



Maryland Massage

AMTA Maryland Chapter Newsletter

Autumn 2009

Favorable Court Ruling for Animal Massage

by Wayne M. Parker, LMT

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AMTA Maryland Chapter
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 443-612-9119
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On July 30, 2009, Judge David Boynton of the Montgomery County Circuit Court ended a 17-month battle for Mercedes Clemens, LMT. He ruled that the former Board of Chiropractic Examiners exceeded its authority in issuing a cease and desist order prohibiting Mercedes from practicing massage on horses or any other animals within the state. In his ruling, Judge Boynton declared that Clemens could resume her practice of animal massage.



photo by Institute for Justice Client Mercedes Clemens, used by permission.

The Battle Began...

In February 2008, Clemens received a cease and desist order from the Board of Chiropractic Examiners (BCE) ordering her to immediately stop performing animal massage and to take down her website, or suffer the immediate revocation of her license to practice massage therapy on humans. The BCE also sent her a copy of an undated letter from the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical

Examiners (VME) to all licensed massage therapists and chiropractors, advising that the practice of massage therapy by non-veterinarians was considered to be the unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine and subject to fines and possibly criminal charges.

... And Continued

In June 2008, the Institute for Justice (IJ) filed a lawsuit against the VME and the BCE on Clemens' behalf. The lawsuit sought relief from the VME's threat of fines and criminal charges for

practicing unlicensed veterinary medicine and from the cease and desist order issued by the BCE to allow her to return to the profession she loves.

In July 2008, the VME withdrew its objection, reversing its position that only veterinarians could practice animal massage. However, even with the position reversal by the

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**James Graffenberg LMT, CPT
will teach
Active Isolated Stretching Class
September 25, 26, & 27**

Woodglen Building
5640 Nicholson Lane, Suite211
Rockville, MD 20852

Across from White Flint Mall, and one block from White Flint Metro.

24 CE hours will be awarded (MT and PT).

Limited Class Size: Only 6 students will be accepted.

Contact James Graffenberg - 301-466-9728.

SEATS STILL AVAILBLE, CALL TODAY!

**Office Space for Rent for
Massage Therapist
Or
Physical Therapist**

Woodglen Building
5640 Nicholson Lane, Suite211
Rockville, MD 20852

Across from White Flint Mall--
one block from White Flint Metro.

Contact James Graffenberg - 301-466-9728.

President's Message

WOW!!! The heat finally got here just as summer was wrapping up. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer, but if you are like me you are looking ahead to fall to see what it will bring.

First, the kiddies are back in school, but what about me? What education am I looking for this year? Well, I will be taking advantage of the CE credits available at the Nov 8th Fall Chapter at the CCBC Essex campus. (Look for more details in this newsletter on page 13.)

Summer is coming to a close too soon for me, so I am extending it by attending the AMTA National Convention in Orlando—it's always summer in Florida, right? Since the convention is partly about education, I will come home with lots of CE credits.

The Chapter will also be offering a CPR class in October—see the details in this issue on page 5. And our advertisers also offer CE classes, so remember to check out the ads in this issue. Remember to evaluate the classes you take to be sure they will meet your CE requirements for renewing your license next year. Cher Hunter gives us an article on what she calls CE Fraud on page 6

National Massage Therapy Awareness Week (NMTAW) is coming up soon--October 25-31 (see page 15). This is the time to educate someone (or many people) with an event to celebrate this focus on our profession. Let us know what you are planning as soon as possible by

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calling the Chapter office (443 612 9119) or sending an email to amtamd@yahoo.com and we will assist you in any way we can.

Ruth Stoloff has written an article on growing your business that is full of good ideas and you might be able to use one of them during NMTAW. See her article on page 8

Well that's all for now. I look forward to seeing you all at Fall Chapter meeting.

Krista Young LMT
President, AMTA-MD Chapter

New Members Selected for the Board of Chiropractic and Massage Therapy Examiners

Governor Martin J. O'Malley selected three Licensed Massage Therapists to serve on the newly created Board of Chiropractic and Massage Therapy Examiners. Those selected were: Clyde Anderson, LMT; Karen Biagiotti, LMT; and Gwenda Harrison, LMT. One member will serve a two year term and two members will serve four year terms.

