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AATA NEWS

South Florida Art Therapists Offer Free Services in Aftermath of the Valentine's Day Shooting



Raquel Farrell-Kirk, MS, ATR-BC

Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, MSD as it's often abbreviated, is less than an hour away from my home, only 30 minutes away from my office, and a mere mile from the Coral Springs Museum of Art, where I conduct a weekly art therapy open studio group for veterans. This proximity is how I came to receive a phone call from the museum's Executive Director, asking for guidance in setting up free art therapy services in the aftermath of the Valentine's Day shooting that left 17 dead. With only a couple days' notice, the art therapy community came together to create a safe, welcoming space where people from Parkland and surrounding communities could gather. **READ MORE**



Applications Now Accepted for 2018 AATA Scholarships



AATA National Office

The American Art Therapy Association and its generous donors provide a number of scholarships annually which are presented at a special ceremony during the Annual Conference to encourage the growth of the profession by rewarding excellence and enabling access to information and resources for the members who are selected as recipients of these highly competitive awards. These awards are now available for the 2018 scholarship season. **READ MORE**

Nominations Open for New Volunteer Officers and Directors of the Board



Gioia Chilton, PhD, ATR-BC, LCPAT

The American Art Therapy Association (AATA) has opened nominations for Volunteer Officers and Directors of the Board. AATA's Nominating Committee invites nominations of members from across AATA's community to the following positions for a two-year term (2018-2020):

- Treasurer (1)
- Speaker, Assembly of Chapters (1)
- Board of Directors (3)
- Nominating Committee (1)

Members are welcome to submit your own name or the name of a colleague for consideration as a nominee. [To download the full nomination guidelines and to view the Nomination Form and Candidate Application, please log into MyAATA.](#) **Nominations must be received by June 1, 2018. READ MORE**



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Undergraduate Call for Posters for AATA 2018 Conference



Heidi Tournoux-Hanshaw, MA, LPC-AT-S, ATR-BC, ATCS, Conference Chair and Jennifer Schwartz Mrazek, MAAT, ATR-BC, Undergraduate Education Sub-Committee Chair

The AATA Education and Conference Committee are pleased to announce a new proposal offering for Undergraduate Students for the 2018 Conference to be held Oct. 31 to Nov. 4, in Miami, Florida. Undergraduate students are invited to present their scholarly and creative work in their study of art therapy at the AATA 2018 Annual Conference Undergraduate Poster Session. This new AATA Conference presentation category provides undergraduate students with the opportunity to share their scholarly and creative accomplishments with others. [Click here](#) to download information and guidelines about the new Poster sessions. **Undergraduate Poster proposals must be submitted electronically to conferenceinfo@arttherapy.org, no later than March 16, 2018. READ MORE**



Call for Action to Prevent Gun Violence in the United States of America



AATA National Office

The AATA has joined many national organizations in mental health and education in endorsing the "[Call for Action to Prevent Gun Violence in the United States of America](#)" statement" composed by the Interdisciplinary Group on Preventing School and Community Violence. Together, we assert, "Congress and the executive branch must remove barriers to gun violence research and institute a program of scientific research on gun violence that encompasses all levels of prevention." The statement calls for a public health approach to protecting children as well as adults from gun violence involving three levels of prevention: "(1) universal approaches promoting safety and well-being for everyone; (2) practices for reducing risk and promoting protective factors for persons experiencing difficulties; and (3) interventions for individuals where violence is present or appears imminent. Read more about the Call for Action." Individuals may sign the petition [here](#).

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Join Us for Arts Advocacy Day 2018, March 12-13!



AATA National Office

Advocating for the arts is critically important and timely. For the second year in a row, the administration has called for the elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and other cultural agencies. Last year, through the hard work of arts advocates across the nation, the U.S. Congress firmly rejected these calls for FY 2018. We remain united in our advocacy efforts to #SAVEtheNEA!

AATA Immediate Past President Donna Betts, PhD, ATR-BC, will be presenting in two breakout training sessions, "Advancing Arts and Health" and "Supporting our Military and Veterans through the Arts," on the first day. Following the Hill meetings on the second day,



join the AATA for a reception for attending members to continue networking and sharing their experiences as advocates for art therapy and the arts (4:00-6:00 PM).

Advanced registration has closed, but you can still register onsite. Be sure to let the National Office know you will be attending (info@arttherapy.org)! Check out the 2018 [Congressional Arts Handbook](#) and Arts Advocacy Day [schedule](#) for all the details. Get excited! Visit the Arts Advocacy Day Facebook page to [watch Dr. Betts](#) share why she advocates for the arts!

AATA Featured Member



AATA National Office



Katie Racanelli, ATR-BC, LMHC, is the Assistant Director of the Cape Ann Adult Behavioral Learning Center in Salem, MA, where she leads art therapy groups for those recovering from trauma or addiction. Racanelli serves on the board of the New England Art Therapy Association (NEATA) as the Legislative Co-Chair and previously held the position of Treasurer (2013-17). She values her AATA membership because it keeps her connected with art therapists around the country and for the guidance from the National Office through local legislative processes.

[READ MORE](#)

ART THERAPY IN THE NEWS

Art therapy can help you even if you're bad at art



Tonic

Selma Bortner has created art almost her whole life. Her intricate prints hang in galleries and museums around the world, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the San Francisco Museum of Fine Arts. But it's the masterpieces she's created in the past year, in her early 90s, that might prove the most meaningful. After her husband of nearly 70 years, Oscar, died three years ago, Bortner had two strokes that left her unsteady and unsure of her memory. [READ MORE](#)

A reflects on dissociation and art therapy



The British Association of Art Therapists

A suffered serious and prolonged abuse as a child, resulting in complex trauma and dissociative identity problems. She came to adult mental health services where she received a diagnosis of emotionally unstable personality disorder. In this video, A reflects on these experiences and how she used art therapy within a mentalization service to recover. [READ MORE](#)

The AATA's Art Therapy Today includes a digest of the most important news selected for the AATA from thousands of sources. Guest articles may be submitted to Clara Keane at ckeane@arttherapy.org. Publication of any guest article is at the sole discretion of the AATA. The opinions expressed and/or contents of guest articles, advertisements, and external links included in any AATA publication do not represent the positions or policies of the AATA. The AATA makes no warranty or representation concerning the accuracy of such content.

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