



April Meeting
Wednesday, April 10
12:30pm - 1:30pm
Starmount Country Club

IMPORTANT DATES
4/18 Board Meeting
4/26 May News Deadline

[MEETING RSVP](#)

ACTIVE & ACTIVE RETIRED [RSVP](#) ONLY
if you can NOT attend

EMERITUS & SUPPORTING MEMBERS
[RSVP](#) to attend

BRINGING A GUEST
[RSVP](#) with your guest's name & employer

Guest fee \$30, cash or check at the door

RSVP by Noon
Friday, April 5

[Special Interest Groups](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[WPF Member Directory](#)

[WPF Facebook Page](#)



A message from WPF President, Erica Parker

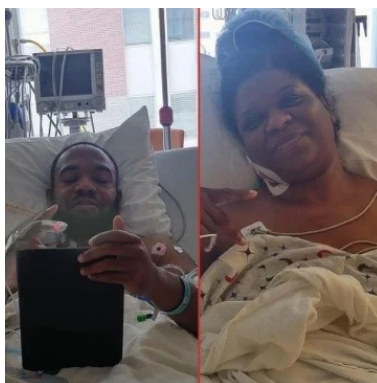
On May 25th, 2016, I made a life-changing decision: I donated 68% of my liver (specifically, the right lobe) to my cousin, Jerome Bynum. The journey began during Thanksgiving in 2015 when Jerome returned home for the holiday. His once-vibrant 30-year-old body now appeared frail, and my intuition told me something was amiss.



I asked Jerome how he was doing, and as expected, he replied with the standard “I’m fine.” But I knew better. Our conversation revealed the harsh truth: Jerome desperately needed a liver transplant. A rare disease had relentlessly attacked and destroyed his liver, an injustice for someone who had always been health-conscious—never drinking or smoking. In fact, he had been a track star both in high school and during his college years at HPU.

Jerome informed me that he was on the transplant waitlist, but uncertainty loomed over how long it would take to find a suitable donor. That’s when I made the offer to give him mine. Jerome chuckled, dismissing the idea. “No, E,” he said, “you kinda need your liver, it not like your kidneys.”

Being a “problem-solver” at heart, I delved deeper. Jerome revealed that the liver has an incredible ability to regenerate, which meant finding a living donor was possible. My response? “Sign me up!” Jerome reluctant to accept my offer. He understood the ask was life changing and it involved numerous complexities. He promised to follow up after consulting with his doctor, but when the call didn’t come, I took matters into my own hands. I requested the transplant coordinator’s number and promptly reached out.



The next six months were grueling. Medical tests, mental health assessments, and consultations became routine. Finally, on May 25th, 2016, we underwent several hours of

surgery. The transplant was a success. After spending seven days in the hospital, I was released, while Jerome headed home two weeks later, on the path to recovery.

All was well until late June when Jerome's body began to reject the transplanted liver. He underwent outpatient surgery, which initially seemed to address the rejection. His health improved, and he eagerly anticipated returning to work.

However, a follow-up appointment on February 4th brought distressing news: Jerome's condition had taken a turn for the worse. On February 7th, we received the devastating diagnosis of a staph infection, and he was placed on life support. Tragically, Jerome passed away on February 10, 2017, just 8 months after the transplant.

Our journey through this process was far from easy. The pain I endured as a living liver donor paled in comparison to the daily struggles Jerome faced. Despite the immense loss, I find solace in knowing that he is no longer suffering.

Before the transplant, I attended the May 2016 Foundation Meeting for WPF. Many of us received a purple bracelet inscribed with the words "WPF: Courage Compassion Confidence." This simple yet powerful token served as a reminder of our shared strength and resilience and reminded me that I had the courage, compassion, and confidence to see this through.



Ways you can support:

- Give hope and help save lives by registering your decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor at your local DMV, on [RegisterMe.org](https://www.registerme.org) or in your iPhone Health App.
- Share the Donate Life message by educating others about how their generosity can help save and heal lives. [Educate Others About Organ, Eye And Tissue Donation - Donate Life America](#)

Erica

April Meeting
APRIL 10, 2024 12:30 - 1:30PM
Starmount Forest Country Club



Alejandra Thompson de Jordan
Vice President of Marketing and Sales for Thompson

Beauty, Brass, and Beyond: Adventures in Makeup Marketing and Plumbing

After the fast-paced environments of corporate giants – L'Oréal and Chanel – in New York City, Alejandra found herself facing new challenges and opportunities when she joined her family's business, Thompson Traders, launched her own skincare company, ESTAS Beauty, and moved home from the career-obsessed hustle of New York City to the slower pace of Greensboro. Now, after four years of navigating these transitions and completely reshaping her work and home life, Alejandra reflects on the lessons learned, the milestones achieved, and the challenges that lie ahead.