On behalf of the AMTA—Maryland Chapter, I congratulate the three massage therapists who were selected for the Board positions. I also thank those who submitted applications for the positions as well as those who sat on

(Continued on page 8)

Chapter Executive Officers

President	Krista Young	410-661-9505 KristaYoung@verizon.net
Immediate Past President	Martin Chamberlain	301-223-8160 MartyC@myactv.net
1 st Vice President	Michele Kilcer	443-880-7366 insmak@yahoo.com
2 nd Vice President	Colleen Renehan	410-491-1500 hapkidolady@yahoo.com
3 rd Vice President	Anita Benedictis	443-325-7777 anita7@comcast.net
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Treasurer	Wayne Parker	410-322-3260 wmpamtamd@hotmail.com

CALL THE CHAPTER OFFICE if your contact information has changed!

Chapter Telephone — 443-612-9119
Chapter Web Site — www.amtamd.org
Chapter Fax — -443-612-9151 and 1-866-449-0693

Chapter Committee Chairs

Education	Anita Benedictis	443-325-7777 anita7@comcast.net
Law and Legislative	Wayne Parker	410-322-3260
Vice Chair:	Michele Kilcer	443-880-7366 insmak@yahoo.com
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Meeting Planning	OPEN	
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AMTA National Office Toll-free — 877-905-2700
AMTA National Web Site — www.amtamassage.org
BE SURE to contact National Office if any of YOUR contact information changes!

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photo by Institute for Justice Client Mercedes Clemens, used by permission.

Institute for Justice, news articles from the Washington Post and Gazzet.net, and Montgomery County Circuit Court transcripts.

A Tribute to Mercedes Clemens

by Barbara Davenport

Mercedes Clemens is a Licensed Massage Therapist in Gaithersburg. For nearly 18 months, until July 30th of this year, she was under an animal massage cease and desist order issued by the Maryland Board of Chiropractic Examiners (BCE), now the Board of Chiropractic and Massage Therapy Examiners (BCMTE). During this time Mercedes has sent emails to AMTA members about her legal battles, the setbacks she encountered and the slow progress of the case.

Mercedes Clemens practices massage therapy for humans in Rockville and, until all this came about, also offered animal massage at client locations. "In addition to being a licensed massage therapist for people, Mercedes has more than 30 years of practical experience as a horse owner and rider, has been privately certified in equine massage and has even taught animal massage to others," according to an Institute for Justice (IJ) press release following the successful conclusion of her case.

Mercedes was blessed to have competent and compassionate IJ attorneys in Paul Sherman and Scott Bullock. Institute for Justice is an Arlington, Virginia-based non-profit group that represents small business owners pro bono, challenging what it believes to be excessive government regulation that stifles entrepreneurship. Favorable articles about the case appeared in

A Message

from

Wayne Parker, LMT

Chair of the AMTA-MD Law and Legislation Committee



We at AMTA–Maryland Chapter would like to extend our appreciation to the Institute for Justice for taking Mercedes Clemens’ case on a pro-bono basis. We encourage those who practice animal massage therapy to make a contribution to the Institute for Justice for its work on this case. To do so, visit the Institute’s website at <http://www.ij.org/> and select “Donate”. You may also view Clemens’ case, along with other cases that the Institute for Justice is involved with.

Also, the AMTA–Maryland Chapter and its Board of Directors support Chapter members who practice animal massage therapy, despite AMTA National’s position on the practice. AMTA–Maryland Chapter will fight against legislation or regulations that infringe on the practice of animal massage therapy.

We are forming an Animal Massage Therapy Committee under the Law and Legislation Committee for the purpose of monitoring animal massage therapy and its therapists.

VME, the BCE (now the Maryland Board of Chiropractic and Massage Therapy Examiners [BC&MTE]) stood its ground with the cease and desist order.

In June 2009, the BC&MTE withdrew the cease and desist order, but held firm that LMTs and RMPs could not practice on animals because they were governed by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. This position held by the BC&MTE is what led this case to court this summer. The IJ argument was that BC&MTE does not have the authority to regulate animal massage and thus the BC&MTE could not prohibit LMTs and RMPs for practicing animal massage. Judge Boynton agreed with this argument.

... to the Win

For now, Clemens, along with other LMTs and RMPs who practice animal massage, can offer animal massage therapy without fear of prosecution. However, future legislation may change this status, as legislatures always have the ability to enact laws that counteract court decisions.

This article was compiled, in part, from press releases from the

The Washington Post, The Maryland Daily Record, The Equiery, and The Gazette in support of Mercedes and IJ in this endeavor to establish limits of regulatory boards in governing the practice of animal massage by Maryland LMTs and RMPs.

