

the MUSE

www.musictherapynewengland.org

Fall 2011 Newsletter



New England Region
American Music Therapy Association

President's Message

Eve Montague

president@newenglandmusictherapy.org

"Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything". Plato

Welcome to NER's Fall edition of the MUSE. It's hard to believe that Autumn is upon us, with it's crisp air, glorious colors, and anticipations of holidays, family, and change. So many things have been going on in our small region of New England, and in such a short period of time. The MUSE is a perfect way for us to share the happenings of the region with our membership.

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12th Annual PASSAGES Conference

Saturday, October 22nd, 2011

9am – 5pm, Lesley University

www.neramtas.org

AMTA National Conference

"AMTA in the ATL – Advocacy, Therapy & Leadership"

Atlanta, GA – November 16 – 20

www.musictherapy.org

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CONFERENCES 2011

- Passages 12th Annual
- AMTA National

Officers, Assembly Delegates and Standing Committee Members

The NER-AMTA continues to have a strong base of individuals willing to serve the region. AMTA expresses gratitude to all those who have served and continue to serve in new capacities.

EXECUTIVE BOARD of NER

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Jean Nemeth, MA, MT-BC

Jennifer Sokira, MMT, LCAT, MT-BC

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Caryl Beth Thomas, MA, ACMT, LMHC

Jennifer Sokira, MMT, LCAT, MT-BC

Eve Montague, MSM, MT-BC

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Academic Program Approval

- Lisa Summer, PhD, LMHC, MT-BC

Affiliate Relations

- Shanna Clark, MA, LMHC, MT-BC

Association Internship Approval

- Eve Montague, MSM, MT-BC

Technology Committee

- Cassandra Mulcahy, MT-BC

Continuing Education

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Employment & Public Relations

- Vacant

Government Relations

- Shannon Laine, MT-BC

International Relations

- Jodi Levine, MA, MT-BC

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- Nancy Skaliotis, MA, CMT

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Professional/Peer Advocacy

- Emily Pelligrino, MT-BC

Reimbursement

- Vacant

Research

- Judy Nguyen Engel, MM, MT-BC

Special Target Populations

- Stephanie Clark, MT-BC, CCLS

Standards of Clinical Practice

- Annette Whitehead-Pleau, MAMT, MT-BC

Student Affairs Advisory Board

- Christine Routhier, MA, LMHC, MT-BC

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Newsletter Editor

- Kimberly Khare, MA, CMT, NRMT

Passages Chair - TBD

Webmaster – Cassandra Mulcahy, MT-BC

NER-AMTAS President – Jessica Brizeula

President's Message continued...

A big welcome to all the new and returning music therapy students from our 3 regional schools. We have such an active and vibrant student community that continues to grow in our region. Our students are active in community work, fundraising, and developing lasting relationships and contacts. As you read through the MUSE you will hear about their international work as well as their plans for the coming year.

Exciting things are happening throughout our region every day. Many of us are doing presentations on music therapy in our communities, for other professional organizations. Dory Stapleton and Andrea Tooker are just 2 of our therapists who have presented professionally recently. Many of our regional therapists have contributed to the AMTA podcast series. Check out Linda Bosse, Marcia Lajoie, Jean Nemeth, and Meredith Pizzi's contributions – they are stellar.

Very exciting for our profession is high school student interest in making music therapy their career. In just my little corner of the world I had 4 seniors shadow me at work and make application to music therapy schools this past year. I now have 3 more students speaking with me about music therapy and setting up observation times. We are wonderful resources in our own communities – get in on your local school career nights and make sure you introduce yourself to the music teachers. What better resource than a working music therapist?!

Continuing education is also happening with many of our seasoned and experienced members. Five music therapists (that I know of) are currently doctoral candidates – Heather Wagner at Temple University, Jared Leaderman at Chicago Institute of Psychology, and Julie Andring, Krystal Demaine, and Jean Nemeth at Lesley University. Go therapists!

