

# JOANN FLYNN, MA, M.Ed., CAGS, CPT, LPC, RPT

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PSYCHOTHERAPIST - EXPRESSIVE ARTS THERAPIST - REGISTERED PLAY THERAPIST

## PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### EDUCATION

- *MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Expressive Arts Therapies*, **Lesley University**, Cambridge, Massachusetts, May, 2016, GPA 4.0.
- *CAGS in Play Therapy*, **Lesley University**, Cambridge, Massachusetts, November, 2014, GPA 4.0
- *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.
- **Salve Regina University**, Newport, Rhode Island: *Expressive Arts Therapies Program*, April 2006-November 2007.
- **Wesleyan University**, Middletown, Connecticut: Graduate Liberal Studies Program, course work in literature and psychology, July 1991.

### WORK HISTORY

- **Expressive Arts Therapist**: Provide counseling services using expressive arts therapy for individual clients and groups with mental health issues, conducted intakes, and arts-based assessments at the agency ArtWorks, Norwich Connecticut, May 2014-present.
- **Play Therapist**: Provide individual and family play therapy sessions for children experiencing severe emotional pain and distress as a result of attachment issues, trauma, and family breakdown at ArtWorks, Norwich Connecticut. August 2015-present.
- **Expressive Arts Therapist**: Facilitate art therapy groups at York Correctional Institute with youthful offenders, Niantic, Connecticut. August 2013-present.
- **Poetry Therapist**: Facilitated poetry therapy groups with inmates serving life and long sentences at York Correctional Institute, Niantic, Connecticut. July 2006-2012.
- **Poetry Therapist**: Facilitated a poetry therapy group with frail elderly/dementia patients at Essex Meadows Health Center, Essex, Connecticut. May 18, 2004-October 5, 2004.
- **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.

### **Professional Certifications**

- **National Federation for Biblio/Poetry Therapy certificate** for successfully completing all requirements for certified poetry therapist, awarded in May 2005.
- **Salve Regina University, Expressive Arts Institute certificate** for professional development training in Expressive Arts Educational Facilitation awarded in November 2006.
- **SoulCollage® Facilitator Training Certificate** October 2010.
- **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.

### **ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

- **Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)** certified 2018
- **Mandala Assessment Research Instrument (MARI)** Practitioner 2016
- **Sandtray Therapy Training** at Family & Play Therapy Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, One Year Training Program, June 2014-June 2015.
- **Certificate of Graduate Study in Play Therapy**, Lesley University, November, 2015.

### **NATIONAL PRESENTER/SPEAKER**

- Presented *Resilience Art in Practice* workshop at the Resilience Through Creativity Art Show of the Global Resilience Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, March 15, 2018.
- Presented original workshop *SoulCollage Plus: Extended Process with Poetry, Play, and Journey Circles* at the Expressive Arts Therapies Summit in New York, November 12, 2016.
- Presented original Expressive Arts Therapy Workshop: *The Caged Bird Sings: Empowering Women in Prison through Expressive Arts Therapy* for poetry therapists at the Annual Conference of the National Association for Poetry Therapy in Scottsdale, Arizona, April 25, 2014.
- 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.

### 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.

### REFERENCES

- Julia Byers, Ph.D, ATR-BD, LMHC, Professor Emerita Lesley University, 29 Everett Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138 (617) 840-1982
- Marcelyn Dallis-Jones MA, LPC Expressive Arts Therapist, ArtWorks, 49 Church Street, Norwich, Connecticut 06360 (860) 889-2413
- Deborah Spragg, Ph.D., LMHC, REAT, Assistant Professor, Expressive therapy, Director of Field Training, Lesley University, 29 Everett Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138 (617) 349-8195
- Sherry Reiter, Ph.D., CSW, RPT-M/S Poetry Therapist Supervisor/Mentor, Director, The Creative ‘Righting’ Center, 1904 East First Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11223 (718) 998-4572