Alejandra is the VP of marketing and sales for Thompson, the market leader for hand-crafted metal kitchen and bath fixtures, and the co-founder of ESTAS Beauty, the first line of luxury skincare created specifically for scars. The last of the siblings to join, Thompson Traders, Inc., Alejandra spent the past 12 years working in luxury marketing in New York City and worked for some of the most iconic beauty and fragrance brands, including Chanel, Giorgio Armani, and Lancôme. Alejandra earned her BBA from Emory University Goizueta Business School in Atlanta, her Masters of Cosmetics and Fragrance Marketing and Management from the Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC and she studied French at La Sorbonne University in Paris during a truly lovely gap year.

Alejandra moved back to North Carolina at the outset of the pandemic, when she realized nothing could beat being close to family. She now lives just minutes away from her siblings along with her husband and their 2 children. Alejandra has Type 1 Diabetes and is a passionate supporter of JDRE (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) in their mission to find a cure. A lover of the arts and helping to continue the growth of Greensboro, she is on the board of directors for GreenHill Center for NC Art and she serves on the board of Launch Greensboro.

Greeters and 4 minute Specials

Please consider being a greeter or sharing a 4 min special for an upcoming membership meeting this year.

Greeters: Arrive to the monthly meeting of your choice around 11:50am. Sherry will provide you the purple greeter sash. Grab your nametag, stand near one of the entry doors and welcome your fellow WPF sisters. [SIGN UP HERE](#)

4 Min Special: If you have never done one please consider signing up for one of the dates available. This is a chance for you to tell us about you, not just your work but what makes you-you! This year 4 min specials will be given after the program and we ask that you try to keep them to a few short min. Not comfortable speaking to the group? No problem, write a 4 min special to go in a newsletter.

Email Marleefoster@gmail.com with your 4 min special for a newsletter and we will include it during this year.

What's for lunch?

- Mediterranean salad with cheese and dressing on side
- Chicken Francese with sauce Allemande
- Sun dried tomato and pesto orzo
- Steamed broccoli with toasted garlic and olive oil
- Baked Herb Foccacia
- Melon and berry salad
- Chocolate Dipped Cannolis

WPF 2024 Board of Directors

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WPF is committed to supporting and endorsing equal opportunities for all people without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability or genetics.

NEWS & UPDATES



WPF FOUNDATION

2024 Board of Directors

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Martha Peddrick

FOUNDATION NEWS

From Chandra Hackenbruch, WPF Foundation President

Hello Dear Sisters! Hooray it's Spring! It's a season that symbolizes newness and vibrance of life as flowers start to bloom and plants are green again. All of this can spark joy and gratefulness among us as we start to get outside more and enjoy life!

Consequently, I am full of joy that the Foundation has finalized grant awards for four organizations! We will announce the details at our annual May meeting. At this meeting, we will also provide a financial update of the Foundation and you will also get a chance to hear how grants awards has enabled impactful programs that help women and girls in Guilford county. I am also grateful for all our donors who have made this possible!

WPFF is currently working on a great program for you to experience the joy and gratefulness that these organizations will express as they receive their awards. You will also have an

opportunity to further empower this joy, especially for next year's recipients, by donating during the meeting. We are looking forward to seeing you at the May meeting!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

From Laura Burton, WPF Membership Committee Chair

Many thanks from your Membership Committee for renewing your WPF membership for 2024. We know it will continue to be a great year!

REMINDER: The New Member Application and New Member Sponsor Document are available on the website. Completed New Member applications are due no later than June 1, 2024. Currently, all occupational categories for membership REMAIN OPEN. If you have questions about the requirements, applications, or occupational categories, please reach out to Membership Chair Laura Burton (lburton@foxrothschild.com) or 336-337-1942.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

WORKING MOMS

Dram and Draught
300 West Gate City Blvd
Tuesday, April 16
4-5:00pm

Join us for Happy Hour at Dram and Draught. Moms of all ages welcome.
RSVP to Marlee Foster at marlee.foster@conehealth.com.

