

GATAPHILE

Newsletter of the Georgia Art Therapy Association

Fall 2004

Affiliate
of the
American
Art
Therapy
Association

President's Corner

Susanne Fincher, GATA President

As a registered art therapist and a licensed professional counselor, it's been interesting to follow converging developments in both fields. First, the reality check from AATA surveys that earnings for art therapists have not kept pace with earlier decades. Here in Georgia it seems that there are more employed art therapists than ever before, although more than a few art therapists have job titles that do not reflect their special training in art therapy. Counseling licensure for art therapists, which makes private practice much easier, continues to be on a "case by case" basis with art therapists usually being required to take several counseling courses if they want to be licensed as professional counselors. It is heartening that art therapy graduate programs are waking up to the need to at least make their course titles more understandable to those outside the field, and even look to requirements for counseling degrees when shaping their own art therapy programs. This will make it easier for art therapists who wish to pursue a counseling license.

In the counseling field, an interest in expressive arts is burgeoning. The incoming President of American



Dates to Remember

September 11, 10am -12pm at Maxine's
Nov.10 - 14 AATA Conference, San Diego
December 4, 10am -12pm Holiday Brunch



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Fincher

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Elect 2005:
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Jenny Welty-
Green

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Membership
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Newsletter
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Priscilla
Omega

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Kate
Fetterolf

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Westrich

Counseling Association (ACA), Samuel Gladding, is author of a popular book, "Counseling as an Art: The Creative Arts in Counseling," and advocates the use of expressive arts in counseling. ACA is in reality an umbrella organization comprised of many divisions which function as separate organizations - something like the relationship between AATA and GATA. This year a new division was created after several hundred people signed a petition requesting its formation. The Association for Creativity in Counseling has the mission to "facilitate connection among counselors interested in the creative arts and counselors working with play, sand, music, drama, photography, personality typology and other creative, relational and complementary therapies." Art therapy is notably absent from the listing. One wonders whether this was done to leave the door open for AATA to move under the ACA umbrella as a separate division.

For art therapists like me who maintain -- and pay for -- dual memberships and credentialing, it would be a relief to have counseling and art therapy more closely aligned. Other advantages would be easier licensing privileges, and the clout of being part of a much larger group. Of course the downside is the concern that art therapy identity would be lost. I think that identity is more appropriately regarded as an individual matter rather than as an artifact of an organization, although organizations can support the development of professional identity, of course. I can honestly say that my primary professional identity is as an art therapist. This is despite the fact that most of my work with clients does not incorporate art making. How is this possible? I carry an art therapist's sensibility into my work as a counselor -- a respect for process, a belief in creativity

as healing, and the ability to tolerate chaos until a new ordering gestalt emerges. Being a counselor also frees me from the dictum: artmaking should be part of every session provided by an art therapist.

So, while I feel a bit nostalgic for a free standing art therapy organization such as AATA, I am open and optimistic that the convergence of art therapy and counseling will bring us art therapists benefits -- and that we can retain our professional identity as art therapists in the process.



ArtReach Foundation News! By Maxine Hull

Amazing! ArtReach has just finished its five year commitment in Bosnia, and what a journey of learning and healing it has been.

This past Spring, The ArtReach Foundation made its Atlanta debut with a stupendous event at the Rialto Theatre as part of the Atlanta Jazz Festival. A musical event, "A Childlike Civility," using jazz and chamber musicians, with solo and choral singers, written by Grammy award winning composer Lee Johnson expressly for ArtReach was performed. Andrew Young was our honorary Chairman.

But what is even more astounding is that the work of these past five years has affected the lives of 275,000 Bosnian children through ArtReach workshops conducted for 492 teachers and the training of thirty five Bosnian/ArtReach trainers who will continue the program into the future. We are now in a period of great change we hope will lead us onto a new level. In the works are programs to be held on the Isle of Rhodes in conjunction with the Peace Forum. We hope that our GATA community will stay

Please come to
our next
GATA meeting
on September
11, 10a-12p at
Maxine Hull's
house! Here's
what's in store,
from
Susanne
Fincher:

Agenda items
include:

discussion of
web page
listings for
those who are
not
in private
practice or
members of
AATA;

involved. Here is Art Therapy at work in the world...and it changes lives.



GATA Website Update

By Jenny Welty-Green

If you haven't clicked on www.georgiaarttherapy.org lately, please do so! Our website has been really growing and continues to do so. We have received e-mails that came directly from visitors to our site, and expect this trend to continue.

Please take time to look over the Frequently Asked Questions page in detail. If you think something should be added or modified to be more easily understood, I will be happy to edit it.

Please also consider submitting your own content such as exhibits, or website links that would be useful to visitors to our site. Remember that you can have your private practice information posted if you are both a GATA/AATA member.

I would like to have short bios on all our GATA members to post, so that visitors to our site can get an idea of where our members went to school, and with which kind of populations they work. GATA members are listed under our Resources page.

Remember also that if you accept visitors who are interested in art therapy at your facility or art therapy interns, I would like to have this information to post as well. Please contact me at

jweltygreen@mindspring.com to send your information. Thank you to all who have helped submit content for this site.

Let's keep the GATA website dynamic and growing!



A Fond Farewell from your Editor

By Priscilla Omega

This will be my last GATAPHILE as current editor, and it has been a challenging but growthful two years! I went from knowing virtually nothing about composing a newsletter via computer, having come from the old school of typewriters and cutting and pasting -- literally -- to learning about columns and fonts and logos and sidebars and, especially, *editing!* GATAPHILE continues to evolve as it has gone from hard copy to online this year, and I look forward to seeing where the next editor will take our fine newsletter as it continues to grow in popularity within our community.

