

**ELLEN SPEERT A.T.R.-B.C., R.E.A.T.**  
Director - The California Center for Creative Renewal  
1905 Crest Drive  
Encinitas, California 92024  
(760) 436-3310  
ellen@artRETREATS.com

**EDUCATION:**

Fairleigh Dickinson University Bachelor of Arts 1972  
Lesley College Master of Education in Art Therapy 1979  
National University Post Graduate Studies 1985

**EXPERIENCE:** References will be provided upon request

Art Therapist, Private Practice, 1979-Present, Encinitas, California

Art Therapy Instructor, UCSD Extension, 1987-2005, La Jolla, California

Program Coordinator, UCSD Extension, 1996-2003, Expressive Art Therapies  
Certificate Program, La Jolla, California

Program Director, UCSD Extension, 2001-2003, Art Therapy Postgraduate Certificate  
Program, La Jolla, California

Clinical Director, National University Associate Faculty, 2000-2001, Art Therapy Program,  
San Diego, California

Art Therapy Instructor, Kolner Schule fur Kunsttherapie, Summer 1996, Frankfurt, Germany

Art Therapy Lecturer, IMPER 1990 to 2000 summers, Lausanne, Switzerland

Art Therapy Consultant, 2001-2003, SUSHI Visual and Performing Arts Center

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, RETREATS and SEMINARS:**

Art Therapy Staff Training and Development, Sharp Hospital,

Cabrillo Alcohol Rehabilitation Program	1985
Art Therapy Consultant, Hospice of North Coast	1989 - 1990
Art Therapy Consultant, San Diego Hospice	1990 - 1993
Art Therapy Consultant, UCSD Medical Center, Pediatrics Unit	1991
Staff Retreat Leader, Grossmont Hospice Staff	1992 - 1993
Art Therapy Consultant, Empty Cradle	1993 - 1995
Faculty Retreats Leader, University of San Diego, Nursing Department	1997 - 1998
Staff Retreat Leader, Elizabeth Hospice	2000
Art Therapy Consultant, A Reason To Survive	2001

Staff Retreats Leader, County Health and Human Services	2000 - 2003
Staff Retreats Leader, Perinatal Services Providers of San Diego	2000 - 2003
Program Consultant, picART: Boys & Girls Club of Encinitas, Carlsbad & Solana Beach	2000 - present
Staff Retreats Leader, San Diego CAL WORKS Providers	2001 - 2003
Staff Retreats Leader, San Diego County Adoption Workers	2001 - 2002
Staff Retreat Leader, Physical Rehabilitation Network (PRN)	2002
Staff Retreat Leader, Head Start	2002
Retreat Leader, Women's Caucus for Art	2003
Staff Retreat Leader, Encinitas Unified School District Management Team	2003
Conference Retreat Leader, American Art Therapy Association	2004
Team building retreat for the San Diego Center for Jewish Culture,	2006
Staff Support Leader, International Survivors of Torture	2006, 2007, 2008
Retreat Leader, Jewish Healing Arts Center	2006, 2007, 2009
Retreat Leader at Cal-a-Vie Health Spa, "Healing Body, Mind and Spirit"	2006
Habitat for Humanity, House Building, New Orleans	2006
Guest Instructor, the School of Visual Arts, New York City	2006
Retreat Leader, Seaside Church of Religious Science	2007, 2008
Retreat Leader, Del Mar Garden Club	2008
Retreat Leader, San Diego Psychological Association	2008
Retreat Leader, Management team of Camp Pendleton Marine Base	2008 and 2009
Jewish Family Services Retreat Leader	2007, 2009, 2010, 2011
Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center Retreat Leader	2007
Chula Vista Elementary School Staff Retreat Leader	2009
Seaside Church Religious Practitioners Retreat Leader	2009
First Unitarian Church Retreat Leader	2015
Casey Family Foundation Retreat Leader	2015
CA Marriage Family Therapy Board Retreat Leader	2014, 2015, 2016
Camp Hope Hospice Family Retreat Coordinator/Leader	2016, 2017
San Diego Botanical Gardens Docent Retreat Leader	2016
North County Health Services, Midwives Retreat Leader	2017

## **PUBLICATIONS:**

"Beyond Psychic Numbing: Child Art Therapy and the Nuclear Taboo", Art Therapy: Journal of the American Art Therapy Association, Vol. 6, No. 3. 1989.

