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AATA NEWS

A Tribute to Ron Hays

Michelle L. Dean, MA, ATR-BC, LPC, CGP



It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Ronald (Ron) Edwin Hays, ATR-BC, LPC, on July 18, 2017 at the age of 71. He was a pillar in the art therapy community, teaching at numerous colleges and universities along the East Coast and abroad. Ron received his graduate degree in Creative Arts Therapy from Hahnemann University in Philadelphia and was an early practitioner in art therapy, starting in 1969. Ron's true passion was working with his students. Fellow art therapists were asked to share their memories and tributes of Ron. [READ MORE](#)



AATA Elections are Open August 1-31, 2017

Megan Robb, MA, ATR-BC, LPC, NCC, Nominating Sub-Committee Chair

The American Art Therapy Association's annual election opened August 1 and will remain open through August 31. Voting members of the Association should have received an e-mail on the first day of elections with personalized instructions to vote. If you are a voting member of the AATA and you prefer a paper ballot, please contact the National Office either by email (info@arttherapy.org) or phone (888-290-0878) prior to August 14.



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The AATA Supports Inclusivity and Equal Opportunity for Transgender People



AATA National Office

At this time, the AATA would like to reiterate its commitment to supporting inclusivity as described in our [Values Statement](#). The American Psychological Association (APA) released a [statement](#) last week, citing the substantial negative effects discrimination has on LGBTQIA people and affirming the lack of “scientific evidence that allowing transgender people to serve in the armed forces has had an adverse impact on our military readiness or unit cohesion.” Like our colleagues at the APA and the [American Counseling Association](#) (ACA), the AATA stands by our values regarding equal opportunity for all, regardless of gender identity or expression, including those serving in the military.

"Sound Health" at the Kennedy Center



AATA National Office

In June 2017, the Kennedy Center partnered with the National Institutes of Health and Kennedy Center Artistic Advisor at Large, Renée Fleming, to host “Sound Health: Music and the Mind.” The two-day event examined music and the human brain; it pulled together subject matter from music therapy, neuroscience, and artistry to frame a conversation about the role of music in health and wellness. Representatives from the AATA attended the event at the invitation of the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA), and we extend our thanks to the AMTA for the opportunity.

[READ MORE](#)**AATA Featured Member**

AATA National Office



Amy Hahn, ATR, LCPC has worked in both inpatient and outpatient psychiatric settings with groups and individuals. Through art therapy, she has served diverse populations, including people with dual-diagnosis, adults living with HIV/AIDS, at-risk youth, and older adults with dementia. She recently started a private practice (May, 2017) and is a professor at Chippewa Valley Technical College. Mrs. Hahn served on the Board of the Illinois Art Therapy Association (2008-2015) and has valued support from the AATA at all levels of her career. She says, “AATA played a big role providing community and guidance while in graduate school and at the start of my career.” In particular, she cites the professional opportunities, such as participation as a Conference attendee and presenter, Journal access, and other online resources as useful tools for her career development.

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IN THE NEWS**Healthcare Foundation grant supports art therapy center and internships**

Caldwell University

Caldwell University has received a grant from The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey to expand its graduate programming in art therapy. The \$95,600 grant will support the expansion and modernization of art therapy program space on campus and establish new supervisory fellowships at mental health agency internship sites in the Newark, New Jersey area. A new dedicated Art Therapy Center will feature a dynamic learning environment with workshop and classroom spaces equipped with state of the art technology, such as digital smartboards, tablets and iMac personal computers and collaborative office and art display areas. [READ MORE](#)

Wounded Warriors' Art Therapy exhibit opens at Defense Department Medical Museum

National Mueseum of Health and Medicine

"Battle Signs: Using Art Therapy to Process TBI and PTS Injuries and Trauma," an exhibit featuring artworks produced by Wounded Warriors as part of an art therapy program, opened at the National Museum of Health and Medicine, Silver Spring, Maryland, on June 30, 2017. "Battle Signs" will be on display at NMHM through September 2017. The veteran-produced artwork was coordinated by the art therapy program at Intrepid Spirit One at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. The ISO at Fort Belvoir supports active-duty service members in rehabilitative treatment for traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions through interdisciplinary treatment. [READ MORE](#)

Art for social change

Nepali Times

Nepal has long been known as the source, transit and destination country for people subjected to trafficking. An estimated 23,000 people have been trafficked from Nepal since the 2015 earthquake. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, more than 100,000 children are sold for sex each year in the U.S. An ongoing exhibition, 'The True Stories Project' organized by Siddhartha Art Gallery in collaboration with Art Works for Change (AWFC) and sponsored by the U.S. Embassy seeks to highlight the stories of the women and children whose lives have been uprooted by the cruel practice. [READ MORE](#)

Finding the proper place for the arts in education: Visual arts

By Sheilamary Koch

Works of art — whether abstract or literal depictions of reality — expand the mind. Nonverbal by nature, visual art erases barriers allowing communication to flow unhindered by nationality or language. Both creating and viewing art are ways of spending time that cause no harm and make life as a human meaningful. However, not all teaching methods meet the needs of children found in an educational setting, so the quality of art instruction warrants examination. [READ MORE](#)

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