Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to an all new year filled with new Art Therapy experiences that promises to broaden our horizons and give us additional opportunities to bond with each other. I’ve been thinking about the role ATAO plays in my life amid the stress of work, caretaking of a parent, family, and friends. ATAO fulfills my need to continue to grow and bond with my fellow Art Therapists.

My goals as your new president are pretty basic: To learn from you and with you, To have fellowship and make art, To actively recruit new members, To attract members who haven’t come around for awhile back to ATAO. Having fun is high on my agenda.

Toward the goal of learning and bonding, we are having a conference March 7-8, at Norman Regional Hospital from 8:30- 4:30. Joan Phillips has created the Friday workshop “Justice: the Creative Interface between Forensic, Counseling and Social Issues” which includes Dave Gussack as keynote speaker, lunch and three afternoon workshops, “Behind Steel Doors”, Michael Hanes, presenter, “Coming to the Crossroads: Finding Direction as We Navigate the Tough Terrain of Human Trafficking in our State”, presented by Kris Newlin, and “Practice Dimensions Related to Justice or Forensic Issues”, presented by Joan Phillips. Each of these speakers holds great promise in revealing elements of the justice system and how Art Therapy can fit within that system.

The Marriott Courtyard at 770 Cooperfield Drive (405-701-8900) in Norman is giving us a conference rate of $89.00, so ask for the ATAO conference rate when you make your reservations. Please make your reservations soon to assure that you have a room.

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ATAO will have a meeting March 7, Friday night at 6:00 at the Marriott Courtyard. Food will be provided. Any agenda items and ideas that you wish to share may be sent to me via email at kaylfoster@me.com. I’m eager to discuss possible future art-making opportunities, as well as plans to attend the ATTA conference in San Antonio with you.

ATAO is sponsoring a “Visioning” workshop which is an experiential on March 8, at Norman Regional Hospital 8:30-4:30. Vicki Muir who is a well respected “Visioning” guide will be our speaker. “Visioning” can be life altering, giving us a glimpse of our true goals and dreams, along with a plan to travel toward them. Art supplies will be provided. Altogether, this is an opportunity to earn 12 CEU’s in two days of thought-provoking, possibly life changing learning.

Cost for Friday is $100.00 or $85.00 for ATAO members. Saturday costs $65.00.

That is a total of $150.00 for 12 CEU’s in two days for ATAO members! If you are attending only Friday or attending both days, please send your registration information and a check to Joan Phillips at Art Therapy Center, 123 E. Tonhawa, Suite 108, Norman, OK 73069. If you are planning to attend only Visioning on Saturday, please send your registration and check for $65.00 to ATAO, P.O. Box 20857, OKC, OK 73156-0857. Lunch will be provided both days.

Together, we are a powerful creative force which can make ATAO anything we want it to be. Please plan to attend our meeting March 7, at 6:00, so that we can begin to explore the future of ATAO. I am honored to be your new president and excited about all the possibilities which lay before us. Please check the website and Facebook for news.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Kay Foster, President
Aimee Rook: Please check out Norman’s only night parade, 20th Annual Norman Mardi Gras Parade on March 1st. 7pm, downtown Norman. The founder is the Queen and the theme is “Come Together” recognizing 50 years since The British Invasion and Beatlemania.

We are also planning a Gumbo Ball and Competition (fundraiser) Feb. 15th with a great Zydeco Allstar Band.

I’m also proud to paint a giant duck for the Norman Arts Council with the defined patriotic theme and their plan for three ducks in the park where we celebrate July 4th and have a substantial war memorial, I’m painting TJ Duck (Thomas Jefferson).

Other than that, enjoying my new job at CCFI as well as small private practice downtown at the Project Room with Scissortail School of Art.

I did finally see the movie recommended by our Madeline Rugh at the conference last year, “I Am” on Netflix. Outstanding. Stuck with me for days. Watch it. Share it. Watch it again.

I’m really looking forward to the conference March 7-8 and Visioning in March AND San Antonio in the summer.

Debbie Langston is celebrating 7 years at Summit Middle School!

Kris Newlin, LPC, ATR -BC, ATCS: There is an art show at Wildwood Community Church in Norman on Saturday February 8 from 6 to 8 PM to benefit victims of human trafficking.

Kris is doing a book signing for her children’s book “Silly Sweet Dreams” at Scrap That on Main Street in Norman on February 15 at 1:00 pm. Raffle of fun art supplies to benefit Beautiful Dream Society (shelter for survivors of human trafficking).

Maureen Harvey: The VA Medical Center will be hosting our 17th annual Veterans Creative Arts Contest on February 14th from noon to 3 p.m. in the Health Wing. We usually have about 120 pieces of art ranging from painting and sculpture to craft kits on display, while the entries in dance, creative writing, drama, and music are being judged on-stage. It’s a lively event, and Dawn and I are amazed every year at the creativity of our veterans. Come and join us---refreshments will be served!!! Maureen Harvey

Consider taking the train to San Antonio for the AATA Conference this summer, July 9 - 13, 2014. Round trip is only $138. and it’s a long, relaxing trip.