"Art Therapy and Group Process," Group Network, San Diego, Aug. 1989.

"The Use of Art Therapy Following Perinatal Death," Art Therapy. Journal of the American Art Therapy Association, Vol. 9, No. 3. 1992.

"Women and Art Therapy" in California Art Therapy Trends, Ed. E. Virshup, Chicago: Magnolia Street Publishers, 1993.

"Creative New Ways", SDNC-California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists Perspectives, Vol. 8, No.1., 1999.

## **LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS:**

“Eco Art Therapy” American Art Therapy Association, Albuquerque, NM, 2017

“Eco Art Therapy” ECArte (European Congress of Art Therapists)  
Krakow, Poland, with Cecilie Meltzer, 2017

“Empowering the Intangible Through the Arts”, Art of Management Conference, Lake Bled, Slovenia, with Cecilie Meltzer, 2016

“Eco Art Therapy” Nordic Art Therapy Conference, Helsinki, Finland 2016

“Avoiding Imagecide” Art of Management Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark,  
with Steven Taylor, 2014

“Art and Nature” Art of Management Conference, London, England 2012

“Art Therapy and Social Responsibility” SDSU, San Diego, CA, 2012

“Intermodal Transfer: Art and Voice” Art of Management Conference, Istanbul, Turkey 2010

“Embracing the Shadow” Art of Management Conference, Banff, Canada, 2008

“Women in Art Therapy” American Art Therapy Association, Albuquerque, NM 2007

“Intermodal Expressive Arts Therapy to Explore Loss and Reconnection: Personal and Ecological Parallels” Pre-conference course with Mimi Farrelly-Hansen, the American Art Therapy Association Conference, New Orleans, 2006

“Art Therapy: Support for Families of the Mentally Ill” NAMI - National Association of the Mentally Ill, 2006

“Art Therapy in the Healing Gardens”  
Rancho Santa Fe Artists Guild, 2006

“Eco-Art Therapy” the School of Visual Arts, New York City  
workshop for the faculty and graduate students, 2006

“Creativity, Spirituality and Healing”  
workshop for the Jewish Healing Center, 2006

“Healing Body, Mind and Spirit”

workshop for Cal-a-Vie Health Spa, 2006

“Exploring Countertransference through Bioenergetics & Art” 2004, American Art Therapy Association Conference, San Diego, California, presentation with Barbara Thompson

“Art Therapy and the Hero’s Journey” 2004 The Art of Management International Conference, Paris, France

“Art Therapy with Artists” 2004, San Dieguito Art Guild

“Art Therapy: Healing through the Arts” 2003, San Diego Museum of Art

“Resilience and Art Therapy” 2003, Children’s Hospital Itinerant Therapists Retreat

“Art Therapy: Creative Renewal through the Arts” 2003, San Diego Museum of Art: North County

“Art Therapy and Psychodrama in Exploring Internalized “Isms” 2003, National Conference on Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama, Santa Fe, New Mexico, presentation with Alyce Smith Cooper

“Art Therapy with Organizations” 2002, The Art of Management, International Conference, London, England

“Art Therapy with the Difficult Child” 2002, San Diego County School Social Workers Association

“Art Therapy: Creating Healing Spaces” 2002, Society for the Arts in Healthcare, National Conference

"Spirituality, Art Therapy and Activism: The Use of Nature in Creativity and Healing" 2001 School of Visual Arts National Conference, New York City panel presentation with Mimi Farrelly-Hansen

