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AATA NEWS

Registration Begins for Arts Advocacy Day



AATA



Registration for the 30th Annual Arts Advocacy Day is officially open! The event will take place March 20-21, 2017 in Washington, DC. Arts Advocacy Day is hosted by Americans for the Arts (AftA), as well as over 85 partner organizations, including the AATA. With the advent of the 115th Congress and the incoming US President, it is as important as ever to network, strategize, and advocate for the continued advancement of critical arts-related areas. Arts Advocacy Day provides the training and opportunities to meet with Members of Congress to gather support for the arts, and discuss the essential role of arts in

life, health, and well-being, for all of America's peoples and communities. **READ MORE**

AATA Signs Letter to Congress Addressing Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services and Programs



AATA

As a member of the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG), a coalition of national organizations committed to strengthening Americans' access to mental health and addiction care, the AATA recently added its signature to a letter addressed to the 115th Congress during their contemplation of reforms to health care insurance coverage. The letter urges the preservation of access to crucial mental health and substance use disorder services and programs and protection for the progress that Congress has made on parity under the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPEA), the Affordable Care

Act (ACA), and the 21st Century Cures Act.



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.

New York State Approves the American Art Therapy Association as a Provider of Continuing Education



Barbara Florence, Director, Events & Education

Effective Jan. 1, 2017, the State of New York revised its continuing education procedures for Licensed Creative Arts Therapists (LCATs). We are pleased to announce that our application was approved, and we are an approved provider. This means that we will be able to identify any education sessions at our annual conference and online courses available via the Institute for Continuing Education in Art Therapy (ICE/AT) that meet the State of New York requirements. **READ MORE**

Ethics, Law, and Cultural Competence in Art Therapy



Savneet Talwar, PhD, ATR-BC, Associate Editor, Art Therapy: Journal of the American Art Therapy Association

The recent passage of the U.S. state of Tennessee HB 1840 releases counselors and therapists from the ethical responsibility to provide services to clients whose behaviors, therapy goals, or chosen therapeutic outcomes conflict with the counselors' or therapists' "sincerely held principles" or religious beliefs. In support of positions taken by the American Counseling Association and the American Psychological Association, the American Art Therapy Association (AATA) issued a statement that opposes the Tennessee law, which permits discrimination based on claims of religious freedom (AATA, 2016). **READ MORE**

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Last Call for 2017 Conference Proposals



Heidi Tournoux-Hanshaw, MA, ATR-BC, LPC-AT, Conference Chair

There are just a few days left to submit a proposal for the 48th Annual Conference of the American Art Therapy Association to be held November 8-12, 2017* in Albuquerque, NM. Proposals are due by Monday, January 9, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. ET. Share your brilliant ideas, experiences, and knowledge with fellow conference attendees. **READ MORE**

AATA Featured Member



AATA Art Shared Interest Group (SIG)



Jaimie Lee Peterson, MAAT, ATR is an active member of the AATA and the Art Shared Interest Group (SIG). Jaimie fully believes in keeping in touch with her artistic identity and has worked at a forensic psychiatric state hospital in the Texas Hill Country for over seven years as a Registered Art Therapist. She focuses on using art to aid in the recovery of court-committed individuals with mental illness. Through exhibition of artwork, collaboration with a community of artists and musicians, and creative expression, individuals learn to develop their artistic identity. Jaimie is also an adjunct art instructor with Alamo Colleges and was the chair of the Art Committee for the AATA for two years. Her work in a forensic setting is very rewarding, but self-care and art exploration is necessary to be completely present for those she serves. She uses writing and art to process, but making time to do so

can be challenging. [READ MORE](#)

IN THE NEWS

What's confusing about mental health parity



Health Affairs Blog

The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act has been law since 2008. MHPAEA provided that health plans could not limit mental health or substance use disorder benefits in a way that was more restrictive than how most medical/surgical benefits were limited. This sounds simple enough, but in this year alone there has been a White House task force, voluminous Department of Labor guidance, a SAMHSA best practices manual, and an Energy & Commerce Committee hearing to find out why most people still can't access care.

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How an art library is changing lives in Los Angeles



Artsy

In 2004, Dan McCleary's mother passed away. "My parents were avid book readers and collectors of art books," the artist told me. "So instead of buying flowers, I told everyone to buy me books." That was the early genesis for a library of art books that grew to become the core of Art Division, an L.A. nonprofit space that provides free art education to underserved young adults in the city's MacArthur Park neighborhood. As word spread that McCleary was collecting books, more donations came in from friends and fellow artists.

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