I closely followed Mercedes' progress and attended the final hearing on July 30th. Other supporters attending the hearing included Paul Fleming, LMT (Washington, DC); Leslie Diamond, LMT (Annapolis); Ronald (LMT) and JoAnn Nicholls (Sykesville); Kelly Bowers, LMT (Washington, DC); John Kelly of *The Washington Post*; Trish Rimo of Public Affairs Professionals; and Pam Wanveer (Silver Spring), a Tellington Touch practitioner.

I observed the dignity and professionalism Mercedes displayed throughout the hearing and I felt proud to be there. This has been a successful ending to her struggle against being denied the practice of horse massage - her passion - for almost 18 months.

Mercedes has opened up the opportunity for others to pursue the practice of animal massage. For her meritorious work and her patience and perseverance, she will receive the Maryland Chapter's Meritorious Award for 2009.

For further insight on Mercedes' animal massage practice, visit her website <http://thebetteranimal.com/>

Barbara Davenport, LMT is the Montgomery County Representative for the AMTA-MD Chapter

INTRODUCTION TO YAMUNA™ BODY ROLLING

OCTOBER 4, 2009

"I really loved the Yamuna Body Rolling class. Boy, did I find muscles that needed stretching. And the best part—I can do it at midnight, if I want to."

Carol Lancaster

Self-care for massage therapists that's effective and FUN!!!

Learn total-body routines in one four-hour workshop

\$95 including ball and pump

Earn 4 credit hours ♦ Small classes ♦ Baltimore City location

Last 2009 Class October 4th 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

FALL CLASS SPECIAL: FREE Practice CD for all attendees

Nina Wendt, LMT, Certified Yamuna™ Body Rolling Educator

Call 410-243-6064 or email nina.wendt@verizon.net

CPR CLASS INFORMATION

The AMTA Maryland Chapter will conduct Basic Life Saving for Healthcare Providers at the

AMTA Chapter office,
1701 Edmondson Ave.,
Catonsville, MD 21228

Date: Oct 10 & 11, 2009

Time: 1-5pm for all 3 parts taken on location

10am-12noon for those who take Part 1 online at home,

Parts 2 & 3 on location

*complete course online, print certificate and bring to morning class. A \$1.50 fee will be charged to print certificate on site.

Fee: Full course (3 parts) \$50 for AMTA members,

\$60 for non-members

Online \$30 for AMTA members,

\$40 for non-members

To register: Call the AMTA office at 443-612-9119

Mail in registration to
1701 Edmondson Ave.
Catonsville, MD 21228

Check on line at www.amtamd.org

This course is for healthcare providers seeking an initial or renewal BLS which reinforces adult, child and infant CPR.

Continuing Education Caveat Emptor!

by Cher Hunter, LMT

Caveat emptor is Latin for "Let the buyer beware." There are many ways to get scammed these days – we are all familiar with the absurd e-mails telling us of someone who is coming to town for a few weeks and wants to get a massage everyday . . . However, there is another way to get scammed that may not be so obvious. It's called CE Fraud. This is where someone offers a continuing education course and indicates that it is NCBTMB approved when this is not the case.

Recently, I ran across an ad for a Thai Massage course that seemed questionable, so I went to the NCBTMB website

(<http://www.ncbtmb.org/cgi-bin/ActSearch.cgi>) and did a search for all approved providers in Maryland. I learned that the course in question was offered by an individual who was *not* an NCBTMB-approved provider.

You can be sure you are using approved providers by looking on the NCB webpage listed above and selecting **MD** under State. You can then obtain a complete listing of approved providers in Maryland. Note that, in some cases, it is the organization that is the approved provider, not an individual instructor. Additionally, if the instructors teach nationally but do not live in Maryland, they will be listed under

the states in which they reside.

Another caution for Maryland massage therapists when selecting continuing education programs is to differentiate between those courses which will count toward the Maryland State Board's Continuing Education requirement and those which you are doing for your own growth and development, but which the State Board may not honor. For example, you can take a Gross Anatomy class such as the one offered by Kent Health Systems and that will be accepted, but if you go back to college and take an Anatomy and Physiology course simply to deepen your own understanding of the body, it may not be accepted by the board even though it is a college level course, because anatomy and physiology are part of your basic massage training.

Maryland requires the following CE credits during each two-year renewal cycle:

- a minimum of 3 CE hours in professional ethics, jurisprudence, or risk management;
- a minimum of 3 CE hours in communicable diseases including HIV/AIDS; and
- a minimum of 18 CE hours in massage therapy or related courses.