"Brain Storms / Soul Storms: Outsider Art and Art Therapy" 2001 Sushi Performance and Visual Arts Gallery - artist lecture

" Nourishing the Patient; Nurturing the Therapist" 2001 International Association of Eating Disorders Professionals Foundation Conference

"The Healing Journey: From Garden Studio to Social Activism" 2000 International Expressive Arts Therapy Association Conference

"Relighting the Creative Flame" 2000 Foundation For Women Conference

"Bridging the Abyss: Art Therapy in Working with the Difficult Client" 2000 California Society for Clinical Social Work

"Art Therapy : Journey from the Garden to Social Action" 2000 Gardens for Humanity, Sedona, Arizona

"Creating a Sense of Place: Journey from the Garden to Social Action" 1999 American Art Therapy Association Opening Plenary Speaker, Orlando

"Art Therapy & Spirituality: Creativity & Healing" 1999 California Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Conference

"Bridging the Abyss: Art Therapy with Adolescents" 1999 Grand Rounds, Children's Hospital

"A.T. and Recovery: The Creative Road Back from Trauma" 1999 North County California Association of Marriage Family Therapists

"Sculptural Exploration of Developmental Models of Autonomy and Interconnection" 1998 American Art Therapy Association Conference - Portland

"Building a Community of Scholars" faculty retreat facilitator 1998 University of San Diego School of Nursing

"Art Therapy: Accessing the Unconscious through the Creative Process" 1998 North County California Association of Marriage Family Therapists

"Art Therapy: Accessing the Unconscious through the Creative Process" 1998 I.C.N.E., Spokane ,WA - guest instructor

"Art Therapy as if the World Mattered" 1997 American Art Therapy Association Conference - Milwaukee

"Revealing and Containing through Art Therapy: PTSD, Creativity and Recovery" 1997 Southern Illinois University lecture and workshop

"When Words Are Not Enough: Art Therapy and Survival" 1997 Adult Survivors of Child Abuse Conference

"Art Therapy: Healing Through Creativity" Multiple Dimensions of Play Therapy: California Statewide Conference 1997

"Encuentro: Art and the Power of Expression" Centro Cultural de la Raza Training Project 1997

"Sculpting Your Protagonist's Environment" Mystery Writer's Conference: Sisters in Crime - "Bare Bones IV" 1997 opening plenary speaker

"A Creative Exploration of Internalized "isms" Through Art, Drama and Poetry" (with George Amelio Sanchez) American Art Therapy Association Conference - Philadelphia 1996

"Binding Our Wounds: Japanese and American Healing Rituals Following Abortion" (with Ava Torrey-Bueno) American Art Therapy Association Conference - Philadelphia 1996

"Collaborating with Artists: Individual and Communal Healing" (with Diane Gage PhD)  
American Art Therapy Association Conference - San Diego 1995

"Women and Art Therapy" Northern and Southern California Art Therapy Associations  
Conference 1995

"Art Therapy and Outsider Art: Exploring Personal Passions" San Diego Museum of Art 1995

"Opening the Window to the Unconscious: The Use of Art, Meditation and Dance in  
Therapy " Marriage, Family , Child Counselor Conference 1995

"Women and Art Therapy: Moving Treatment Beyond the Patriarchal Paradigm" American Art  
Therapy Association Conference - Chicago 1994

"Art Therapy for Women Artist" Women's Caucus for Art Meeting 1994

"Art Therapy : Healing Through Creativity" Nebraska Methodist College: guest Instructor 1994

"Art Therapy in Working with Patients Facing Terminal Illness" Dimensions of Caring -  
National Hospice Conference 1992

"The Use of Art Therapy Following Stillbirth, Miscarriage and Abortion" Knowing Women  
Conference - Association of Humanistic Psychology 1991

"Art Therapy in the Adult Bereavement Process" 1990 and 1991 Kaiser Hospice:  
community presentation

"Art Therapy with Bereaved Children" 1989 Hospice of North Coast: staff training

"Art Therapy for Children in the Nuclear Age" 1989 Canadian Art Therapy Association:  
National Conference

