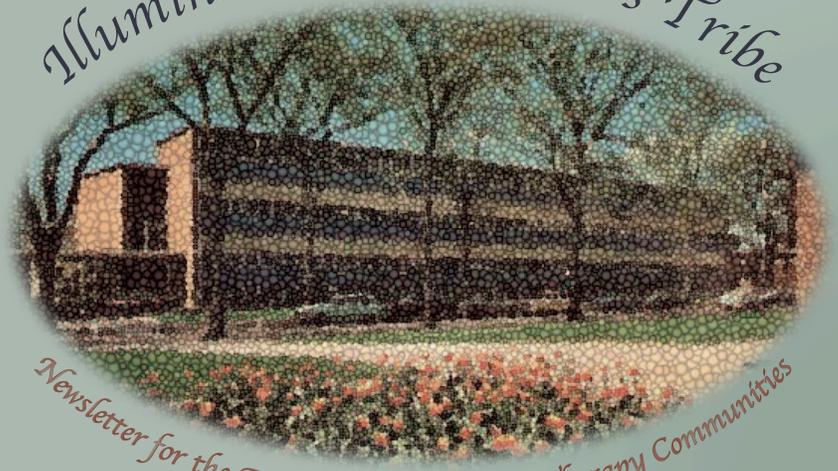




*This newsletter is created in honor of our founder, Jane Betsey Welling, and the gift of her inspiration to students and staff from 1927-1950.*

# *Illuminations from Jane's Tribe*



*Newsletter for the Art Education and Art Therapy Communities*

Fall/Winter 2013

Wayne State University

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## The Origins of Jane's Tribe

~ Monica Szydowski

With the celebration of the art education alumni reunion at 100 Kirby Street in Detroit this semester, it seems fitting that we take this opportunity to honor the founder of our department, Jane Betsey Welling, and to explain our title, "Illuminations From Jane's Tribe." The newsletter's subtitle informs us that Welling is our founder, but what did she do and how did the Visual Arts Education-Art Therapy programs as we know them today begin? Let's take a moment to pay homage to Dr. Welling.

Jane Betsey Welling is a name forever connected to the Art Education program in the College of Education. In 1927, Welling took the helm as director of what was then called the art area of the Detroit Teachers College. Welling's enthusiasm and zest for art and for life naturally drew people to her. It was said that she was able to convert even the most cynical of head shakers regarding the importance of art in daily living.



*Photo of Jane Betsey Welling taken by Irving Berg in July of 1964.*

With Welling as director, the Art Education program evolved from what began as just a handful of pupils. As more students were drawn to the program, the classes outgrew the classrooms. Art Education bounced around between various buildings, including 166 Old Main and 100 West Kirby. The program had its final move in 1956 to the Community Arts Building, which remains our location today.

Wellington's dedication to her students is apparent in her teaching philosophy, which maintained that it is the teacher's responsibility to help the student to identify his or her special talent and then to help to develop that talent.

The following poem, by Evelyn Read Havens from her poetry book entitled "I CAN," published in 1975, describes her experience of learning under Welling's guidance:

### *I Remember Jane*

*Room 166 - bursting at the seams  
With people and bustling activities;  
Making "something out of nothing," Jane said.  
Boxes, half-finished wet projects  
Piled behind the 3-way screen by the sink.  
For the first time in our lives:  
Creating from inside,  
Through our minds and fingers.  
Jane...a whirlwind of constant energy, enthusiasm,  
Spurring us on  
To greater heights of accomplishment;  
Encouraging us with a 'you can do it' philosophy.  
Jane...one in a million!*

~ Evelyn Read Havens

*Reprinted from Freda Albrecht Harrington's publication "Up From the Basement 1927-1977"*

When the art therapy and art education programs decided to resurrect a newsletter in 2005, it carried the title "Artium as to Art Ed & Art Therapy." In the second volume issued, we saw the title change to "The Visual Arts Review." The department struggled to identify a title that was relevant to the program and its students. In 2007, professor Jim Brown suggested that the title be changed to "Illuminations from Jane's Tribe." His inspiration behind this decision was, of course, Jane Betsey Welling, stating that the title was of relevance because we are all "descendants of Jane's tribe." And so our new title was born—a tribute to an inspirational leader and educator whose enthusiasm and dedication continue to touch the lives of many.