Also note that while CPR is required for renewal, it does not count as part of the required CE hours. And remember, you must maintain records of your CE courses, including completion certificates.

Generally, Maryland will accept NCBTMB-approved courses, with

the exception of courses designed to teach business-building practices such as insurance, business management, marketing or other "money-making practices". Courses that count toward CE requirements must be within the scope of practice for Licensed Massage Therapists and Registered Massage Practitioners.

NCBTMB Continuing Education Tips defines courses which are and are not acceptable for NCBTMB approval on its website.

Remember: approved providers will be able to supply their provider numbers. They will also be found on the NCBTMB website.

The deadline to complete your continuing education for your license renewal will be here before you know it!



Cher Hunter is director of the Massage Therapy Program at the Community College of Baltimore County, Essex. Her email is: chunter@ccbcmd.edu You can learn more about CCBC's massage therapy program and its CE offerings at http://www.ccbcmd.edu/allied_health/massage_therapy/



CCBC
The Community College
of Baltimore County

**New NCBTMB Approved CEU Courses for 2009-2010
for Massage Therapists & Body Workers**

*CCBC offers courses that will enhance your professional
expertise and meet Maryland licensure renewal requirements.*

Ethics and Law for the Massage Therapist (3 CEU's - NCBTMB)

Course Number: AHL744/83874

October 10, 2009 9am-12pm \$60

This course will meet Maryland State Ethics Continuing Education Requirements and may also be applied to NCBTMB Ethics requirements. Legal issues such as HIPPA, confidentiality, record keeping, lawsuits, risk management and more will be discussed. In addition, diverse topics will be covered in review of laws regarding the practice of massage therapy, scope of practice, standards of practice, business ethics and more.

Jean Wible

CCBC-Essex Campus

HIV/AIDS Infection Control for Massage Therapists (3 CEU's - NCBTMB)

Course Number: AHL745/83873

October 10, 2009 1pm-4pm \$60

This course will meet Maryland State HIV and Infection Control continuing education requirements. Topics covered will include pathophysiology of HIV/AIDS, how it is transmitted, current treatment and epidemiologic trends and what this means to the massage therapists work. In addition, Hepatitis, TB, MRSA, and other common infections and infection control standards will be presented and discussed.

Jean Wible

CCBC-Essex Campus

Orthopedic Massage Lower Body: Contemporary Clinician (16 CEU's - NCBTMB)

Course Number: AHL738/82869

October 17-18, 2009 9am-6pm \$320

Learn hands on orthopedic assessment techniques to reveal signs of most common musculoskeletal injuries. Learn how to match the physiology of the injury to the massage treatment, plan interventions, and quickly adapt the therapeutic approach to changes in the body. **To register email samseminarinfo@gmail.com or call 410-961-5353**

Samuel Blechman.LMT

CCBC-Essex Campus

Ohashiatsu, Beginning I and II (30 CEU's NCBTMB)

Course Number: AHL746/83876

October 24-25, 2009 and November 7-8, 2009 9:30am-5:30pm \$450

This course introduces the concept of Ki, Yin and Yang, and the 12 meridians. Learn to perceive the flow of energy in the body and observe its manifestations in the meridians, tsubos, physical movement and personal habits. Basic techniques are taught which can be practiced immediately with friends and family. It will enhance your professional skills and enrich your daily life.

Hazel Chung

CCBC-Catonsville Campus

Coming in 2010:

Check back for dates on the following great Classes! More to come - we are still scheduling for next year.

Nurturing the Mother, with Claire Marie Miller

Thai Massage – Cher Hunter

Body Mechanics and Self- Care with The Feldenkrais® – Peggi Honig

Introduction to TRAGER® Approach – Bob Clark

Massage for the fully clothed client – Cher Hunter

Maryland State Requirements - Ethics & HIV

Bodywork for the Dying – Jean Wible

Thai Seated Massage – Cher Hunter

Fibromyalgia Massage – Cher Hunter

Pathology for Massage Therapists – Jean Wible

Yoga Therapy Self Care – Cher Hunter

Massage Therapy Research – Dr. Martha Menard

AND much more to come!

To Register:

You will need the Course Numbers noted with each individual course in order to register.

By phone: 443-840-4700

On-line: www.ccbcmd.edu/ceed/reg.html (directions on bottom of page)

For More Information Contact: Jean Wible 443-840-1069

Growing your Massage Business

by Ruth W. Stolloff, LMT

There are many therapists who seem lost when it comes to marketing their practices. The first thing to learn is that you have to treat your practice like a business. You have to **be the owner**. Part of treating your practice as a business is developing and using effective marketing strategies.