"Art Therapy for the Elderly" 1989 Associated Senior Artists meeting

"Art Therapy in the Nuclear Age" 1989 Symposium: San Diego Art Therapy Association

"The Empty Cradle: Use of Art Therapy in Miscarriage and Stillbirth" 1989 Association of  
Nurse Educators of San Diego meeting

"Art Therapy with Cancer Patients" 1988 The Wellness Community

"Breaking Through the Nuclear Taboo: Art Therapy with Children in the Nuclear Age" 1987  
American Art Therapy Association Conference - Miami

"Women's Workshop: Self Exploration Through Art Therapy" 1987 University of  
California, San Diego: Women's Center

"Art Therapy with the Medically Hospitalized" 1985 Nursing Education Council of San Diego

"Art Therapy in Staff Training and Development" 1985 Sharp Hospital, Cabrillo Alcohol Rehabilitation Program

**TELEVISION AND RADIO APPEARANCES:**

Television interview - ABC with Kimberly Hunt 1998

Radio interview - KPBS with Dan Erwin 1995

Television interview - The Rosemary Broccoli Show 1987

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, RETREATS and SEMINARS:**

Team building retreat for the San Diego Center for Jewish Culture, 2006 University of San Diego, Nursing Department Faculty Retreats 1997 and 1998 Elizabeth Hospice - staff retreat 2000

Boys and Girls Club "PicART" - staff training and consultation 2000-present

Cal Works - San Diego County Social Services- staff retreats 2000-present

County Health and Human Services - staff retreat 2000-present

Perinatal Services Providers - retreat 2000-present

A Reason to Survive (ARTS)- staff training 2001

Staff Support Leader, International Survivors of Torture - 2006

Habitat for Humanity, House Building, New Orleans - 2006

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

American Art Therapy Association	1978 - present
Registered	1981
Served on Regional Qualifying Board	1991 - 1993
Board Certified	1995
Local Arrangements Chair of National Conference:	1995
Served on ATCB nominating committee	2002 - present
San Diego Art Therapy Association	1977 - present
President	1983 - 1985
Treasurer	1989 - 1992
Vice President	1995 - 1999
Southern California Art Therapy Association	1997 - present
California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (SDNC chapter)	2001 - present
International Expressive Art Therapy Association	1996 - present
Registered	1998
International Networking Group (art therapy)	1991 - 1994
United States representative	1991 - 1992
Women's Caucus for the Arts	1992 - present
Foundation for Women	1998 - present
Toast Masters International	2002 - present
Toast Master of the Year	2007 and 2008

## **SHOWS:**

Ann Reilly Gallery 1993 to 1995  
"Art with A View" : Sushi Gallery Invitational Show and Auction  
1994 "San Diego Art Walk" 1994  
"Weaving California Visions": Paladion Art Show 1995  
"Wild Women" : Women's Caucus for Art Juried Show 1997  
"Art with a New View": Sushi Gallery Invitational Show and Auction 1997  
Women's Caucus for Art Members Show 1997  
"Womanhood 1900-1999": Women's Caucus for Art Juried Show 1999  
Women's Caucus for Art Members Show 1999  
"Small Wonders / Little Treasures": Studio Maureen Invitational Show 2000  
"Brain Storms / Soul Storms": Sushi Gallery Juried Show 2001  
Foundation For Women Shows, 2001- present  
"The Telephone Project": La Jolla Fiber Arts Gallery Invitational Show,  
2003 "Still Life and Botanical drawings" La Vida Del Mar, 2008 "Travel  
Sketchbooks" The Athenaeum, 2008  
"Travel Sketchbooks" La Vida Del Mar, 2009



**HONORS:**

Phi Zeta Kappa,

Phi Omega Epsilon,

Phi Alpha Theta,

Sinai Honor Society,

Honor roll: 1968 -1972

Graduated Summa Cum Laude 1972