*100 West Kirby  
as it looked in 1949.*



*1927 - Wellington becomes  
Director of the Art area at  
Detroit Teacher's College.*



*Alumni at the 100 Kirby Reunion on September 26, 2013. (From left to right) Harriet Berg, Joan Nardi, Charlotte Werner Ambrose, James Jennings, and Marian Stephens.*

## Former Home of Art Education Program Breathes New Life

By Julie Osburn

The Art Education program at Wayne State University's College of Education has a rich and colorful history. With roots dating back to 1914, the program as it exists today was developed and nurtured by Jane Betsey Welling, a beloved teacher, mentor and artist. Under Dr. Welling's tenure, the faculty grew to include Detroit's most talented artists from institutions such as the Detroit Institute of Arts and Cranbrook. At the same time, the curriculum flourished, featuring ceramics, photography, woodworking and painting with watercolors and oils.

However, space was a constant issue for the department. After several moves around a growing campus, Art Education settled into the Joy House, built in 1897 for James Joy, president of the Detroit Union and Railway Depot and Station Company. Students who attended classes at the Joy House, located at 100 W. Kirby, refer to it as "The Golden Years." While this period of time was relatively short, from 1949 to 1957, the memories created live on today.

On September 26, 2013, a group of Art Education alumni returned to the Joy House to relive those "Golden Years" and tour the recently renovated building. Holly Feen-Calligan, Ph.D., associate professor and program coordinator for the Art Therapy

program, and Joanne Osmer, recently retired Director of Development for the college, orchestrated the event in close collaboration with Harriet Berg, who received her bachelor's degree in 1948 under Dr. Welling and went on to have a successful career as a producer, choreographer and dancer. The trio approached Computech Corporation, the current owners of the Joy House, about installing a plaque to commemorate Dr. Welling and the Art Education department. Gregory Cheesewright, Computech's president, enthusiastically agreed and quickly offered to host an event for Art Education alumni, faculty and staff. True to his word, Mr. Cheesewright not only welcomed COE guests, but also gave personal tours highlighting along the way extensive renovations that transformed the dilapidated building into a gorgeous setting for this successful information technology company.

"We don't consider ourselves owners of this building but rather stewards," Cheesewright said during the program. He expressed the company's love of art and their commitment to Detroit. College of Education Dean, Dr. Carolyn Shields, gave a warm welcome and acknowledged the importance of the arts in all areas of life, especially in education.

Sitting inside what is now a conference room, alumni Charlotte Werner Ambrose (BS '57), Marian Stephens (BS '56, ME '62), James Jennings (BS '55, ME '64) and Joan Nardi ('56) reflected on events that shaped their education and their careers, including puppet shows for hundreds of Detroit Public School students, an annual holiday show and exhibit where student artists sold their wares. "We have our memories," said Ms. Nardi, "the building has taken on new life." Ms. Stephens added, "It's the same place to us."

Conversation quickly returned to that of Dr. Welling and the lasting impression she made on the lives of her students. Ms. Berg recalled, "Dr. Welling kept us in school, she found a way for each student to get involved, she made you want to learn." Upon Dr. Welling's retirement in 1950, the Art Education Alumni Association (AEAA) Scholarship was renamed to the Jane Betsey Welling Scholarship. Shortly thereafter, the AEAA awarded a scholarship to an entering freshman for the first time. The recipient, Charlotte Werner Ambrose, remembers the impact that scholarship made on her life. "Tell young people to give back," Ms. Ambrose said, "I received a scholarship and give back to continue providing opportunities for others."