I have been in practice as a massage therapist for six and a half years. My former career was in sales and I've been able to use the skills and techniques I learned to build my massage practice. In this article, I will share some of the ways to I have found to be successful in marketing and growing my practice.

These strategies are easy and can work for you as they have done and are doing for me.

Talk

Clients just do not magically appear. If people do not know what you do, they won't know they can

get a massage from you. Talk about what you do and your practice. Don't be shy. And remember part of letting people know what you do is to put out your business card everywhere you can.

Network

Join a networking group like BNI at www.bnimaryland.com, the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, or Women's Business Network (WBN). Most of these groups allow only one member of a profession in the group so your competition is locked out. You have a sales team! (Yes, there is an expense, but it is worth it.)

Give

Create your own opportunity to do seated massage for charity. Your Seated Massages Events are not free. You charge \$5 (or any price point) and donate the proceeds to a charity. This will put you out in the community and give you visibility. You will have to work out a location or event and secure permission, but it will be well worth the time you put into organizing the event. You will get business, the charity will be grateful, and perhaps the place where you host the event will benefit from increased traffic or

attendance. It is a win-win-win situation.

Educate

Give talks to educate the public. I have found that many people still think of us as masseuses and that massages are a luxury. The clients I attract from giving talks know that Therapeutic Massage is a Need, not a luxury.

Offer Package Deals.

This will guarantee steady clients for 5, 6, or 10 sessions. Chances are that these clients will continue to buy packages from you.

Be proud of your certificates and licenses. Show them off.

Tout your Education

Be proud of your CE certificates. Show them off by hanging them where you display your license.

Try one or all of these ideas. You will see your practice grow.

Ruth W. Stolloff, LMT is the owner of Baystate Therapeutic Massage in Columbia, Maryland.

(Continued from page 3)

an interim committee during the selection process. These additional individuals were: Anita Benedictis, LMT; Barbara Davenport, LMT; Pamela Faulkner, LMT; Judith Mann, LMT; Wayne Parker, LMT; and Alexa Zaledonis, LMT. To the right is a photo of the entire board.

Krista Young, President, AMTA-MD Chapter



Back Row from left to right - Jonathan Nou, D.C., Daniel Kraus, D.C., Mary Anne Frizzera-Hucek, M.S. Consumer Member (Treasurer/Secretary), Karen Biagiotti LMT, Gwenda Harrison LMT, Clyde Anderson LMT
Front Row from left to right - Duane Sadula, D.C. Past President, Grant Gerber Esq. Board Counsel, Kay O'Hara, D.C. Board President, Stephanie Chaney, D.C. Vice President, Issie Shelton-Jenkins, J.D., Consumer Member

Algerian Internet Scam

by Colleen Renehan

During the Fall 2008 chapter meeting, members expressed concern about the emails being sent to therapists regarding clients coming from overseas to book massage sessions with U.S. therapists. The question was put forth as to whether or not these “bookings” are legitimate. My advice to the assembly was that these emails should be deleted and NOT responded to as they are scams.

However, as I thought further about the situation, I decided I would respond to one of these scams. I would follow it through in order to provide a step-by-step account of the process for our Maryland chapter members. This decision became far more of a nightmare than I ever imagined.

I received an email from “Susan Catrall” indicating that her client was coming to the U.S. and would like to schedule five massages during her stay here. I responded that I would love to see the lady and asked when she would like to schedule the appointments.

I was told that I would be sent a check for my services as well as for the client’s hotel and other expenses. I, of course, knew what was going on, so I advised the lady that I could **not** accept payment in excess of my fees and that I would **not** disseminate funds.

Within a week, I received a bank check by UPS at my office (the day before Thanksgiving) in the amount of \$4,800.00. I attempted to contact the FBI and local state police to determine the source of the payment and to determine what they felt was the best way to handle the check. My personal feeling was that this could be a money laundering process for terrorists.

On Monday, I received an e-mail inquiring as to whether or not the check had been received. I responded that as it was a holiday here in the U.S., I would not be in to my office until Tuesday and that I would let her know if the check had indeed arrived.

In the meantime I was still calling the FBI and state police to obtain insight as to what to do with the check. The difficulty getting in touch with these agencies may have been due to the holiday.

