

Biosketch: Linda Joseph Updated October, 2007

I was born in Chicago on January 31, 1952. I grew up living in many places - urban, suburban and rural (in Illinois, Texas, Oklahoma, New York, Washington D.C., Pennsylvania and Florida) - and found my times in rural life the most natural, healthy and fulfilling. Service has been a prominent theme in my choices of livelihood and volunteerism. My resume provides an overview of my training and background in health care, education, administration and spiritual counseling. Today, I am in the first year of my first term as an elected County Commissioner (the 1st woman elected to this position in this county). I continue working with several non-profit organizations, all with strong components of community building and environmental sustainability.

Having had 3 ectopic pregnancies, I have no children. Though this was sad and difficult then, it has also provided me the freedom to be involved more deeply in inner development and involvement in the broader community - the bigger picture family. Some themes of life long importance to me, which have coalesced into the EarthArt vision are: the expansion of consciousness - personally and interpersonally, development of spirituality and creativity, fair and caring community relations - building trust and safety, living peaceably and dealing straightforwardly and lovingly with differences and challenges, living integrally and honorably within the environmental ecosystem of which I am a part.

Kailash, EarthArt's other Co-founder and I spent 6 years visioning, planning and beginning EarthArt Village and EarthArt Institute. During that time, I worked as the Executive Director for Manitou Foundation and Institute, making land grants to religious groups and developing a land preservation program, and also helped create organizations working on sustainability, locally to internationally. I've had many wonderful opportunities to travel around the world - mainly through my involvement in the Global Ecovillage Network.

Though it's not always been easy, I've enjoyed pioneering on the EarthArt land, since December 1998. I have felt a deep connection and joy with horses since riding daily from adolescence until I left home for college, and am really happy to have horses (6) on the land. I love being able to work from home and having the wide open cathedral of nature only steps away. Though I am not an artist, dabbling in artistic expression nourishes my soul, and I am committed to expanding opportunities for creativity, artistic expression and the pleasure of beauty at EarthArt. When I have time for such things, I enjoy baking, preparing dressings and chutneys, pottery, music (occasionally I play rattles), and handiwork. I serve as the garden planner and steward, and tend chickens, and am looking forward to others interested in animal husbandry at EarthArt. I would like to bring healing arts I practiced and taught in the past into my life more again. I like writing, though for a number of years it's been limited to the "professional" realm in my life.

EarthArt Village is a magnificent place to be, and the most formidable and wonderful to do list I've ever experienced. It is a dream coming true for me, and as EarthArt is fulfilled, I am fulfilled.

