



Florida Art Therapy Association

Winter Issue 2004

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2004

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On the afternoon prior to Thanksgiving, I received a letter in the mail from the President of FATA, Marilyn Masiero, informing me of her intent to resign from her post as of the close of the calendar year. I am saddened by the news that this decision has come about due to ongoing health issues. At a time of year where we all should be focused on what we are truly thankful for in our lives, I am thankful for Marilyn's efforts this past year to serve our organization to the best of her abilities while dealing with her own health concerns. Her leadership will be missed and we all wish her a speedy return to good health.

Stepping into the role of President, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve FATA, its members, and art therapists within the state. In order to move the organization forward with energy and optimism, I would like the state association to focus on the following areas:

It is imperative that FATA fulfills its responsibility to its dues paying membership by providing professional in-services, workshops, and conferences.

Assist FATA members through the promotion of the field of Art Therapy to other allied professionals and the general population.

Continue to pursue licensure options within the state to ensure that those consumers within the state are receiving services from a qualified Art Therapist, as well as for the livelihood and longevity of our profession.

Utilize the FATA board as a liaison between fellow members through networking, professional activities, and social events.

Strengthen the relationship between FATA and the Florida State University Art Therapy Department. Today's students are tomorrow's colleagues.

I extend a challenge to all of you; make a renewed effort to participate in at least one FATA activity this year. With your involvement, and only with your involvement, we can make our association strong. It has often been argued that the reason for FATA's difficulties has been due to art therapists being too spread out across this huge state. I say that thinking may be realistic for other professions, but not art therapists. We are creative thinkers and genuinely unique problem solvers. We are truly the inventors of thinking "out of the box" and most of us are even secure about coloring outside of the lines. We have the ability to lessen our geographical distance through the use of email, Art Therapy message and chat groups, telephone, and of course old fashion "snail" mail.

I am thankful for all of you who contribute to our profession and strive, on a daily basis, to make this world a better place for those with whom you work. I look forward to the challenges we face together as professionals, because together, I know we will succeed.

Craig Alan Siegel, ATR-BC
President, Florida Art Therapy Association

FATA NEWS

PRESIDENT

Craig A. Siegel, M.A., ATR-BC, is a Board Certified Clinical Art Therapist residing in Boca Raton, Florida. He attended the University of Georgia where he obtained a Bachelors degree in Psychology prior to pursuing a Masters degree in Clinical Art Therapy from The George Washington University. Mr. Siegel has had the opportunity to work in hospital, day treatment, and educational settings providing clinical art therapy services to child, adolescent, adult, and geriatric populations. He is currently affiliated with the Miami-Dade County Public School System where he has worked with children and adolescents identified as Severely Emotionally Disturbed for the past nine years. Mr. Siegel has also maintained a private practice in the Boca Raton community for the past three years. In addition to his clinical practice, he has continued to be involved in the ongoing development and growth of the field of Art Therapy. He has served as Treasurer of the Florida Art Therapy Association and prior to moving to Florida, has served as both Student Representative and Program Chairperson for the Potomac Art Therapy Association. For the past six years, Mr. Siegel has assisted Dr. Myra Levick with the continued research and development of the Levick Emotional and Cognitive Art Therapy Assessment (LECATA), an art therapy assessment tool designed to assist in determining current functioning of and establishing goals and objectives for art therapy consumers. Mr. Siegel looks forward to his newest role as President of the Florida Art Therapy Association and is enthusiastic about working together with other motivated professionals that make up the current FATA Board and its membership.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Lisa Wasserman, Psy.D., ATR-BC, was born and raised in New York. Lisa studied art and psychology in England and graduated from College of New Rochelle with her Bachelors Degree in Science and her Masters Degree in Art Therapy. In 1995, she moved to Florida and became a registered, board certified art therapist. She has created the opportunities to work in Broward County in day treatment, a crisis stabilization hospital, residential programs, private practice, and a level eight juvenile facility with children, adolescents, adults and the elderly. She has recently earned her doctoral degree in psychology and has been working for Memorial Regional Hospital in the department of behavioral health. Lisa has been an active member of FATA since 2000. She has served in the capacity of the secretary, as membership and she has recently accepted the position as president-elect until the next election.