A number of our regional music therapists published in *Music and Medicine* this year. The article, "Using Music Technology in Music Therapy With Populations Across the Life Span in Medical and Education Programs," was authored by Dr. Wendy Magee, Michael Bertolami, Lorrie Kubicek, Marcia Lajoie, Lisa Martino, Adam Sankowski, Jennifer Townsend, Annette Whitehead-Pleaux, and Julie Buras Zigo. Go NER music therapists!

I had the recent privilege of observing some of the work of Meredith Pizzi, MT-BC and her music therapists at Roman Music Therapy Services in Melrose MA. Meredith has a exciting and growing music therapy business and she is a well-established part of her community. Meredith has just been selected to be part of the newest group of Pitch Winners from M3 1000. She will receive professional coaching and business support and analysis from American Express OPEN and will move on to the next phase of the program. Congratulations Meredith!

The state of our region is strong and exciting. The national AMTA conference is scheduled for November 16th through the 20th in Atlanta Georgia. NER will be well represented in presentations and committee meetings. If you cannot make the national conference, be sure to mark your calendars now for our regional conference, March 29th -31st at the Equinox in Manchester Vermont. The conference committee, under the direction of Vice President Judy Engle is putting together a packed agenda of CMTEs, concurrent sessions, and opportunities to jam, connect, and relax. We are also thrilled to announce that our 2013 conference will be held in Newport Rhode Island. Our very own conference maven, Nancy Skaliotis, has secured the Viking Resort at incredible rates.

(President's Message continued on Page 4)

President's Message continued...

NER is looking for interested individuals to fill vacancies on our expanded leadership team. Amy Hemenway, who has served the region as representative for the Employment and Public Relations Committee, has exciting family changes coming and has chosen to step down from her position. We will miss Amy's energy and input and I want to thank her for her service on behalf of NER. This committee is going through some change and will be called the Workforce Development and Retention Committee (after Assembly voting in November). Check out the job description elsewhere in the MUSE and think seriously about offering your time and talent to this committee. Jodie Deignan, our Reimbursement Committee representative has just submitted her resignation. Jodie recently became a Nurse Practitioner and is busy in her new role. We will miss her contributions to the expanded leadership team but know that she will continue to be a strong advocate for music therapy in all her work. A job description for this committee can be found on AMTA and NER websites. Thank you Jodie for your service to NER. We have had the good fortune of having Brittany Bloam on board to manage and redesign our website (still under construction). Brittany recently completed her JD and wrote the bar exam, so she is a very busy new lawyer. Our website is crucial for communication and information to and from members and we are fortunate that Cassandra Mulchahy has agreed to assume the reigns of webmistress. As our Technology Committee representative, Cassandra has a wonderful understanding of all things techno – thank you Cassandra! We wish Brittany well as she begins a new and exciting career and on behalf of NER, thank you for all you have done.

The AMTA's new website is up and running and if haven't checked it out, do so. It is user friendly and chock full of information, music therapy tools, and resources.

I hope to see many of you in Atlanta in November. Our business meeting is scheduled for Saturday November 19, 2011, from 8:00-9:15 am at the Hilton Atlanta. Our next local board meeting will be in January (date tbd), in Sturbridge, MA. A reminder that board meetings are open to all members and we welcome your participation. I hope you all have a wonderful, healthy, productive fall and I wish you all the blessings of the upcoming holidays.

Here's to the power of Music ~ Eve Montague, President NER-AMTA

Judy Engle/ Vice-President's Report

What has over 200 years of history, six different architectural styles, and 17 different structures? Has been visited by four different American Presidents? Served as a hotbed for American Revolutionaries? And stands as a monument to the American government's policy of expropriating private property for the common good? The answer, of course, is the **Equinox**.

And whom do we have to thank for this fabulous resort for our NER Conference? The one-&-only amazing conference maven, Nancy Skaliotis!! We are forever grateful for her unsurpassed ability to find, negotiate and contract with incredible sites such as the Equinox. Not convinced of how *incredible* our dear Nancy is? Well, not only has she found our 2012 site, but she's also secured our site for 2013! But it's a secret, so stay tuned to the Muse for more info.