*Standing here with the commemorative plaque (left to right) are Gregory Cheesewright, Dean Shields, Harriet Berg, Dr. Holly Feen and Dr. James Brown*

# Congratulations Community Service Award Winner Dennis Orlowski

Congratulations to Dennis Orlowski, recipient of the 2012 Community Arts Award. This award is bestowed annually upon a graduate of the Art Education program for demonstrating exceptional leadership as an educator or community activist—someone whose contributions to the world of art are recognized as being meaningful to the community.

Dennis Orlowski was born to second-generation Polish parents in Detroit, Michigan, in 1944. His training as an artist began early in his life, at the age of 14 when he began a three-year study under artist Cleta Popovich. Throughout the years, Orlowski has studied in various countries and institutions, including The Art Students' League in New York City, the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit, the University of Mexico in Mexico City, and at Wayne State University in Detroit, where he earned his master's degree in painting and his bachelor's degree in art education from the College of Education.

A retired Detroit Public School art teacher, Orlowski has dedicated much of his time to his students and to creating public murals. Many of his murals, of which there are over one hundred, can be seen in schools, libraries and churches. Others expand beyond U.S. borders, spanning as far as Germany and Mexico. Orlowski believes that public art serves both social and community functions by educating, expressing civic pride and presenting cultural themes.



*Dennis Orlowski, recipient of the  
Community Service Award in Art  
Education-Art Therapy*

# Drawing with Drew

## Student Reflection



*Navjeet Singh, undergraduate Art Education student, shares her experience with the Drawing with Drew program*

In the Winter 2012 edition of the newsletter we introduced readers to the Drawing with Drew program. In this edition, we revisit the program, offering a depiction of the experience from a volunteer's perspective. Navjeet Singh, an Art Education major with a Minor in Communications, is just one of several volunteers who have helped with the Drawing with Drew program this semester. This program, coordinated by Dr. James Brown, Visual Arts Education Coordinator in the College of Education, is a collaborative effort between the Visual Arts Education program in the college and the Charles Drew Transition Center in Detroit.

In sharing her experience, Navjeet explained what inspired her to become involved in the program: in high-school, she initially wanted to become a special education teacher, but later decided that she wanted to use art to make education more inclusive. Her first experience volunteering with individuals with cognitive impairments was in high-school. She stated that the Drawing with Drew program exceeded her expectations because, unlike her high-school experience where she and other volunteers played games with students, this program was more interactive. Navjeet explains that the experience was "less like tutoring and more like a two-way street." She went on to describe the two-way street analogy, explaining that in order to successfully communicate and interact with students, the volunteers had to learn new and creative approaches to communication. When asked what her favorite part about her experience was, Navjeet shared that she loves working with this group because of the honest and genuine quality of their self-expression: "If they are feeling something, they don't hide it. They can't." In closing, Navjeet stated that she plans to volunteer again next year, and advised anyone interested in joining the initiative: "Be patient and go with an open mind and a caring heart."

# Student Art Exhibit 2013

These images, courtesy of Visual Arts Coordinator Dr. James Brown, were taken at the 2013 annual Art Education and Art Therapy Student Exhibit. Students can apply to submit work for the 2014 Student Exhibit up until April of 2014. Consult to your instructor or stop by the Art Education and Art Therapy office to pick up an application.

Dates for the 2014 Student Exhibit  
Opening Reception: May 29<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm  
Show will continue May 29<sup>th</sup> through July 3<sup>rd</sup>  
in the Community Arts Building.



## Student & Alumni News

Shazia H. Siddiqi (MA, '11) earned her A.T.R. certification from the Art Therapy Credentials Board!

Julie Moreno (MA, '12) & program director Holly Feen, Ph.D., presented at the 2013 AATA Conference!

Emma Faruolo (MA, '11) has been hired into a position at nonprofit organization Hegira Programs Inc!

Kelly Darke (M.Ed., '09) earned her ATR certification from the Art Therapy Credentials Board!

Art therapy M.Ed. student Autumn Heddy presented at the 2013 AATA Conference!

