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Education: Bachelor of Science in Nursing The University of Virginia 1979

Designated Alternate- City of Olympia Poet Laureate: 2017-2019

## PUBLISHED POETRY WORKS, HONORS, AND AWARDS (select pieces)

**The Wishing Stone** – awarded second place in national writing competition with, **Hospital Drive - The Literature and Humanities Journal of the University Of Virginia School Of Medicine**. Published May 2016.

**Imagery Happens** – Prose reflective piece on imagery in poetry. **Imagery International** organization's on-line newsletter. Published August 2016.

**Sisters in Rain** – won first place in the national, **Seventh Annual Women's Words Chapbook Poetry Competition** of 1996. Published in 1997 by **Still Waters Poetry Press**.

**The Poetry of Five** – poem won first place in the **Shoreline, WA Arts Festival Literary Contest** - June 2000.

**Passenger** – poem won first place in a national poetry competition. Published by the **American Poetry Association** - 1988.

**Best New Poet of the Year Award and Writing Grant** – The American Poetry Association - 1987.

**Silver Woman** – poem honored with a **Washington Poets Association Literary Conference, Bart Baxter Performance Poetry Award** - 1998.

**Too Much Sky** – poem honored with a **Shoreline Arts Council, Arts Festival Award**. Invited as guest poet for live reading. **Poem exhibited at the Shoreline, WA Arts Center** - June 1998.

**Lipstick, Old Keys, and the Hand Held Mirror** – poem selected for exhibit during **National Poetry Month, Goodwin House, Arts and Poetry Hall, Alexandria, Virginia** - April 1997.

## LITERARY & INTEGRATED ARTS PRESENTATIONS - TEACHING EXPERIENCE (select events)

**Program Presenter**-Created and presented poetry program by invitation entitled-“**Lipstick, Old Keys, and The Hand Held Mirror: Journey into the Images of a Poem**” for **Imagery International - Annual Conference**. Vallombrosa Retreat Center, Menlo Park, California. October 21-23-2016.

**Facilitator & Presenter** – for summer sessions **Jung Society of Olympia group meetings**. Facilitated the study and discussion of various literary readings - including poetry, prose, non-fiction, and ancient stories. Provided poetry reading at group meetings. Olympia, WA - June through August-2016.

**Program Presenter-Exercising Your Brain Through The Arts**. Created and presented program for the Young Womens' Christian Association (YWCA), for the group, **Girls Without Limits**. Designed a day program which included teaching creative ways to promote brain health through experiencing the fine arts, and in the second half of the day's program, coordinated the opportunity for young girls to visit an art exhibit encompassing 23 regional artists, at the Kenneth J. Minnaert Center for the Arts, of Sound Puget Sound Community College. YWCA, Olympia, WA – August 6, 2015.

**Program Presenter**-proposal accepted to present *Poetry of Days* program with **St. Placid Priory Programs**, Lacey, WA - September 2015.

**Art as Health**-Created and presented *Art As Health* program which provided in-depth, world-wide studies and interactive discussions on the health promotion and wellness benefits of exposure to and experiencing the fine arts - including literary, visual arts, and music. Program included a creative writing and art making time for participants. **St. Placid Priory, The Spirituality Center**. Lacey, WA – May 2, 2015.

**Art as Health** – Keynote speaker for the *Spring into Health* general membership meeting, the **Washington State Interagency Committee of State Employed Women**. Created and presented *Art as Health* program which explored in-depth the health and wellness benefits of exposure to and experiencing the fine arts, sponsored by the **Health and Wellness Subcommittee**, Olympia, WA - March 2013.

**Guest Poet** – Presented live poetry performance for **Women’s Art Festival. The University of Washington Ethnic Cultural Theater**, Seattle, WA - May 2011.

**Guest Writer/Speaker –Arts Pathway Opportunity Day**. Invited to speak to junior and senior high school students interested in careers in the literary arts and poetry. **Capital High School Career Event Day**, Olympia, WA - 1999 & 2000.

**Arts Bridging Curriculum Program, Endorsed Instructor** – program was in partnership with the **Olympia School District and The City of Olympia Arts Commission**. Created, developed, and taught poetry and integrated arts classes, based on the **Washington State Essential Learning Standards**, at Olympia District Schools. Program overseen by **Olympia Arts Commissions’ Cultural Services Division**, Olympia, WA 1999-2003.