Please join us in Manchester Village, Vermont, at the Equinox, a Luxury Collection Golf and Spa on March 28th-31st, 2012 for the New England Region's Spring Conference. For more information on The Equinox go to www.equinoxresort.com. *See you in Vermont!*

An Invitation to Sing

Caryl Beth Thomas, NER Past-President

Greetings to everyone in the NER!

As many of you know, I will get a group of people singing whenever and wherever I can. So consider this an invitation from me for you to sing – any and every day. I personally think that everyone should sing everyday – even if there is no particular “reason” to sing. Being alive is reason enough to sing in my thinking. So I am extending an invitation for you to sing here – and who better to sing than we music therapists, who feel so passionately about the power of music?!?!

In September of this year, AMTA issued an invitation to sing in memory of 9/11. It was sent out to the membership in the AMTA via Music Therapy Enews, including a link to a Youtube video, and was also found on the homepage of the AMTA website. The video has two songs and encouraged everyone to sing at some point during the 10th anniversary of the events of 9/11. I went to this link, listened to the songs and immediately began singing them – I could not stop singing them. And I have continued to do so ever since, both in my work and in my personal life.

The first is a chant is exquisitely beautiful, written by “a friend of Music Therapy”, Erik Longquist. The second is a wonderful simple song by music therapist Kate Richards from NYC, and was originally written during the work by MTs that followed the events of 9/11 in New York. This song as well as many other stories, songs and reflections were later shared in the book, “Caring for the Caregiver: The Use of Music and Music Therapy in Grief and Trauma”, a collection of reflections on music therapy interventions provided as a part of the New York City Music Therapy Relief Project, sponsored by AMTA and the Recording Academy after September 11th, 2001.

You can find the original video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17G4v01e5v8> And you can also still find this link on the AMTA website, including the written music for "Sing with me" (also on video) http://www.musictherapy.org/amta_remembers_9112001/

Both songs have found their way several times into my work with clients lately. And I have found myself singing the chant throughout my day and in the course of my life often this past month, both in quiet reflective moments of solitude and with others in a shared moment of song. So I just wanted to share them with you here – and I encourage you to sing every day. We need to sing – ***and the world needs us to sing.***

NER-AMTA Need to know!

Calling all music therapists, clinicians, and professors! We need you! Please share your expertise with the region. Kindly submit Call for Papers/Posters to aldenmurphy23@gmail.com for the 2012 NER-AMTA spring Conference in beautiful Manchester Village, Vermont. Please the NER-AMTA website to access the call for papers/posters at musictherapynewengland.org

Did you know that CBMT made a few Ch-ch-ch-ch-Changes? CBMT has approved 3-hour CMTE courses! We are pleased to announced that along with the 3-hour CMTEs, the original 5-hour CMTEs will also be available, as well as a variety of interesting and exciting concurrent sessions.

Jennifer Sokira/Membership Committee

NER Membership Committee Report:

Our 2011 Membership Calling Drive was completed in June thanks to assistance from volunteers Linda Bosse, Emily Pellegrino, Caryl Beth Thomas and Adrienne Flight!

As of the end of Q2, our numbers are slightly lower than those of the last 2 years, by 7 members. We will observe the results of our membership drive when the Q3 list is released at the beginning of September.

Please be aware that the new AMTA website is now live and is an incredible new member benefit, as well as a tool to which we can refer potential clients and aspiring music therapists. Members can now easily update and access their own information as well as create a profile where potential clients can search for you! I encourage you to take a few minutes to explore this great new membership benefit, and I offer my sincere congratulations to all of the staff at AMTA who made it happen!

Thanks to everyone for keeping our region strong. If you have any questions regarding your AMTA membership, feel free to get in touch with me at jen@ctmusictherapy.com, and I would be happy to answer or to point you in the right direction!