Art Education faculty member Kathleen Arkles, MFA, was featured in the Thumb Area Exhibition in Romeo, Michigan, where she won third place recognition for one of her stone carvings!

Art therapy M.Ed. student Monica Szydłowski was sponsored to attend the 2013 Mackinac Policy Conference as an art therapy advocate & representative of Wayne State University!

## *Art Therapy Advocacy*

### **Making an Impact on the Field of Art Therapy: A Call to Action**

*Monica Sydlowski, M.Ed. student, Wayne State University*

During my first semester in the art therapy master's program at Wayne State University, I recall Dr. Karen Schurgin likening the art therapist to a rare diamond, assuring us that we all had the opportunity to make an impact on the field of art therapy. I believed her wholeheartedly, and began contemplating what I could do as a student to contribute to the field. As the semester went on, several speakers visited our classrooms to discuss their experiences with art therapy, all of whom made mention of the importance of advocacy and lobbying for an art therapy license in Michigan. Having little more than layman's knowledge of politics and legislation, I imagined that the initiatives involved in campaigning for a state license were beyond my scope. Still, I was determined to involve myself and began by seeking more information about the benefits of a state license.

Through my ensuing research, I cultivated an understanding of advocacy as both an opportunity for personal growth and as a personal responsibility to legitimize the profession through engaged action. My newly adopted understanding prompted me to seek opportunities to promote my leadership and networking abilities. I applied to the University Partners Detroit Student Leadership Program, a prestigious leadership initiative sponsored by the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce. This inter-institutional effort helps students to refine skills in leadership, networking, and social action. It was through this program that I was sponsored to attend the Mackinac Policy Conference as a representative of Wayne State University.

This annually held conference hosts legislators, policymakers, government advisors, and business leaders from across the state, inviting attendees to work collaboratively toward Michigan's cultural change, education, and the 21st-century global market. Participating in this exclusive conference is a rare opportunity for a student. Recognizing this event as an opportune affair for art therapy advocacy, I realized it was imperative that I define my strategy and objectives before heading into the unfamiliar world of politics and business. I quickly got to work consulting my program director, local chapter president, professors, and mentors to gather as much information and advice as I could. I received unanimous support, and, despite the feeling



*Monica Sydlowski with Debbie Stabenow at the 2013 Mackinac Policy Conference in Mackinac City, Michigan.*

that I might getting ahead of myself, the encouragement and positive regard propelled me forward.

I headed out to Mackinac with a stack of business cards and a head full of names and faces of executives and institutions that I intended to find in the course of the next three days amongst the sea of more than 2,000 attendees. Proudly identifying myself as an art therapy advocate and representative of Wayne State University, I spoke with executives and directors from a wide range of established organizations including Blue Cross Blue Shield, Southwest Solutions, Dykema Law Firm, the American Osteopathic Foundation, and Teach for America. I was surprised at how accessible and responsive these influential leaders were to my opinions.



*Wayne State University Art Therapy students at the American Art Therapy Association 2013 conference in Seattle (from left to right): Rebecca Sanders, Monica Szydlowski, Megan Diviney, and Autumn Heddy.*

The majority of those whom I approached at the conference were not only receptive to my advocacy but were also interested in learning more about art therapy. I gave out my contact information, making sure to ask for theirs in return so that I could later follow up with them. I walked away from the 3-day event with a handful of business cards from my various contacts feeling exhausted, relieved, and triumphant.

Upon my return, I e-mailed my mentors and professors looking for guidance as to the next step in my advocacy. Within a few days, I received an e-mail from Susan Corrigan, Executive Director of the American Art Therapy Association (AATA). Susan was instrumental in moving my advocacy forward, as she initiated a conference call to get me in contact with Dean Sagar, the association's public policy advisor. Dean thoroughly researched the conditions existing within the State of Michigan and sent me a detailed memo with clear steps on how to proceed.