On Wednesday, I again received an e-mail asking if the check was indeed in my possession. I responded yes, I did indeed receive the check, but that it was in the wrong amount and that I would have to return the check to be reissued in the correct amount. “Susan” asked that I cash it right away, keeping \$350 for my services and sending the balance to her so that her client could come to the U.S. I advised her again that I would not disseminate funds and asked that the check be re-cut for the correct amount and asked for a return address and contact name.

I went to my bank with the check and spoke to one of the managers regarding disposition of the check. I

was told that they DO have a fraud unit, but that to the best of her knowledge when the checks are turned in, they are placed in a bin and never actually acted upon because of the impossible nature of trying to track these people down.

I was advised that most banks will cash the bank checks up front, if funds are available in the account of the person cashing the check. When the check bounces, the person cashing the check is now out the money he or she has dispersed. She offered to forward the check to the fraud unit if I wanted. I elected to keep the check.

I got a call on my business phone at home on Saturday evening, The man on the line was very difficult to understand due to a heavy foreign accent, but I was able to pick out the words “Colleen” and “check.”

On Monday afternoon between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m., I received a series of eight spam calls from “restricted” numbers. I answered the first call and was met by a very belligerent male demanding that I cash the check! I did not answer any more of the calls. On Tuesday, the same spam calls occurred again in the same time frame.

On Wednesday, an FBI field agent finally contacted me. He said that these scam artists are so good at what they do that it is impossible to track them down. They rely on the goodness of the people they scam to feel sorry for the “clients” and deposit the check.

These scammers have banks of

(Continued on page 10)

Current prices to advertise in the *Maryland Massage* newsletter:

1/8 page	\$25.00
1/4 page	\$40.00
1/2 page	\$70.00
1 page	\$100.00
1 page (double-sided)	\$150.00
Individually hand-stuffed inserts	+\$50.00 per issue
Classified advertisement	\$25.00 per 25 words

If you would like to advertise in this newsletter, please contact the Chapter Office, 443-512-9119. Please include sample ad copy (Microsoft Word format preferred), your name, company, address, city, state, ZIP code, daytime phone, evening phone, e-mail address.

Upcoming 2009-2010 Publication Deadlines:

- October 16th for December publication
- January 11th for February publication

(Continued from page 9)

operators stationed all over the world in places like Costa Rica where they remain out of U.S. jurisdiction. There was nothing the FBI could do to help. I suggested that perhaps if I returned the check they would stop. I was told that would just be “fanning the fire”. Once they have you on the hook, the more you tug, the harder they pull. I was advised to keep the check and frame it. Put it in an obvious place on the wall as a reminder to all chapter members who see it of the implications of responding to the scams. (It is going on the Chapter office wall.)

In the meantime, the daily spam calls continued. One of my male associates offered to answer the call for me one evening. He spoke to the man on the line as I listened. He asked when the client wished to

schedule the appointments, and advised that we would most definitely deposit the check tomorrow, and asked the name of the bank so that he could verify funds. At this, the man hung up. After the call, my colleague said he believed that the caller had an Algerian accent.* Sure enough, I received an e-mail from “Susan” indicating that she was now trapped in Algeria, frightened and alone, with no way out unless I cashed the check and sent her money.

There were no more spam calls for about a week. When they began again in earnest, I emailed the “client” and advised her that I had taken the check to the bank for deposit. The bank, in discovering that the check was handwritten on an expired document, had confiscated the check and accused me of attempting to defraud them

and that I was now in BIG trouble (a small white lie out of desperation).

The calls finally stopped.

Colleen Renehan is 2nd Vice President of the AM TA-MD Chapter. Her email address is hapkidolady@yahoo.com

* I was told by one of the FBI agents I spoke to that the Algerian government actually endorses these scams and offers courses to the population teaching them to be better scammers. The FBI can always tell when a new class graduates, because there is a huge surge in the internet scams. Of course, the Algerians are not the only foreign nationals engaging in these scams, but this one was determined to have come from Algeria.

Upcoming CE Workshop in Baltimore

Erik Dalton's Myoskeletal Engine Tuneup for Neck, Locked Lumbars and Legs

November 13 - 15, 2009

Sheraton Hotel & Resorts BWI • Baltimore, Maryland

3 Day Workshop... \$395 | 24 CE credits

Dalton's '**Myoskeletal Engine**' class teaches bodywork therapists how to find and fix chronic "kinetic chain kinks". Guaranteed to enhance your skills and energize your practice, these pioneering deep tissue, muscle energy and joint-stretching routines will take your clients to a new level of health.