12th Annual Passages Conference
Saturday, October 22, 2011
9am -5pm, Lesley University
www.neramtas.org

Emily Pelligrino/Professional Advocacy Committee

Quarterly Review for the New England Region

This quarter AMTA asked the Professional Advocacy committee to review documentation based on the new adopted policy on acronym usage to be implemented no later than January 1, 2012. Per request of the AMTA president, the Professional Advocacy committee was directed to study the Self-Assessment and determine what, if any, revisions would need to be proposed in this document to align with the new acronym policy. To assist, the ETAB's Advisory on Acronyms and a FAQ sheet with key answers on this topic was provided.

In addition, 2 possible advocacy issues were brought to my attention. The first involved a local publication using the term "music therapy" to refer to the work of a harp therapist. It just so happened that I knew the harp therapist interviewed, and am confident that they know the difference between "harp therapy" and "music therapy." I contacted my committee and we all agreed that this was a case of wrong wording on the part of the writer, and that no further action was needed based on the nature of the publication. The second possible issue was just brought to my attention last week and involves a possible non MT-BC providing what has been advertised as "Group Music Therapy Sessions." I am currently working with CBMT to draft a letter to deal with this situation. More details will be provided as this process develops.

Jessica Brizuela/NER-AMTAS President

Fall has officially commenced and the NER-AMTAS board decided to kick off the new school year with its first ever **Tri-School Music Therapy Potluck** at Lesley University. Students from Anna Maria, Berklee, and Lesley all had the opportunity to mingle over music and food—a perfect pairing! It was a great success and we are hoping to have more events like this throughout the year.

Passages

Passages is a free one-day music therapy conference featuring presentations by students as well as music therapists in their first few years of practice. The date for our 12th annual Passages conference is set for Saturday, October 22, 2011 from 9AM to 5PM. Passages will take place at Lesley University's University Hall (1815 Massachusetts Ave. Cambridge, MA – *right off the Porter Square MBTA Red Line stop*). We need all the support we can get to make Passages a success, so please spread the word and hope to see you there!

Service Projects

As many of you have heard, NER-AMTAS had the opportunity to return to the Cayman Islands this past summer for another service project with Lesley graduate and founder of Cayman Music Therapy, Julianne Parolisi. 6 NER-AMTAS students set up a music therapy camp called, Beat the Heat. To hear them talk about their exciting experience, come hear them present at Passages!

NER-AMTAS would like to continue doing service trips to Grand Cayman and our International Service Project Chair is also looking to expand a bit by working on an upcoming service trip to Greece. For more information, please contact Mariza Neiada at mneiada@berklee.net.

National Conference & Scholarships

We are excited to announce that NER-AMTAS will be presenting two posters about our service trips to Grand Cayman for the International Poster Session at the national conference in Atlanta, GA.

We want to encourage students to attend the conference; therefore NER-AMTAS is offering 2 \$400 scholarships to aid students traveling expenses. Winners will be announced at Passages. For information on how to apply for these scholarship awards, or to stay informed about NER-AMTAS, please visit our frequently updated website at <http://www.neramtas.org>. *Sincerely ~ NER-AMTAS*

AMTA's 2011 National Conference
AMTA in the ATL – Advocacy, Therapy and Leadership
November 16 – 20, 2011 ~ The Hilton Atlanta, Atlanta, GA

SPECIAL KUDOS!

Meredith Pizzi and her Roman Music Therapy Services of Melrose, MA, has just been selected to be part of the newest group of Pitch Winners from M3 1000. She will receive professional coaching and business support and analysis from American Express OPEN and will move on to the next phase of the program. Congratulations Meredith!

JudyNguyen Engle/Research Committee

Research Committee Update

The goals of the Research committee include:

1. To encourage and promote research of all types of research methodology in music therapy.
2. To take complete responsibility for the research sessions at National Conference.