I recognized that AATA was prepared and willing to support my advocacy efforts as a student and that I could take my advocacy to the next level with their help. To further involve myself in the organization, I attended my first annual American Art Therapy Association conference in Seattle. I had the pleasure of personally meeting and sharing ideas with Susan Corrigan, along with Gretchen Graves, Speaker of the Assembly of Chapters, Dr. Holly Feen-Calligan, Program Coordinator in the College of Education, and several other AATA board members. At the conference, my ideas on how to facilitate future student involvement, such as making

amendments to the current AATA bylaws in order to allow students voting rights, were duly noted and discussed. The resounding support I received from AATA was encouraging. I left the conference with an abundance of positive feelings including a sense of pride and of purpose, an eagerness to pursue my personal and professional efforts, and, above all, a strong sense of fellowship, understanding, and support within the art therapy community.

Inspired to continue in my efforts, I ask AATA members to propose amendments to the current bylaws within their respective chapters to permit voting rights and leadership roles for students. The student body offers a unique perspective that must be acknowledged in order for students to feel valued and want to invest themselves in the Association. The involvement in AATA begins with student members at the state level, and must be nurtured in order to run a dynamic, cohesive, and energetic organization.

Likewise, I encourage my fellow students throughout the country and abroad to take an active role in advocating for our mission, our fellowship, and our profession. Whether you have the opportunity to attend a legislative event, write a letter to your local or state policymakers, or advocate for art therapy as a part of a student organization on campus, it is crucial to remain informed, inspired, and engaged in order to make progress. We are all in a position to make a mark in the field of art therapy. Our job now is to act on it.



#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Monica Szydowski is a second year student of the MEd in Art Therapy program in the College of Education at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. As an active student member of AATA, she advocates for student member participation and for art therapy licensure in Michigan. Monica is passionate about researching eating disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery and is always seeking opportunities to work with the eating disorder population.

*The Art Therapy Program is undergoing reaccreditation. Alumni should have received a Survey Monkey survey from Holly for feedback about the program. Anyone who has not received a survey should contact Holly at [hfeen@wayne.edu](mailto:hfeen@wayne.edu) !*

## Frederick Neff Memorial Lecture helps to further ideas about Art in Community Health

*Holly Feen, Ph.D., Art Therapy Program Coordinator, College of Education*

With generous support from the Frederick Neff Memorial Lecture in Philosophy and Education, the Art Therapy program sponsored a public panel presentation on *Art for Community Health* at the Virgil H. Carr Cultural Arts Center last April. The panel featured innovative Detroit artists/activists who vigorously address the health and well being of the Detroit community through their art and creative leadership: **Jenene Whitfield**, Executive Director, the *Heidelberg Project*; **Chazz Miller**, Founder and Director, *Public Art Workz (P.A.W.S.)*; **Halima Cassells**, Artist and Founder, *Detroit Mural Factory*; and **Erik Howard**, Founder of *The Alley Project*.

Well over 100 people attended the event, which resulted in a provocative and productive discussion on the necessity of art to the revitalization and health of Detroit citizens and neighborhoods. Students enrolled in a weekend class associated with the lecture toured the art centers listed above and assisted Chazz Miller with a mural on Grand River Avenue. Each student prepared a proposal for an innovative art grant, and several submitted proposals for funding to the Knight Foundation.

Unfortunately, there are insufficient funds available for a similar event to take place in the Spring of 2014. Plans are underway for a student/alumni event on a Friday and/or Saturday featuring a sharing of ideas and skills. The event is still being planned but we hope it will include several workshops by alumni and/or students, an informal study session for alumni planning to take the BC exam, a panel of alumni who can share portfolio and job hunting tips, and a market swap of art supplies and other art therapy materials. Interested alumni should contact Holly Feen. Further details will be forthcoming as arrangements are finalized.