Learn to correct stubborn conditions such as:

- Sciatic & SI Syndromes
- Neck Cricks
- Foot, Knee, & Leg Pain
- Scoliosis
- Lumbago
- Facet/Rib Torsions

To register call 800-766-1942 or register at
<http://daltonworkshops.com>

Don't miss Erik Dalton's 8th Annual
Pain Management in Paradise
at the beautiful Pura Vida Resort and Spa
in San Jose, Costa Rica

MAY 1 – 8, 2010 - 26 CEs

Call **800-766-1942** to register
Early Bird discounts for registering before Jan. 1, 2010



Attention Bodyworkers:

'My Thai' Is Back in Metro DC!

*3-Day Workshop -- Thai-Style Stretching and
Deep Tissue Massage Fusion*

24 NCBTMB CE Hrs.

In a small group, we will have loads of fun learning new material and combining it with what you already know. You will also receive a lot of individual attention to help you develop your new skills as you improve your old ones.

The first 3 Sundays in November (1.8 & 15). 2009 in Bethesda, Maryland

Cost: \$450 Early registration: \$375 (by October 1)

Andrea Caplan, B.A., LMT, is a graduate of the Baltimore School of Massage with over 12 years of experience as a massage therapist, bodyworker and instructor in private practice in the metropolitan Washington, DC area.

To register, or for more information, please contact Andrea at 301.346.5716, or visit her website, <http://www.thebodypolitic.net>

Baron and Butler School of Massage

18947 John J Williams Highway
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware 19971

Continuing Education Classes: Fall 2009

Sunday, November 8, 2009 S.E.E.M. Technique with Raju Mantina
9am-6pm 8 CEs Tuition: \$175

Learn from this internationally known, Olympiad massage therapist. Raju Mantina has developed a technique that will take your massage practice to a new level. Using a unique combination of sports massage, stretching, myofascial work and intuition, you will be able to provide your clients with dramatically increased range of motion, pain relief, promotion of healing and freedom in their bodies.

Friday, November 13, 2009 Flash Fire Cupping for Massage Therapists with Anita Benedictis
5-9pm 4 CEs Tuition: \$90 (includes a cupping set)

Flash fire cupping is an ancient technique used by physicians and acupuncturists over the centuries. Learn how to incorporate this skill into your massage session to provide deep tissue work using reciprocal action. This technique provides both the client and the therapist relief in a short period of time with immediately noticeable results.

Saturday & Sunday, November 14 & 15, 2009 Holistic Reflexology, Level I with David Cox
9-5pm 14 CEs Tuition: \$250

In this 2-day intensive workshop students will learn Foot Reflexology incorporating Zone Therapy along with Chakra Therapy. Integrating Zone and Chakra therapies students will learn the relationship of these healing modalities to the body's systems, organs and ailments. Also, how the connection of these modalities to the physical, emotional and energetic bodies can be used to aid in the healing process. Certification available, after completion of Level Two course, also required for certification: completion of an exam and 20 outside sessions.

For more information or to register, please contact Anita at 443-325-7777 or infinitymore@comcast.net.

Be sure to ask about our discount specials.

FALL AMTA Meeting

Sunday, November 8, 2009 9am-3:30pm

Location: Community College of Baltimore County-Essex Campus. Building B, Second Floor.

Speaker: Samuel Blechman, NCMT, LMT

Topic: “Self Care for Massage Therapists”

This interactive class will be useful for all bodyworkers. You will be given practical exercises and stretches to keep your body free from overuse injuries. Done regularly, the exercises you learn will help to lengthen your career as a massage therapist.

Please wear comfortable clothing.

Fee: \$25 for AMTA members, \$50 for non-members Price includes 3 CE credits and lunch.

**You MUST stay for the entire day to receive your CE certificate.

Please register on line at www.amtamd.org

OR call in your registration to 443-612-9119 Check, MasterCard and Visa accepted.

Agenda

9:30am	Registration
10am-1pm	“Self Care for Massage Therapists”
1-2pm	Lunch: Speakers TBA
2-3:30pm	Delegate Election for 2010 AMTA National Convention Business Meeting

How To Get To CCBC Essex:

