

## JOANN FLYNN, M.Ed., CPT

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### CERTIFIED POETRY THERAPIST

#### PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

##### Certified Poetry Therapist

- Volunteered to facilitate a weekly poetry and expressive arts group with inmates at York Correctional Institution in Niantic, Connecticut. October 2006-present.
- Volunteered to facilitate a weekly expressive arts group with youthful offenders in prison at York Correctional Institute in Niantic, Connecticut. June 2012-present.
- Volunteered to facilitate a weekly expressive arts group with women coping with domestic violence at ArtWorks, Norwich, Connecticut. June 2012-present.
- Volunteered to facilitate a poetry therapy group with frail elderly/dementia patients at Essex Meadows Health Center, Essex, Connecticut. May 18, 2004-October 5, 2004..
- Volunteered as a Teaching Artist to present a *Poems from my Heart* poetry workshop to sixth grade classes at Lyme/Old Lyme Middle School, October 25, 2004, October 11, 2006, and May 2007.

##### Creative Artist

*Designed original curriculum materials to promote confidence and creativity in the poem-making process for populations challenged with self-expression:*

- Published and marketed *Color Word Wheels*© and *Theme Word Wheels*© which are widely used throughout the poetry therapy community.
- Developed an original technique of *Torn Poem Paintings* to facilitate expression of grief through poetry, art, and dream work.
- Created *The Poetic Dog Biscuit Project*©, a poetry project promoting expression of grief, enhancing self-esteem and benefiting the Humane Society.
- Originated *The Friendship Garden Project* to facilitate the healing process through gardening and poetry.

##### Professional Certifications

- National Federation for Biblio/Poetry Therapy certificate for successfully completing all requirements for certified poetry therapist, awarded in May 2005.
- SoulCollage® Facilitator Training Certificate October 2010.
- Salve Regina University, Expressive Arts Institute certificate for professional development training in Expressive Arts Educational Facilitation awarded in November 2006.
- Connecticut Professional Certification in Special Education and Regular Education, grades PreK-6.
- Massachusetts Certification in grades 1-6 and Moderate Special Needs grades PreK-9.

## National Presenter/Speaker

- Presented original Poetry Therapy Workshop: *Don't Forget the Zinnias: Accessing the Poet Within the Child and Elderly Populations* for poetry therapists at the Annual Conference of the National Association for Poetry Therapy in St. Louis, Missouri, May 7, 2005.
- Presented full-day original Poetry Workshops for Educators: *Tender Seedlings: Nurturing Special Needs Children Through Poetry* at LEARN Professional Development Programs, in Old Lyme, Connecticut, March 25, 2001 and March 23, 2003.
- Presented original Poetry Therapy Workshop, *Navigating an Ocean of Tears: Techniques for Expressing Grief through Art, Dream Work, and Poetry* for Poetry Therapists in training at the Creative 'Righting' Center's Summer Supervision at St. Birgitta Convent, Darien, Connecticut, August 3, 2004.
- Presented original Poetry Therapy Workshop: *Tender Seedlings: Nurturing Troubled Children Through Empowering Poetry Projects* at the Annual Conference of the National Association for Poetry Therapy in Washington, D.C., April 21, 2001
- Presented *Tender Seedlings Poetry Workshops* for Poetry Therapists in training at The Institute for the Arts in Psychotherapy, New York, NY, November 2003 and November 2001.
- Selected to present original Poetry Therapy Workshop: *Seascapes of Healing: Navigating an Ocean of Emotions through Poetry, Art, Movement and Sound* for poetry therapists at the Annual Conference of the National Association for Poetry Therapy in Portland, Oregon, April 21, 2007.

## AWARDS

- **Connecticut Teaching Artist**, selected by the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism to be included in the *CCT Directory of Teaching Artists*, May, 2007
- **Celebration of Excellence**, Connecticut State Teaching Award awarded for, *The Poetic Dog Biscuit Project* in August 2000.
- **Green Circle Award**, Connecticut State Environmental Award awarded for, *The Friendship Garden*, 1998.
- **Green Circle Award**, Connecticut State Environmental Award awarded for, *The Butterfly Habitat*, 2000.

## WORK HISTORY

- Special Education Teacher: Learning Disabilities Specialist in a resource classroom for 26 students grades K-5 at Southwest School, Waterford, Connecticut, September 2001-June 2003.
- Special Education Teacher: Behavior Management Specialist in a self-contained clinical classroom of seriously emotionally disturbed students grades K-3 at Cohanzie School, Waterford, Connecticut, September 1988-June 2000.
- Special Education Teacher: Primary Developmental Disabilities Specialist for a self-contained class of 6 cognitively challenged children in grades K-5 at the Belleville School, Newburyport, Massachusetts, September 1987-June 1988.

- Special Education Teacher: Learning Disabilities Specialist in a resource class of students in grades K-4 at the Brown School, Newburyport, Massachusetts, September 1986-June 1987.
- Special Education Teacher: Learning Disabilities Specialist in a self-contained class of students in grades K-4 at the Pembroke Meadows Elementary School, Virginia Beach, Virginia, August 1985-June 1986.

## EDUCATION

- *M.Ed. in Special Education, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, August, 1985, GPA 3.8.*
- *B.A. in Elementary Education and Sociology cum laude, Regis College, Weston, Massachusetts, May 1984, GPA 3.68.*
- **Wesleyan University**, Middletown, Connecticut: Graduate Liberal Studies Program, course work in literature and psychology, July 1991.
- **Salve Regina University**, Newport, Rhode Island: *Expressive Arts Therapies Program*, April 2006-November 2007.
- **Lesley University**, Cambridge, Massachusetts: *Advanced Professional Certificate in Play Therapy Program*, June 2012- present.
- **Lesley University**, Cambridge, Massachusetts: *MA in Expressive Arts Therapies and Mental Health Counseling Program*, July 2013-2017.