SECRETARY

Morgen Chesonis-Gonzalez, ATR-BC, was born in New Jersey and later moved to New York City to study art. After attaining a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Sculpture from the School of Visual Arts, she completed graduate training in Art Therapy (with a concentration in Special Education) at Pratt Institute. Her thesis on "countertransference images" was selected to be published in the Pratt Institute Creative Arts Therapy Review, Vol. 18, 1997. She transplanted to Miami after graduation and currently works for the Miami-Dade County Public School Clinical Art Therapy Department. She provides art therapy services to adolescents identified as Severely Emotionally Disturbed in an urban High School setting. She has been involved in private practice, exhibits artwork, and restores statues. She is currently serving in the capacity of secretary for FATA and is looking forward to collaborating with other board members to generate exciting art therapy venues for the upcoming year.

TREASURER

Hello fellow FATA members. I am Yetta Miller, ATR, and I am the current treasurer of FATA. This is my second term as Treasurer and it has taught me quite a bit about using the left side of my brain. A little about me, I have worked as an Art Therapist since 1979, promoting the use of the expressive arts within the milieu of various facilities in Central Florida. My focus has been in the field of recovery. Years ago, I developed a curriculum that weaves the tenets of art psychotherapy with those of AA's 12 Steps. I have been honored to work with some wonderful clients over the years that have taught me how power-filled art therapy really is. On a personal level, I am the Mom of a son and daughter, both grown, and the "YaYa" to one unbelievably adorable grandson (who is very artistically inclined as I do say so myself!). I have recently been accepted into a PhD program and look forward to furthering my educational pursuits in the field of Art Therapy (As an aside, I would appreciate hearing from others who have, or are currently working on their doctorate).

About our finances:

First, let me say, we are financially stable, due to the fact that for the past several years we have not held a state level conference, published a newsletter, or updated our member directory; all projects the new FATA Board plans to accomplish. Since we are financially healthy, it is our hope, and expectation that we will be able to provide continuing education and support, while minimizing costs to our membership. With renewed enthusiasm, the board is now developing ideas for new adventures for FATA and its membership.

I may be reached at 407-365-8466 or yettam@aol.com.

FATA NEWS

LOCAL CHAIR

Jannia Gyorkos, MS, ATR, has been appointed Local Chair for FATA. I graduated from Siena College, Albany, NY, with a BA in Psychology and a Minor in Creative Arts, and I obtained an MS in Art Therapy at Nazareth College, Rochester, NY. This is my fourth year as a Clinical Art Therapist for the Miami Dade County Public School System. I service Severely Emotionally Disturbed and Emotionally Handicap students at Centennial Middle School and Homestead Senior High.

Historian

I have been a licensed art educator since 1970, after graduating from American University in Washington, DC. In 1982, I completed my Masters of Art Therapy and Counseling from The College of Notre Dame in Belmont, CA. I've been a Registered Art Therapist since 1992, and Certified since 1999. Since 1998, I've been studying for my PhD in Art Therapy and Art Education at Florida State University, where I was the Supervisor of Art Education Student Teachers and Art Therapy Interns. I've worked with severely emotionally disturbed children & adolescents, adult schizophrenics, chemically dependent adolescents & adults, having facilitated the art processes of clients from infancy to geriatrics. My specialization is children & young adults with ADHD & learning disorders.

Presently, I am employed as Visiting Professor at Lynn University in Boca Raton, FL, which specializes in students diagnosed with learning disorders and ADHD. I teach Psychology, Sociology, and Art History/Appreciation classes in the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as being a mentor to 16 freshman students from all over the world. In addition, I work part-time editing dissertations for international doctoral candidates. My helping others with their dissertations serves as an ongoing inspiration to completing my own.

