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## AATA NEWS

### AATA Signs Joint Letters Advocating for Healthcare Access and Legislative Transparency



AATA

AATA continues to be an active voice supporting and advocating for policies that align with our code of ethics and increase accessibility for our clients. Recently the AATA signed two joint letters to House Representatives, one voicing our support for a recently introduced bill Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Accessibility Act of 2017 and the other requesting legislative hearings preceding significant changes that affect Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act. On February 28, 2017 AATA joined seventeen behavioral health organizations in thanking Representatives Tim Murphy (R-PA) and Derek Kilmer (D-WA) for introducing H.R. 1253 - Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Accessibility Act of 2017. **READ MORE**

### Support the Arts in America: Register for Arts Advocacy Day



AATA

Become an advocate for the arts in the United States by registering for the 30th Annual Arts Advocacy Day! 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 American Art Therapy Association. It is as important as ever to network, strategize, and advocate for the continued advancement of the arts. Arts Advocacy Day provides the training and opportunities to meet with Members of Congress to bolster 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**



### 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.

## Take Action and Urge Continued Support for the NEA



AATA  
As the new Trump Administration and the 115th Congress begin work this year, there is news of threats to the National Endowment for the Arts, principal funder of arts and military initiatives on local levels to the recently launched [Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network](#). Please contact your Representatives through the [online Americans for the Arts Action Fund](#) and Voter Voice to urge continued support for the NEA!

## AATA Featured Member



AATA Art Shared Interest Group (SIG)



Julie Ludwick, ATR-BC, LCPC is an active AATA member and serves as chair of the Art Shared Interest Group (SIG). She has 10 years of experience facilitating art therapy with children, adolescents, and adults living with a variety of physical, cognitive, emotional, and behavioral special needs. Some examples include autism, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, Down's syndrome, ADHD, generalized anxiety, and depression. She passionately believes in the ability of art processes to aide in expression, communication, problem solving, confidence and insight building, relaxation, and relationship skills. **READ MORE**

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## Nominate Exemplary Art Therapy Programs for Inclusion in NOAH White Paper



AATA

The National Organization for Arts in Health (NOAH) has commissioned the publication of a white paper, entitled Arts in Health in America, to offer a concise introduction to the field of arts in health to a variety of audiences.

The team of contributors for this national white paper want to be sure to include exemplar art therapy and creative arts therapies programs, in addition to arts in health programs. If you know of an excellent art therapy program, be sure to submit the required information **before the March 27th deadline!** [Click here](#) to complete the nomination form.

## IN THE NEWS

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### Art for and by children with autism fuels hope



INQUIRER.net

With the upcoming celebration of World Autism Day in the United Nations on April 2, children with autism are getting ready to come to the Big Apple with their hand-painted piña fabrics for the Fashion Arts Autism Benefit, a series of exhibits and an international runway show to be held at the Philippine Center. FAAB Ambassador of Hope "Bond girl" Rachel Grant modeled some of the finished products during a recent meeting of the organizers, the Autism Heart Foundation, community volunteers and the Philippine Consulate General of New York. **READ MORE**

### Syrian refugee children process trauma through art



Al Jazeera

Some Syrian refugee children process the trauma of war by drawing tanks and bloodshed; others focus their art on rainbows and flowers, images of happier times. This is what art therapists working in Lebanon have found after years of working with Syrian children fleeing war in their home country. "Art is a very effective way to work with kids," said art therapist Dania Fawaz, who has collaborated with a number of nongovernmental organizations that work with vulnerable youth, including Tahaddi, Himaya, Intersos and Caritas. **READ MORE**



### Professional Doctorate of Art Therapy

This Mount Mary University program advances working professionals' careers through an annual, summer 12-day residency, online coursework and practitioner-generated research to transform the profession.

### Giving stability through art



The Temple News

Lisa Kay and a young brain-tumor patient twirled their fingers in the air to color an imaginary canvas. It was the only art they could still create as the boy's dexterity diminished. She still recalls her work with the boy at Mercy Hospital St. Louis as a defining moment of her 35 years in the field. "I learned a lot from him," said Kay, the head of Temple's art education program. "Art helped stabilize and create some sort of normalcy in his life when he knew he was dying." Nearly 30 years later, the arts education and community arts practices department within the Tyler School of Art is planning to offer an art therapy major starting in Fall 2017. **READ MORE**

### The arts and work-related stress



London Arts in Health Forum blog

Anyone who has experienced work-related stress knows that it can have a devastating and lasting impact on emotional and physical health and financial security. We may work in many different organizations but the impact of working within one with high levels of work-related stress is depressingly similar. This is because high levels of work-related stress can lead to burnout, which reduces compassion and increases cynicism and detachment. As a result, trust in colleagues disappears and people feel isolated; there is often an oppositional culture: 'I/we

are the only ones that do the real work here' together with a feeling that no one appreciates or values individual contributions and efforts. Often, there is a disinvestment in doing a good job, a race 'to the bottom' where employees adopt a 'work-to-rule' hostile attitude with each other, which also increases stress. **READ MORE**

#### SUGGESTED COMPANIES



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