I wish to thank Rick Garner for showing me the ropes when I first began my editor's role in 2002. I cannot express enough gratitude to Jenny Welty-Green, my unofficial co-editor, who gave endless and much appreciated support, suggestions, and feedback during my time publishing the GATAPHILE.

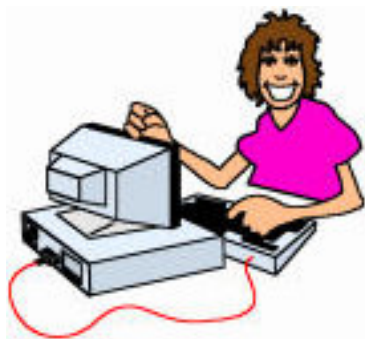
I would like to invite one of you to step up to the GATAPHILE editor's plate, which, while very full at times, is an extremely rewarding and challenging opportunity to play with words, shapes, and forms. Since the newsletter is now online, you'll have the opportunity to play with colors, too - woot!

Comer Rudd
Gates' report
on local
arrangements
for the fall
2005 AATA
conference in
Atlanta,

discussing
possible
presenters for
the GATA-
sponsored
Inner Harbor
workshop in
spring
2005,

and voting on
proposed
amendments to
the GATA
constitution
and
by-laws.

So, farewell to the position of newsletter editor. Thanks to all of you who have read, contributed, or just enjoyed being part of the GATAPHILE community. It's been quite a journey as an editor. Thank you all for sharing it with me!



Lifescapes – Members' Notes

Learn From the Master By Wendee VanOrder

The inspiration, the clanking of brushes, the rhythm of motion, the splatter of paint on the canvas.

What enthusiasm I had to decorate my own life, but as it hung finished on the wall all the colors ran together and became dull to my eyes.

It was drab and made no sense, it was as empty as the wall before I hung it up.

I realized painting after painting that it would always be the same and the chaos caused by colors running together would only join to form one giant mess.

I then handed over my brush to the Master and He painted my life like an artist's dream.

All the colors fit perfectly in place and they never ran. It was hung on the wall for

display and all who passed by admired it.

I wondered to myself, why did I ever try to paint my life on my own when I could hand over my brush and learn from the Master?



Odds and Ends

WANTED: ART THERAPY INTERNS

Jenny Welty-Green is looking for an art therapy intern at South Metro Psychoeducational Program to work with severe emotionally and behaviorally disturbed children and adolescents as well as children with autism. Jenny works at South Metro Mon -Wed. during the academic school year. If interested contact Jenny at jweltygreen@mindspring.com

Annie Kelahan at Odyssey Counseling Center and the International School is looking for art therapy interns to work with children, adolescents and families, with substance abuse, mental health and trauma issues. Contact Annie at akelahan@odysseycounseling.org if interested.



A Symposium...

Art Therapy and Addictions

Thursday, February 10 -Monday, February 14, 2005

Carnival Cruise Line - Imagination
Departs from Miami with stops in Key West and Cozumel! More information at <http://www.arttherapy.org/events/events.htm>



November 12,
9:30AM - 4

PM, "Babes in
Crone-Land:"

Women look at
aging, a

workshop
sponsored by

Ridgeview
Institute.

With Susanne
Fincher, Kate

Fetterolf,

Diana Gregory,
and Edna
Bacon.

Our intrepid
performance

artist

therapists offer
their original

show, followed
by a rich array

of creative
activities

applicable in
therapeutic

group settings.

GATA MEMBERSHIP

The Georgia Art Therapy Association (GATA) began in the 70's and has been a small but proud organization since! Because there are not any Master's level university programs in art therapy in Georgia, our presence as art therapists in Georgia has been limited. Most students have to find a way to creatively get their education and then to apply that same creativity to develop a job! One of the key factors that GATA provides us is a sense of community among a limited number of creative therapists and many networking resources. We also promote art therapists in private practice on our website, www.georgiaarttherapy.org, if you are a member of GATA and AATA. We also offer free peer consultation where you can bring in art work or issues with your clients and utilize the experience and expertise of other art therapists to enhance your professional work with others. Membership in GATA also provides discounts on workshops and supervision, fabulous retreat experiences, a quarterly newsletter, and access to our listserv where you can send information to the entire GATA membership and participate in discussions. As a member we also invite you to hold a board or committee position. We meet quarterly and the duties of the positions are minimal. Your

support of GATA is important to us as it helps us strengthen the small but mighty presence of art therapy in Georgia. To all of our loyal members we thank you for your support through your annual dues as well as for your commitment of time and energy. If you have not yet joined GATA, please contact our Membership Chair, Monica Dutke at monicadutke@aol.com, or call at 770-696-4086 for a membership application. Please visit our website at www.georgiaarttherapy.org to learn more about our services and benefits.

\$30 Credentialed Professional Members hold an ATR or ATR-BC (AATA Member)

\$30 Professional Members hold a graduate degree in Art Therapy (AATA Member)

\$30 Associate Members have an interest in the therapeutic use of art (AATA Member)

\$30 Student Members are taking coursework in art therapy/related field (AATA Member)

\$30 Friends of GATA (non-AATA Members)

Please note that Friends of GATA, Associate Members and Students do not have GATA voting privileges, per the Bylaws. All of the categories of membership except for Friends of GATA must pay their GATA dues when you mail in your AATA dues. They in turn send the dues back to us. Do not send your GATA dues directly to our Membership Chair unless you are a Friend of GATA.

CEU' s. \$100 if
registered
before
November 5.
Space limited.
Information:
[www.ridgeview
institute.com](http://www.ridgeviewinstitute.com) or
call 770-434-
4568.

GATA Holiday
brunch
meeting,
December 4,
10 AM – 12pm,
Maxine Hull' s
Home,
2246 Northside
Drive, Atlanta