I have been serving as Historian for FATA since Dr. Betty Jo Troeger was President of our illustrious organization. My job involves maintaining all historical documents for FATA, including our original Articles of Incorporation, and photographs of every Conference we've ever held. I'd appreciate any member of our organization sending to me any and all articles about Art Therapy, photos of group gatherings, and news releases about presentations. I promise to add them to our FATA archives. Please send those materials to:

Cynthia Andreas, PhD(c), ATR-BC
Psychology Professor, Lynn University
3601 N. Military Trail
Boca Raton, FL 33431
561-237-7203 or candreas@lynn.edu

Governmental Affairs

My name is **Stacey Gardner** and I am the GAC for FATA! I am entering into this position with considerable experience and enthusiasm. After living in Tallahassee for the past 7 years, I recently relocated to Ft. Lauderdale in July where I am working in a private school. I attended Florida State University for both my undergraduate and graduate studies. During my training as an Art Therapist, I served as Vice President of the FSU Art Therapy Association for one year and then went on to become President the following year. Being President of the Association was one of the best things that happened to me while at FSU. I learned a great deal about myself, about teamwork, and about organizations in general. Not long into the Presidency did I find myself serving as a Graduate Student Senator at FSU. Through FSUATA and FSU Senate, I became very passionate with regard to the link between art therapy and politics. I attended the Advocacy Training this year at the conference in DC. The training really helped to motivate me and begin the churning of ideas for FATA in my head. With my enthusiasm and passion, I am ready to take on the role of GAC of the FATA for 2004! I am really looking forward to getting things rolling!

Membership

Marcy Purdy, past president of FATA, received her art therapy degree from University of Illinois at Chicago in 1982, and became board certified in 1992. She has been in practice for the last 22 years, during which time she worked in a variety of agency settings and has been in private practice for the last 9 years. Her specialty is working with sexual abuse victims and is contracted with the state of Florida to provide art therapy for such victims. Marcy also facilitates art therapy workshops for various agencies both statewide and nationally. She has also been involved in research studies published by Rawley Silver, ATR-BC. She is currently membership chairperson for FATA.

Vacancies on the Board of Directors

Yes, you... We need your enthusiasm and motivation. Please inquire about the following openings:

- **Delegate** to the assembly of chapters – attend the annual AATA conference meeting and report to the FATA board.
- **Alternate Delegate** – serve in the absence of Delegate.
- **Ethics Liaison** – liaison with AATA ethics committee to resolve complaints of reported ethics violations.
- **Parliamentarian** – advise on parliamentary procedures and bylaws concerning FATA.

Contact Craig Siegel at 561-883-3233 if you are interested in being a part of the new FATA team!

FATA NEWS

ART THERAPY AND IDEA

The federal government is currently working on legislation regarding IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Act). It is imperative that we, as Art Therapists, advocate for the inclusion of language that would specifically identify art therapy as a related service. Please do your part to assist FATA, AATA, and yourselves by writing a letter to your United States Representative and Senators regarding IDEA. AATA has a sample letter on its website that can be downloaded and used to send to your representatives. The letter can be accessed by going to the AATA website or directly to the following site: <http://arttherapy.org/aboutaata/legislativealert.htm>. Please urge other art therapists inside and outside the state of Florida to take action as well. Encourage your friends, family, and colleagues to do the same. Your efforts will greatly influence employment opportunities and the stability of such positions for art therapists within mental health and psycho-educational settings.