The Research Committee takes responsibility for the research sessions at our national meetings. Two members of the committee, Tony Meadows and Deb Burns, will do a combined Quantitative/Qualitative session. Nancy Hadsell, another committee member, will do a quantitative session specifically addressed to beginning researchers. We also have several sessions to honor the late Helen Bonny. We will have a historical session about Helen and her work and Cathy McKinney will do a special feature research presentation on GIM. Additionally, we will continue to have the research poster session that has become a "tradition" of research presentation and continues to have robust attendance – and we will post abstracts from the annual conference Poster Session on the AMTA website. Increased Research Poster Session research is one the best ways to bring many additional people to the conference. It also serves to positively expose people from other disciplines to our field.

It has been documented that our hallmark research poster session has the greatest attendance of any session. This year we have a record 82 Posters that will be listed on our AMTA National webpage. This will be the fourth year that we have listed abstracts. Abstracts for the Atlanta conference will be listed sometime after the Conference and can be found by going to the AMTA website, clicking the [About AMTA](#) link, then clicking [Researching Music Therapy](#) , then clicking on [Recent Research in Music Therapy](#), and then clicking on the [Click here for Abstracts](#).

Marissa Ruffini/New Hampshire Music Therapy Network

I am happy to announce our next New Hampshire Music Therapy Network Meeting! The meeting will be taking place on Saturday, October 15th and this time around, we will be meeting at the Musical Arts building in North Hampton (A Big Thank you to Ryan for helping us find a space!)

The address is: 7 Lafayette Rd. North Hampton, NH 03842. We will be meeting from 10am to 12 noon!

For those of you that are new to the New Hampshire Music Therapy Network, we are a group of people working in and around New Hampshire who get together four times a year to share what we have been up to, network, discuss the latest music therapy news and many other things! At our last meeting, there was a request for a guitar workshop, so bring your guitars as Ryan Judd has happily volunteered to lead us through one!

Please RSVP to Marissa Ruffini: marissa@sonatinamusictherapy.com Also, please pass this message along, we are always welcoming new faces! I am looking forward to hearing about what everyone has been up to and seeing both new and familiar faces!

[The Muse regrets that this meeting took place before publication of our Fall 2011 issue – we hope all went well!]

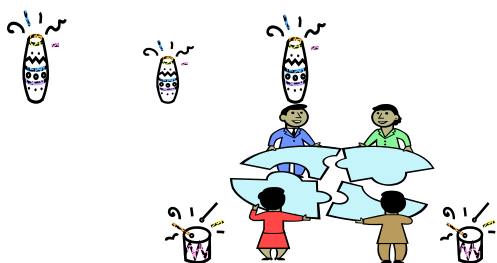
Jodie Levine/International Relations Committee

Music therapy across the seas, miles and continents ~

Have you gone out of the country and provided educational services, training or clinical practice using music therapy? If so, we are looking for information about what you have done and where, so please share. Be it a workshop, symposium, teaching a class, or one to one sessions, we would like to hear about it. Was it in Japan, China, India, Jamaica? Any place out of the country - please send me your name and a brief write up of what services you provided and how this fascinating tool we use to make a difference crosses cultures and reaches others! Send your information to: jodismusic@sbcglobal.net

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Connecticut Connections!



Did you know that music therapists in the state of Connecticut have been meeting a few times a year? Do you live in Connecticut? If so, we would like to network, share information and just get to know you, so please consider joining. The next meeting will be held in Hartford on Oct. 22, at 1:00pm at Avery Heights. If you are interested, an email of exact times and directions can be sent to you. Would love to see you there! As per request from some of our participants, we will be looking into providing educational training at some of these meetings. Consider connecting with us as this next meeting should be a great one!

Presentation:

"Ethical Music Therapy Practice, social networking and Professional boundaries: The Why and How..."

Did you know that we are now required to participate in one 3 credit CMTE on Ethics? Be the first to receive credit towards this area of training by joining us at the next "Connecticut Connections" meeting.

Presenter:

Our "Empress" of Ethics herself, Linda Bosse, who has served on the Ethics Committee for 14 years – and 9 of which she served as Chair.