*Student's Voice:  
Christy Pardee*

### *First Year's Fears*

*Christy Pardee, M.Ed. Art Therapy Student, College of Education.*

*"OMG what have I gotten myself into!" was my Facebook post during first week of classes. I panicked; balancing work, school and life suddenly seemed impossible. During the process of getting into the program I had just focused on getting in. I didn't ask many questions. I just knew I wanted the outcome, an ATR. Personally, I shouldn't really complain of the day job. I only work part time as a Job Coach. It's "life in general," I think, that caused the OMG.*

*What I have decided to disclose is more of a personal and medical issue known as Bipolar Disorder. Yes colleagues, I was diagnosed in 2008, and am currently in "remission," thank the stars. But let's just say it's a little extra work to keep things all balanced. But now I'm in a Master's program and that shakes things up. However, as time passes, things seem manageable. I have learned all the new electronic resources. I have supportive friends, family, and a spiritual community to rely on, as well as yoga. So now at week four, my nerves have calmed, I am looking forward to the next three years as happy challenges, not Facebook OMGs.*

## ArtsCorpsDetroit Fosters Service-Learning and Volunteer Opportunities

*Holly Feen, Ph.D., Art Therapy Program Coordinator, College of Education*

**ArtsCorpsDetroit (ACD)** is a community-based program at Wayne State University facilitated by faculty in Art Therapy and Fine Arts who teach art based service-learning courses and assignments. ArtsCorpsDetroit fosters connections between community art centers and volunteers from among the ranks of students, alumni and community members desiring to lend a helping hand. Spring and summer 2013 were very productive for ArtsCorpsDetroit, as a number of community projects were accomplished: Art Therapy student Stephanie Rozner expanded her installation of pink figures along the Karmanos Race for the Cure route for the second year in a row, a project she coordinated with the Girl Scouts and other ACD volunteers and art therapy alumnus and doctoral counseling student Julie Moreno videotaped children at the Ronald Brown Academy talking about their experiences with their Arts & Scraps curriculum. The interviews contributed to program evaluation data for Arts & Scraps. Other volunteer projects included:

### **Brixels:**

- \*3<sup>rd</sup> Street at Willis
- \*Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Conner near Mack.

### **Murals and Gardens:**

- \*AW Food Center, Mack and Dickerson
- \*John R Row, John R at Kenilworth
- \*Gratiot Mural Arts Project; Gratiot and St. Aubin
- \*Cass Corridor Commons:
  - Finite Gardens, Gratiot and Mack
  - Slabbees Barbecue, Brightmoor

Special thanks go to art therapy students Amy Strong and Denise Gipson who helped with two of the projects. Readers are encouraged to visit the ACD website and Facebook page for more information or to view galleries of projects. Alumni or students interested in volunteering, or in hosting a service-learning student or volunteer should complete the applications available at <http://artscorpsdetroit.wayne.edu/>

# SMATA

## STUDENTS OF THE MICHIGAN ART THERAPY ASSOCIATION

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013: SMATA takes 1<sup>st</sup> place in the WSU Paint-A-Window contest!



SMATA's first-place homecoming-themed window

The mural for the WSU Paint-A-Window was created by members Monica Szydlowski & Karianne Hollowell



## Yellow Wallpaper Event at Shiffman Medical Library

SMATA members Monica Szydlowski, Michelle Krason & Rebecca Sanders created this artwork (right) as part of a traveling exhibition at Wayne State University's Vera P. Shiffman Medical Library Nov 21- Dec 28<sup>th</sup>!



Students of the Michigan Art Therapy association (SMATA) is a student organization made up of Wayne State University art therapy students passionate about the field of art therapy. Our mission is to advocate for art therapy, establish connections within our community, and to create opportunities for personal growth and learning. This page highlights some of our accomplishments and high-points for Fall and Winter 2013.

Thank you for your support!

~Monica Szydlowski,  
SMATA President



SMATA members having fun painting gourds at the Halloween Party! Pictured here: (from left to right) Brianne Burgoon, Christy Pardee, Valerie Smith, Alison Maples, Michelle Krason, Mary Milhaupt, Jill Howlett, Monica Szydlowski, Alyss Conroy, Rebecca Sanders, Joannah Soderborg Kayla Ruttinger, & Casey Canon.