TOOT YOUR OWN HORN

Announcing

Art and its Therapeutic Uses

training for mental health professionals, educators, and school counselors who want more information on the use of

ART AS A THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION

Patricia Isis, Ph.D., LMHC, ATR-BC, is a Registered Board Certified Art Therapist who is a highly qualified and motivating presenter. The trainings will be provided the second Thursday of every month from Jan-June 2004, from 7-9pm at Unitarian Universalist Church 7701 SW 76 Ave. S. Miami, FL on Jan. 8, Feb. 12, March 11, April 8, May 13, and June 10. The Fees are: \$40.00 per session. \$200 if paying for all six with a \$100 deposit required by the first session. No refunds. CEU's available for an additional charge. To register, contact Patricia at 305-271-4948. Materials: Bring artwork/case material you would like to share. Art materials will be provided with an art experience combined with handouts.
Thank You!

From The Editor

I am looking forward to providing the ATR community with a newsletter. Please feel free to contact me with any information you would like to see included in future newsletters. Please submit any articles or information no later than the first of the month prior to publication. The following is a list of deadlines and publications for the newsletter:

Due Date

January 1st
April 1st
July 1st
October 1st

Mailing

February 1st
May 1st
August 1st
November 1st

Suggested Topics:

Book reviews	Networking
What's happening at your place of business	Goals
Popular techniques	Editorials
Training/workshops	Graduation/career advancements

A NEW BEGINNING

Here we go...Please follow these simple directions...Inhale...Exhale (repeat as necessary)!

Thank you for participating in taking the first steps to breathe new life into our state organization. We need input and involvement from both an active, committed board, and from the membership for which it represents. That's us and you. It seems as though our organization has been plagued by the "chicken and the egg" syndrome. Has the organization been weak because the membership has been apathetic or has the membership been disheartened because the board has been inactive? Either way, it is entirely in the past as we embark together on a new era of leadership and involvement. Because of this fresh start, it is important to hear from the members of the organization as to what your needs are as professionals and how FATA can support, enhance, or bring about meeting those needs.

We are a small organization, but if we choose to work together, I am sure we can accomplish a great deal. Communication will most definitely be the key to our success. One concern FATA Board Members have heard from art therapists living in Florida is the difficulty of communicating with other professionals within such a large geographic area. In an attempt to "shrink" the distance between members, FATA has developed a Florida Art Therapy Discussion Board where members can post messages or even chat about topical issues. Those interested can access the site by either going directly to:

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/ArtTherapyFLA/>

If you are having difficulties accessing the web page, you may email Craig Siegel at thesiegels561@adelphia.net for assistance. I look forward to what the future holds for us as a profession if we all work together. Remember to breathe!

AATA Newsletter
Letter to the Editor

In both the spring and summer Issues of our Newsletter, President Shaun McNiff put forth the proposal for expansion of our membership. In his messages he presented a number of cogent arguments for moving forward with this proposal and invited a dialogue from the membership. In response to his invitation, I herewith offer my total support for expansion, albeit somewhat different than what has been proposed, and my effort to present cogent arguments against open inclusion of others and particularly giving new members who are not professional art therapists the right to vote.

In the summer issue, Dr. McNiff states "AATA, having given the credentialing process to the ATCB, can focus in a more comprehensive way on it's mission of advancing professional competency". For whom will we be advancing professional competency? Art teachers? People in related mental health disciplines? And why would they want to receive something from AATA to attest to their professional competency when there are clear standards for competency in their own disciplines? If however, other mental health professionals are using art in their practices and want the title of art therapist without the required education, they would indeed be very happy to be designated competent by our Association. But this is not our mission, which clearly states "—is to serve the members and the general public in providing standards of professional competency, and developing and promoting knowledge in, and of the field of art therapy". And if we adhere to our mission and the standards we have all adopted, no mental health professional can do "art therapy" without fulfilling these educational standards. The two new professional memberships listed in this issue encompass colleagues who may very well have much in common with us and expand a knowledge base for us and for them as we dialogue. But to presume that we advance their professional competency is a disservice to them and to us. And I cannot believe we would consider their qualifications meet those of attaining the status of art therapist.