Join us as we re-unite and catch up together, while also meeting some of our CMTE requirements! Hope to see you there! RSVP to: jlevine@churchhomes.org

EMPLOYMENT AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

This committee will be changed to "Workforce Development and Retention Committee" pending Assembly voting in November 2011. **NER currently has an opening for Committee Representative.**

The goals and tasks of the **Workforce Development and Retention Committee** are related to the mission and goals of AMTA especially in the area of Advocacy and Professional Development:

- To increase awareness of music therapy as a career choice
- To help employers understand the role of the music therapist in the treatment milieu and how to hire a qualified music therapist
- to assist and provide support for professional music therapists to remain in the field.
- To educate high school students, music majors, and other allied health professionals about music therapy as a career choice
- To systematically work with career database providers to ensure music therapy is listed as a career option with an appropriate description
- To explore and list which career inventory tests include music therapy and contact ones that do not to add them.
- To create a downloadable information packet, including but not limited to benefits/effects of music therapy, roles and qualifications of a music therapist, for employers wishing to hire a qualified music therapist
- To create a template for local music therapists who want to present at job and career fairs
- To research or advocate for needed changes (e.g., improved pay scales, benefits, etc.) and to sponsor or plan events offering assistance/information to present music therapists in regard to remaining in the profession (could include development of mentoring new professionals)
- To update reports of committee action on the *Members Only* Section of the AMTA website

JOB DESCRIPTION: The committee member will:

1. Attend and participate in all committee meetings at national conference (in the event of committee member's absence, region will send a substitute to the meeting)
2. Adhere to deadlines in completing committee assignments
3. Review committee materials and return and/or act on them by the specified deadline line
4. Submit a semi-annual report of committee work to the committee chair by specified deadlines
5. Ensure timely transfer of committee materials to new regional representative
6. Communicate committee work to the region after the committee chair reviews information to be sent with the council coordinator, and elicit feedback from regional members. Student representatives will follow the same process prior to disseminating information and soliciting feedback from student members.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Professional member of AMTA.
2. Two years clinical experience desirable.
3. Interest and/or experience in employment/workforce issues.

AMTA has recently adopted a new policy regarding use of acronyms and the MT-BC credential. The full advisory can be found on the AMTA website, Member section - News from Committees and Boards - Education and Training Advisory Board. The following answers questions and shows correct usage of acronyms. NER has been using this since our spring conference, 2011.

Frequently Asked Questions AMTA Policy on the Use of Acronyms

1. What is the new AMTA policy regarding acronyms for professional designations?

The policy adopted unanimously by the Assembly of Delegates in 2010 states that AMTA and its regions will use acronyms only for academic degrees, MT-BC, other credentials (e.g., NCC, CCC-SLP), licenses (e.g., LCAT, LMHC), state registries (e.g., WMTR), National Music Therapy Registry designations until 2020, and music therapy professional designations from other countries. This policy will apply to all print and electronic materials and communications. In addition, AMTA will strongly encourage its members to limit their use of acronyms to credentials and designations in this list.

2. Why has AMTA adopted this policy?

AMTA and CBMT are actively working to increase recognition of the music therapy credential, MT-BC. At the same time, acronyms for completion of trainings have proliferated, creating confusion among consumers, employers, legislators, and other external constituents. Furthermore, acronyms for trainings are not standard in the health care industry and are even prohibited by the ethical guidelines of some health care professions. AMTA has concluded that potential damage to the profession from continued use of acronyms for specialized and advanced trainings far outweighs reasons for continued use.

3. What about my specialized or advanced training? Is it no longer recognized by AMTA?

AMTA values and encourages specialized and advanced training. While AMTA discourages the use of acronyms to indicate completion of these trainings, music therapists may continue to indicate completion of trainings that confer designations by delineating the designation(s) in narrative form in print or electronic materials.

4. Narrative form? What would this look like on my stationery, business card, or professional signature?

James Jones, MS, MT-BC, CCC-SLP
Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapist

June Johnson, MA, ACMT
Neurologic Music Therapist

Jan Doe, PhD, LCAT, MT-BC
Fellow of the Association for Music and Imagery
NICU Music Therapist

John Smith, MT-BC
Hospice & Palliative Care Music Therapist

