Linda Joy Goldner

Linda Joy grew up in Philadelphia and its suburbs. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Rhode Island School of Design; she worked as an advertising art director, graphic designer and copywriter for more than 30 years before beginning her quest for greater intellectual, emotional and spiritual fulfillment. In 2004 she enrolled in a para-chaplaincy training course offered by the Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Greater Philadelphia. In that avodah (sacred work) she found a world that fused her love of Jewish studies, her concern for the mental and physical well-being of others, and her drive to help nurture spirit and a sense of meaning in the lives of those who are suffering.

During the following four years, Linda Joy immersed herself in that world through weekly volunteer pastoral visits to Jewish patients at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Since enrolling at RRC, she has completed four units of Clinical Pastoral Education at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, where she currently serves as an adjunct chaplain. Her master’s project, “Jewish Stories: Gates to Healing,” will serve as a resource for Jewish chaplains working in healthcare settings.