In the summer issue, Dr. McNiff discusses and applauds the collaboration of the other arts therapies associations that comprise the NCCATA. I commend Dr. McNiff for his commitment to this collaboration- a commitment that serves us all, but has not always been there. I was there when NCATA was formed and have always been a staunch supporter of this alliance and I hope that this connection will not be weakened. And Dr. McNiff reports that we are not alone in our concerns of losing members, and seeking ways to expand our membership. He states that the American Music Therapy Association now extends membership "with full voting rights" to a broad range of professionals, including psychologists, nurses, social workers and educators. I was quite surprised to read this having been connected to both music therapy associations before they merged during the many years I directed art,

music and dance/movement therapy programs. I took the liberty of calling an active music therapist, who has also been an officer in the association and learned that while the AMTA and the AATA are both not for profit educational associations, the similarity stops there. AMAT is structured entirely differently than AATA. They have what is called an Assembly which is made up of representatives from the different regions. These representatives vote on all issues and are music therapists. The general membership votes on nothing other than the election of officers at the annual conference. And I know for a fact, that I could not vote in the American Psychological Association, the Pennsylvania Psychological Association if I had not met the educational standards adopted by those associations. An art therapist cannot be a voting member of the Mental Health Counselors Association without being a professional member. The same is true of other major health professional associations. I am a voting member of the National League of American Pen Women and have that right because I am an exhibited artist and a published author. I have wonderful educational experiences with these accomplished artists, writers and musicians and I have presented my work as an art therapist at a meeting, but my status in AATA would not qualify me to vote with this group. Nor would I want any of these very talented women to vote on issues relating to the practice of art therapy.

Lastly, I am most impressed with the course of action taken by the American Drama Therapy Association. Dr. McNiff tells us they have swelled their membership by granting students the right to vote and giving one-year free membership during the first year of graduate study. I believe art therapy students should be our focus for expanding membership. We are not only losing members but we are not gaining new art therapy members because we are not embracing our students as we should. Gladys Agell, in her statement as a nominee for Director, said bringing more art therapy students and graduates in would be a major focus for her. She is right. These are the people we should be seeking to expand our membership, not professionals from other disciplines who want an easy route to being considered art therapists. The students in all of the different programs are our future and we need to literally bring them in.

I regret I cannot be in Chicago this year. I wish you all a successful conference and thoughtful decisions.

Sincerely,
Myra F. Levick, Ph.D., ATR-BC, HLM

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Levick, M. F. (2003). Letter to the Editor. *AATA Newsletter*, 36(4), pp. 6-7.

Addendum to the Editorial

At the November AATA Conference, the AATA Board of Directors voted to recommend to the membership committee and the by laws committee that the membership in AATA should be open to professionals from other disciplines and that they have the right to vote and hold office. As I stated above, I have no problem with inclusion. I do have a big problem with someone from another discipline voting on our issues and sitting on our Board of Directors. Fortunately, this will have to be presented to the membership in the form of an amendment to the by laws. I hope other members will join me in keeping the membership informed to vote against this amendment when it is presented.

Myra F. Levick

LICENSURE UPDATE

In the opening article we outlined the key areas of the association's agenda. One area of concern to professionals is licensure. It is the board's belief that licensure is the next step in the evolution of our profession. Unfortunately, based on the current political climate, any attempt to lobby for licensure will be extremely difficult. There seems to be a trend on both the national and state level to redirect funds away from mental health and domestic social concerns to other "priorities". Although we will continue to forge ahead on this uphill battle, the FATA Board is exploring an alternative option.

Many recent graduates from Art Therapy programs across the country, including those from within our backyard at FSU, are graduating with both art therapy and mental health counseling degrees. This is great for these new entries into the field (as long as they are resilient in maintaining their

identities as Art Therapists) as it helps them bypass the licensure issue. This trend, however, creates a significant gap between the "old-timers" and the "new crop" of art therapy professionals. The Board's suggestion is that through collaboration with the graduate program at FSU, FATA can establish a means for art therapy professionals to take the required coursework needed to sit for the mental health counselor licensure exam. It is our hope that these required credits can be completed through weekend courses or distance learning so as not to interfere with employment schedules. This means of obtaining licensure outside of our profession would serve as a temporary solution as we pursue independent licensure as Art Therapists.