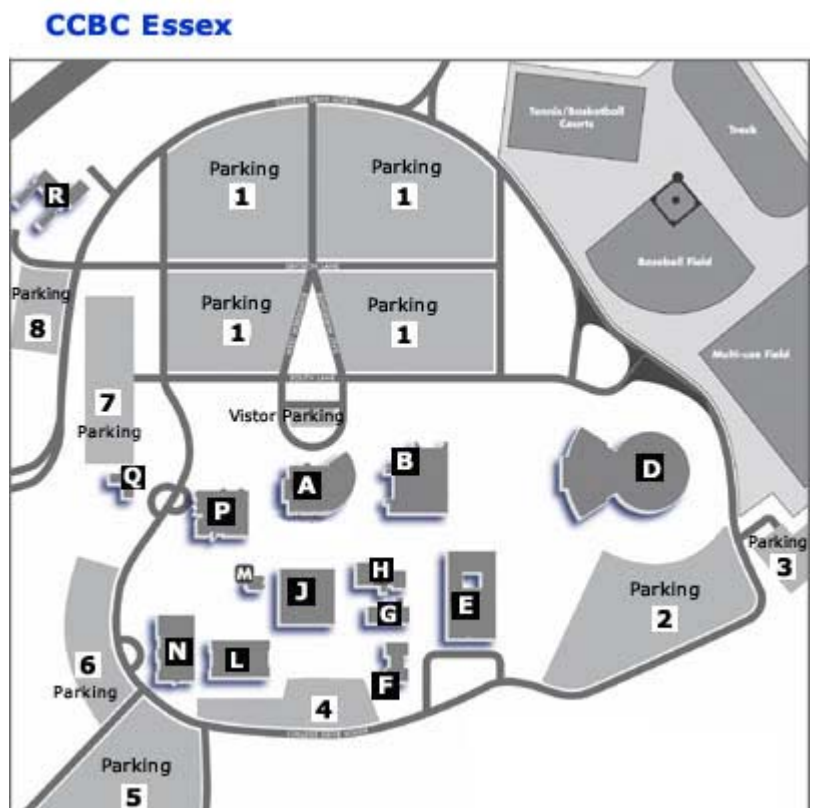
7201 Rossville Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21237

CCBC Essex is located off Baltimore Beltway (695)
Exit 34 (Rosedale).

At Exit 34, turn onto Maryland Route 7 (Philadelphia
Road) heading towards White Marsh.

Proceed one-quarter mile and turn left onto Rossville
Boulevard.

The campus is approximately one mile on the right adja-
cent to the Franklin Square Hospital Center and is
served by MTA bus routes 24 and 55.



WEB RESOURCES

AMTA National Information Center. New design, updated navigation, fresh content. This site has research information, info on complementary and alternative medicine and articles on the business of massage.

<http://www.amtamassage.org/infocenter/index.html>

Massage Mag dot com is the online side of the print magazine. There are many articles online for free, including one that discusses the controversy over NCBTMB creating a membership organization.

<http://www.massagemag.com>

Maryland State Board Of Chiropractic And Massage Therapy Examiners. One valuable resource on this web site is the PDF file that contains all the laws and regulations as of the updates effective October 2008. This file is 33 pages, and much more convenient than accessing the laws and regulations online in the state government systems.

<http://www.mdmassage.org>

On Guard Online is a government web site with information on how to file complaints for the type of fraud Colleen wrote about in this issue. <http://www.onguardonline.gov/file-complaint.aspx>

Who Is Today's Massage Therapist?

Today's Massage Therapists are...⁵

- Most likely to enter the massage therapy profession as a second career.
- Predominantly female (85%).
- In their early-40s, on average.
- Most likely to be members of a professional organization.
- Most likely to be sole practitioners.
- Working an average of 19 hours a week providing massage. (Excluding time spent on other business tasks such as billing, bookkeeping, supplies, maintaining equipment, marketing, scheduling, etc.)
- Charging an average of \$63 for one hour of massage.
- Earning an average wage of \$41.50 an hour (including tip) for all massage related work.
- Giving an average of 41 massages per month.
- Working in the industry on average for 6.3 years.
- Likely to provide massage therapy in a number of settings, including their own home, spa/salon, their own office, a healthcare setting, health club/athletic facility, or massage therapy only franchise or chain.
- Eighty-nine percent (89 percent) of massage therapists provide Swedish massage, followed by 82 percent who provide deep tissue massage, 52 percent trigger point, and 49 percent sports massage.

From <http://www.amtamassage.org/news/MTIndustryFactSheet.html>

Pamper your clients with *Wellness*

Treat your clients to the wellness they deserve through our element balancing treatments and line of products made of pure, natural/organic ingredients and 100% pure essential oils. Custom formulations available. Offer the treatments as holiday specials and include a free sample body care product with purchase. Your clients will thank you for it!

Created by Jakki Wienecke formerly of
Body Logic Wellness Spa

*Divine
Creations
Aromatherapy*

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