

My Pal Harriet Wadeson – A Pioneer Powerhouse

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AATA Honorary Life Members Harriet Wadeson, Myra Levick, & Judy Rubin on July 8, 2011, at the 42nd Annual AATA Conference, Washington, DC.

In September of 1970 while attending the first Conference of AATA, I met a woman who was to become one of my favorite colleagues – Harriet Wadeson, PhD, LCSW, ATR-BC, HLM. I had already read and admired some of her 60s publications (as Harriet Sinrod) in the *Bulletin of Art Therapy*. The person I met was as smart and thoughtful as her writing; she was also friendly, attractive, and lots of fun. Harriet Claire Wadeson was that rare individual whose verbal and nonverbal hemispheres were equally creative throughout her long productive life. She was a terrific scholar, but she was also extremely playful. Harriet deserved her many awards and honors, because she contributed so much to AATA and the art therapy profession.

In June, 2015, Harriet received the *Marilyn Richman Legacy Award* at the 40th Anniversary celebration of the Institute for Therapy through the Arts: “Wadeson has shared her expertise as an accomplished author, researcher, educator, and international guest lecturer who has presented papers, led professional delegations, and conducted workshops in 14 countries throughout Europe and Asia. She has authored eight books, 70 papers in refereed journals, and numerous chapters in psychology and art therapy texts. After 13 years at the National Institute of Mental Health, she earned her Ph.D. and continued to teach and direct graduate programs at The University of Houston, University of Illinois, and Northwestern University.”

In September, 2015, Harriet was given the *Myra Levick Award for Excellence in Art Therapy*. She was ahead of her time - working multimodally, teaching overseas, creating poetry and prose along with art. She faced her final illness with courage and creativity. I am glad to have known her, and so very sad to lose her. A truly valued friend, loved by many. We are all the richer for having known and learned from Dr. Harriet Wadson.