For those art therapists interested in further exploring this option, please feel free to email the FATA Board at ArtTherapyFLA-owner@yahoogroups.com

HI, MY NAME IS.....

On Saturday, February 28th FATA will be hosting three simultaneous potluck networking socials for art therapists in the state. One will take place in the northern part of the state, one in the central part of the state, and one in the southern part of the state. The Board encourages all members to attend (especially if you're a good cook). These gatherings will serve as an opportunity for regional art therapists to connect (or reconnect) and share thoughts, ideas, concerns, and hopefully some pie.

For those art therapists in the northern part of the state that are interested in attending or finding out additional information, please contact Marcia Rosal at mrosal@mailers.fsu.edu

For those art therapists in the central part of the state that are interested in attending or finding out additional information, please contact Yetta Miller at YettaM@aol.com

For those art therapist in the southern part of the state that are interested in attending or finding out additional information, please contact Craig Siegel at thesiegels561@adelphia.net

These gatherings are just the first steps in reestablishing and strengthening our organization. Please be a part of this rebirth.

The FATA Mission Statement

The Florida Art Therapy Association is dedicated to providing education, professional development, training, and political action for its members. Further, FATA will pursue the highest Professional and ethical standards to protect the public for which it serves.

FATA NEWS

e-mail / website exchange

American Art Therapy Association.....	info@arttherapy.org www.arttherapy.org
Art Therapy Credentials Board.....	atcb@nbcc.org www.atcb.org
FATA Discussion Group.....	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/ArtTherapyFLA
Craig Siegel.....	thesiegels561@adelphia.net
Lisa Wasserman.....	thewassermans@bellsouth.net
Marcy Purdy.....	marcyartreach@juno.com
Myra Levick.....	myralevick@adelphia.net
Yetta Miller.....	yettam@aol.com
Cynthia Andreas.....	candreas@lynn.edu

If you would like to include your e-mail address to the list please contact Lisa Wasserman at the above e-mail address.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

We will soon be updating our membership directory. As it has been several years since our last FATA membership directory, we request that you provide updated information including changes in name, address, phone number, place of employment, professional credentialing, and e-mail address.

Please forward all information to Marcy Purdy, Membership Chairperson at marcyartreach@juno.com and FATA Board at ArtTherapyFLA-owner@yahoogroups.com

FATA would also like to reestablish a FATA web page. Anyone interested in donating their time and skills to assist us with this venture is encouraged to contact the FATA Board.

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

In an attempt to provide information about current trends in art therapy practice, FATA is accepting proposals from presenters interested in facilitating hands-on art therapy experiential workshops. These presentations will be part of a one day mini-conference planned for late spring / early summer and will be open to art therapy professionals, students, allied professionals, and those interested in learning about the field of Art Therapy. Please forward all proposals to ArtTherapyFLA-owner@yahoogroups.com

FATA MEMBERSHIP

Want a great way to stay in touch with art therapists around the state?

Interested in the field of art therapy, and want to know more?

Joining FATA will give you access to all this, and more.

FATA provides continuing education through workshops and symposia, publishes a quarterly newsletter, connects the art therapy community with one another, and promotes art therapy within the community.

FATA Membership falls into the following categories:

Credentialed Professional, Professional, \$20

Retired Professional and Student, \$10

Contributors, \$20

To receive more information on how to join FATA, contact Marcy Purdy at marcyartreach@juno.com

FATA dues are payable each year. You must first be a member of AATA in order to become a member of FATA. Upon receipt of your dues, you will receive a membership card and will begin to receive newsletters and updates on workshops.

FATA exists through volunteer hours and efforts. Dues cover membership in the umbrella organizations, postage, expenses related to programs, publications, and outreach.

Thanks for your support!