Pam Rice, MHR, ATR, LPC: started a private practice in September 2013 in midtown Tulsa. She continues to work at Shadow Mountain as the art therapist for the adolescent autism unit while her private practice is taking off. Getting on insurance panels and Employee Assistance Programs has been an arduous task! She hopes to find balance between private practice and art making very soon. For more information on her practice, artwork and blog, visit www.arttherapytulsa.com. Referrals are welcome!
Joan Phillips:  F5 6 Months Out

There is no poem
No rhythmic scatter of words
To help work through walls falling
Weight, darkness, or crying children
We knew it was coming
We knew
But not for us surely
Nearby yes
But never for us
Knowing something is coming
Is not knowing what will be

Possibility is not a real threat, nor guide
But then neither is reality in this case
Things are just gone
Words are shredded and hauled away
Like beams and roofs
Last call for pick-up
Move it all to the curb, if you have one

No cover left
No structure to create meaning
Only sounds raw and unformed
Must we create new words?
Why does the world look to our mouths?
Don’t look to us to form the sounds
And utter them so you can rest easy
So you can hear a thank-you
Knowing you have helped us

We don’t have the words
We don’t have the strength
You have not helped us
Things and time and rebuilding all fail
We are not strong
We are not the heartland
The children’s voices still cry to us at night
The sound of water rushing to the washing ma-
chine
Triggers nightmares
Where are my Christmas ornaments?
My grandmothers quilt?
My favorite robe?
Stop looking at us
Stop giving us things
There are so many things
But they are not my things
Words fail, disappear, vanish in the wind
Just like everything else
Workshops & Offerings...

Visioning® Workshop, © A registered trademark of Lucia Capacchione, Ph.D, ATR

Designing the Life of Your Dreams, Saturday, March 8, 2014, Norman Regional Hospital Education Center 901 N. Porter, Norman, OK - 8:30 am – 4:00 pm.

Vicki Muir, M.Ed, MSW, LCSW, a “Visioning Practitioner” will guide us through the process of finding the path for our life’s journey. This is a powerful, fun and engaging technique we can use with our clients in helping them through their life’s transitions as well as our own.

Cost $65.00, Lunch provided, We will be applying for 6 hours of CEU’s. Sponsored by Art Therapy Assn of OK

Pat Lynn Moses leads ‘Creative Offerings’ out of her home studio ... classes (6 week series) in Basic Watercolor, Exploring Color begin the last week in January; Art Journaling/Sketching class (4 week series) begins early February. Ongoing groups include Creative Journaling and Open Studio. If you are interested in learning more, please send a request to patriciamoses@me.com or call 949-9983.
What is ATAO?

Founded in 1980, and an affiliate chapter of the American Art Therapy Association (AATA), this statewide organization, the Art Therapy Association of Oklahoma, is made up of art therapy professionals, students, and friends. ATAO is dedicated to the continued growth, education, and public awareness of art therapy. We invite you to visit our membership and join us if you are not already a member.

ATAO members throughout the state are working in varied settings, from residential treatment programs to educational settings to private practice. Membership benefits include a free subscription to the bimonthly newsletter, the opportunity to participate in retreats, conferences, open studios and other activities, and listing in the ATAO directory.

2014-2015 ATAO Officers

PRESIDENT: Kay Foster
PRESIDENT-ELECT: Kay Foster
SECRETARY: Misti Vekas
TREASURER: Kathy Carnes/Maureen Harvey
CHAPTER DELEGATE: Aimee Rook
ALTERNATE DELEGATE: Verletta Russell
COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Governmental Affairs/Ethics: Verletta Russell
Conference/Retreat Committee: Maureen Harvey, Pat Lynn Moses, Suzanne Morris
Membership: Kathy Carnes
Marketing, Art Exhibits & Fundraising: Mary Lou Moad, Susie Games, Sharon Allred
Nominations: Aimee Rook

ATAO News is published bimonthly in February, April, June, August, October and December. Please send your submissions by the 15th of the month preceding publication to:

Phyllis Pennington at pennicole@gmail.com.
ATAO Membership Application

Name and Credentials: ______________________________________________________________________

E-mail Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: ___________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: _____________________________________________________________________________

Home Phone: _________________________________   Other Phone: ______________________________

Check All That Apply: I am able to provide supervision for:   ____ ATR  _____ LPC  ____ LMFT

                     _____ Other (Specify)  ___________________________________________________________

ATAO ID#:  _____________________ Category:  ___________________________

AATA ID#:  _____________________ Category:  ___________________________

Professional—$20/Year—An individual who is an ATR or an active professional member of AATA. Professional members may vote, hold office, and serve on committees. You must provide proof of membership in AATA.

Associate—$15/Year—An individual who is a member of AATA, and is interested in the therapeutic uses of art. Associate members may not vote or hold office, but may serve on committees with application approval. You must provide proof of membership in AATA.

Student—$10/Year—An individual who is currently enrolled in art therapy or related coursework. Student members may serve on committees with application approval. You must provide proof of student membership in AATA.

Friend—$10/Year—An individual interested in the association’s activities and programs, but is not a member of AATA. Friends may serve on committees with application approval.

Dues are payable through your AATA membership or

c/o ATAO
P.O. Box 20231
Oklahoma City, OK  73156-0231