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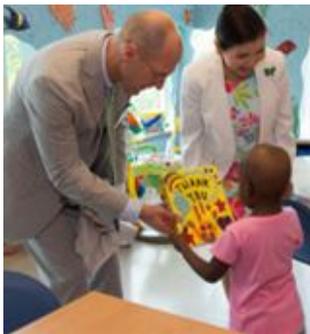


AATA NEWS

Maryland First Lady and AT&T President Tour Pediatric Hospital Art Therapy Facility



Charlotte Boston, ATR-BC, LCPAT



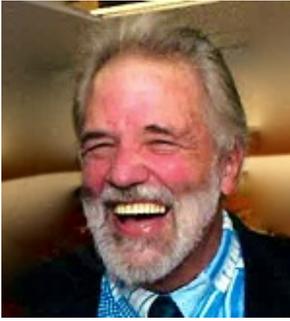
Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan is an ardent champion of Tracy's Kids and art therapy. She established a friendly visitor relationship to pediatric oncology patients at Sinai Hospital after her husband Governor Larry Hogan was treated there for cancer. During a visit to LifeBridge Health at Sinai on July 18, 2017, she enthusiastically described the Tracy's Kid's program and introduced art therapy to AT&T Maryland president, Denis Dunn, who was visiting following AT&T's generous donation to the Tracy's Kids program at this facility. [READ MORE](#)

In Memoriam: Ron Hays



AATA National Office

It is with heavy heart that we share news of the passing of art therapist Ronald Hays, ATR-BC, LPC, on July 18, 2017. In addition to his overall contributions to the field and his impact on colleagues and students alike, Ron was a former AATA Board member and an Honorary Lifetime member of the Delaware Valley Art Therapy Association (DVATA). In an upcoming issue of ATT, the AATA will feature a full article in memory of Ron Hays with testimonials from his colleagues in the art therapy community. If you have memories of Mr. Hays to share, please contact us at info@arttherapy.org by Monday, July 31.



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Application Deadline for Executive Editor of the Art Therapy Journal is Tuesday, August 1



Michaela Kirby, PsyD, ATR-BC, LMHC, Journal Editor Search Committee Chair

The American Art Therapy Association seeks applications for the position of Editor of *Art Therapy: Journal of the American Art Therapy Association*. The Journal is a peer-reviewed scholarly publication that has a readership comprised of educators, practitioners, and students. Its mission is to inform the readership of research, recent innovations, and critical issues related to art therapy. [Click here](#) to view the Journal Editor position description and requirements. Please direct any questions to info@arttherapy.org. **The deadline for nominations or applications is August 1, 2017.**

AATA Elections Open this Monday, August 1, 2017



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

The American Art Therapy Association's annual election commences on August 1 and will remain open through August 31. Voting members of the Association will receive an e-mail on the first day of elections with personalized instructions to vote. Members who prefer to vote using a paper ballot, or those that do not have e-mail, are welcome to contact the National Office either by email (info@arttherapy.org) or phone (888-290-0878) prior to August 14 to request a paper ballot. **READ MORE**

AATA Featured Member



AATA National Office



Laura Spinelli, ATR, LPC is Director of Giant Steps, an arts-driven outpatient program for Veterans, at Veterans Affairs (VA) Connecticut. In Giant Steps, Ms. Spinelli and her team facilitate art therapy groups for Veterans with mental health challenges. In her ten years at the VA, she also founded and implemented a Creative Recovery program in the Substance Abuse clinic and an art therapy group specific to Veterans with military PTSD called Art of the Brave. Ms. Spinelli is on the faculty of Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, CT and supervises art therapy graduate students. She has served as the Governmental Affairs Chair on the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Art Therapy Association and is currently the Veterans Affairs Policy Advisor for

the AATA. **READ MORE**

IN THE NEWS

Florida State University researcher develops art therapy best practices for children with autism



Florida State University News

A Florida State University researcher is working with art therapists to find better ways to treat children who have Autism Spectrum Disorder. Theresa Van Lith, assistant professor of art therapy in FSU's Department of Art Education, led a study that surveyed art therapists working with children with ASD to develop a clearer understanding of their techniques and approaches. The study was published this month in the journal *Arts in Psychotherapy*. [READ MORE](#)

Second Lady Karen Pence to meet with art therapists in Eastern Europe



The White House

Second Lady Karen Pence will travel to Tallinn, Estonia; Tbilisi, Georgia; and Podgorica, Montenegro July 29-August 2, 2017. In Tallinn, Estonia, Mrs. Pence will tour a medical center and participate in a roundtable discussion with art therapists. Art therapy is a relatively new discipline in Estonia, but is growing. There are approximately 45 individuals in the country who practice art therapy, with about half working in Tallinn or the surrounding area. [READ MORE](#)

House Appropriations Committee Approves Budgets for NEA, NEH



Philanthropy News Digest

The House Appropriations Committee has announced its fiscal year 2018 budget, which includes funding of \$145 million for both the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Although the amount represents a \$5 million year-over-year cut in the budget for each agency, arts groups concerned that the White House would seek to eliminate all funding for the NEA and NEH were relieved. According to Americans for the Arts, a national arts advocacy group based in Washington, D.C., a grassroots effort resulted in more than a hundred and seventy thousand messages being sent to members of Congress in support of the agencies and the value of federal funding for the arts more generally. [READ MORE](#)

Painting as a tool for depression



The Bulletin

Bouts of severe depression have plagued Jennifer Bakker since she was 13 years old. The last few years have been particularly rough for the 45-year-old, who moved to Bend with her family just under a year ago. She's been in treatment programs. Gone on and off numerous medications. Tried changing her diet. Exercised. Nothing seemed to chip at that persistent weight convincing her she wasn't good enough. About 10 months ago, in the midst of a particularly dark episode, she decided to try something new. [READ MORE](#)

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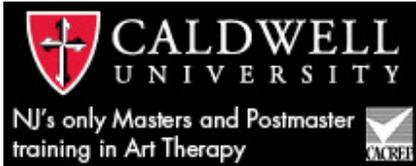
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