**Artist-in-Residency – Poetry and Integrated Arts Teacher. Boston Harbor Elementary**. Taught multi-grade classes which encompassed introduction to poetry, beginning skill development in poetic concepts, individual and group exercises in learning the creative process. Integrated arts approaches included music, rhythms, movement, drawings, and design. Olympia, WA - September 1996 - May 1997.

**Artist-in-Residency – Poetry and Integrated Arts Teacher. John Rodgers Elementary**. Taught beginning poetry writing skills, the creative writing process, poetry performance, and integrated arts. Winter and spring semesters. Olympia, WA - 2000.

**Guest Poet/Writer** – taught third grade students studying legend writing and the characteristics of the creative writing process. **Lincoln Elementary**, Olympia, WA - February 1999.

**Featured Poet** – poetry presentation at community fall arts festival. Invited by board member of **Washington Poets Association** and arts representative with **Lower Columbia College**, Longview, WA - 1998.

**Featured Poet**-invited to give poetry presentation and book signing by the **Olympia Poetry Network**. Performed at **Traditions Café & World Folk Art**, Olympia, WA - February 1998.

**Guest Artist/Poet** – performed televised poetry presentation for fund raiser event for low income community members sponsored by **The Olympia Light and Chorale** singing group. Benefit Concert held at the **Washington Center for the Performing Arts**, Olympia, WA - December 1991.

### **SELECT: POETRY & INTEGRATED ART EXHIBITS & INSTALLATIONS**

**Olympia Arts Walk. The Heritage Room**. Olympia, WA - April 26, 2014.

**Olympia Arts Walk. The Urban Onion Restaurant**. Olympia, WA - April 22-23, 2011.

**Olympia Arts Walk. The Historic Olympian Hotel, Events Room**. Olympia, WA - April 22-23, 2011.

**Olympia Spring Arts Walk. Atelier Gallery**. Olympia, WA - April 22-23, 2011.

**Olympia Spring Arts Walk. Atelier Gallery.** Olympia, WA - April 2010.

**Fall Olympia Arts Walk. Atelier Gallery.** Olympia, WA - October 2010.

**One stone's tear**, poetry on stone - installation on exhibit. **The Washington State Department of Health.** Tumwater, WA - July 2009.

**Abandoned Woman**. Art Installation. **The Evergreen State College.** Olympia, WA - May 2007.

**The way of a stone**. Solo gallery exhibit. Paintings, oil on canvas. Poetry exhibited on stone, glass, silk, and rice paper. Integrated arts. **Ideation Gallery.** Olympia, WA. September 2004 - January 2005.

### **CREATIVE FREELANCE PUBLISHED WORK:**

***Girl Rising: A Film Review-The Resilience of the Feminine Spirit***— authored a freelance article published in the Governor appointed, **Washington State Interagency Committee of State Employed Women (ICSEW), *The InterAct Newsletter***. September 2013.

### **ACCOLADES**

“I am writing to recommend Cecily Markham as an engaging and inspiring presenter. I had the opportunity to sponsor her presentation for the Governor’s Interagency [Committee] for State Employed Women in spring 2013. She provided some interesting background information about the connection between art and health...The feedback received from members was excellent. You will be inspired and motivated if you choose to have Cecily work with your group.” - **Janice Taylor, Former Chair, Health and Wellness Subcommittee, Interagency Committee of State Employed Women** – January 22, 2014.

“Thank you for highlighting the YWCA of Olympia and our premiere of “**Girl Rising**” in the September 2013 issue of ***The InterAct Newsletter***...Your efforts produced a comprehensive and powerful package. . .We welcomed over 600 attendees the evening of the show and the dialogue is still ongoing from this May 2013 event. Thanks to your feature, the conversation continues!...We are so grateful to you for producing an article which will reach many...in our mission to eliminate racism and empower women.” **Hillary Soens, Interim Exec. Dir., Cherie Reeves Sperr, Communication & Special Events Director** – September 24, 2013.

“The **editor, Shirley Warren**, describes Markham’s . . . chapbook as, “a major departure from the usual ‘controlled emotion’ poetry that usually finds top prize in competitions. Cecily Markham’s poems are utterly passionate; the entire universe steps in to represent intense familial love and the arresting power of hope. A vibrant soul inhabits her work, giving the book an abundant verbal sustenance that clings. ***Sisters in Rain*** is a courageous lyrical journey marked with brilliant language.” News Release 1997, **Still Waters Poetry Press**.

