkable happened. A young, unfamiliar white man welcomed to the group pulled a gun and killed nine parishioners, including State Senator Clementa C. Pinckney. A grandmother shielded her grandchild with her own body while they both played dead. The other survivor was told by the shooter that he let her live to tell the story. The killer later said he committed the murders with the hopes of starting a race war. Charleston's heart was broken. **READ MORE**



Eco-Art Therapy: Deepening Connections with the Natural World



Ellen Speert, ATR-BC, REAT

From Oct. 27: The Nez Pierce have a saying: "Heal yourself and heal Mother Earth and all our relations." It is widely agreed that art therapy is as old as the earliest human expression. We cite prehistoric cave paintings as evidence that people used art (therapy) to relate to what was most important to their lives, utilizing available materials to summon power in relationship to their needs. Yet, eco- art therapy is seen as a new, even innovative, aspect of our field. Really? I think it has been only our recent development as a modern psychological field that has separated art therapy into a profession removed from the world of nature. **READ MORE**

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