Working Mom's group is part support group and part resource group. We learn so much from each other and have the chance to share the trials and tribulations of being a working Mom in this day and age. There is always laughter, an empathetic ear, and sometimes a great suggestion to help you when you thought you have exhausted all possible options.

BOOKS AND ARTS

Sunday, April 21, 1:00-3:00 PM
Altina Layman's Family Farm
405 Pearson Farm Rd

It Herbs Time!

Its time for those delicious spring meals, appetizers and cook outs. What better to add them than fresh, homegrown herbs?

Join us on Sunday, April 21, 1-3pm for an afternoon of planting your own special herbs at Altina Layman's family farm, located in Summerfield at 405 Pearson Farm Rd. Christina Larson (past owner of Guilford Garden Center) will instruct us on the fine art and fun of planting herbs. We guarantee you a planter full of plants that are delightful to look at and even more delicious to eat.

Altina has just finished a gorgeous renovation of the farmhouse and is looking forward to showing it off to everyone. Cost is only \$40 (payable to Mebane Ham, via check, cash or Zelle). Please bring your beverage of choice. We promise snacks, fun and a great herb planter!

See you April 21,
Mebane Ham – 336.314.5226
Altina Layman – 558-4128

**Women of Wall Street
Investment Club**

Thursday, April 18, 6:00 PM

Mt. Pisgah Church

2600 Pisgah Church Road

The WOW Investment Club will have the second quarter Business Meeting on Thursday, April 18th. We will review the portfolio and make any necessary changes. Please plan to attend.

LADIES OF LEISURE

Thursday, April 18

Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum

6136 Burlington Road, Gibsonville

Tour Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum at 6136 Burlington Road in Gibsonville. Born in 1883 in Henderson, NC, Charlotte was an author, educator, civil rights activist and founder of the Palmer Memorial Institute in Gibsonville (seems to be Sedalia, but address in Gibsonville) ; that restored campus is now called the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum. Brown founded the day and boarding school for African Americans. Natalie Cole was her grand-niece. The tour takes visitors to the house where Charlotte Hawkins Brown lived on site and the grounds along Burlington Road.

The museum and property are about 10 miles from Friendly Center, out Wendover Avenue east, which turns into Burlington Road. We will meet at the Whole Foods parking lot in Friendly Center and depart at 9:30 a.m. (unless you live nearby and prefer to drive separately from home). We have a 10 a.m. tour, rain or shine, although rain will probably change walking outdoors a little. We depart at about 11:30 a.m. for the restaurant Ciao, a pizza and Italian restaurant about one mile farther down Burlington Road in a shopping center on the left (and Erica Parker's favorite!)

Coordinated by Dawn Kane. Cost for museum visit \$1 if 65+ and \$2 for others – plus lunch.

Email retired@wpforum.org.

WINE DIVAS

Tuesday, April 16



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO
A NIGHT IN HOLLYWOOD
WPF WINE DIVAS



Tuesday, April 16, 2024
6:00pm

Susan Russell's House
819 Meade Drive
Greensboro, NC

Venmo \$30 to @Susan-Russell-111



FINANCIAL DIVAS

Wednesday, April 24
9-10 am

Weaver Park Center Bldg,
324 W. Wendover Ave, Suite 140

Join us in the "O" to share and learn "Today's Joy, Tomorrow's Security: Crafting Your Financial Blueprint for Life's Milestones". Anyone sharing is encouraged to please consider bringing a handout or summary takeaway for group attendees. For questions, contact Paula McMillan 336.337.9507.

Books and Arts

Thursday, May 16, 6:00 PM
Elliot University Center, UNCG
JAMES MCBRIDE

Save the Date and REGISTER now for your spot to hear James McBride, Author of The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store as part of the [Greensboro Bound Literary Festival](#). You must register online with UNC-G below.

The Books & Arts SIG will meet after the author's talk at PrintWorks at the Proximity Hotel. Please let Nancy Radtke know if you will join the group there after the talk. If it's nice out, we will sit outside!

This event is FREE and open to the public; however, registration is required.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

DINING OUT

Wednesday, April 24
6:30pm
1618 West Seafood Grille
1618 W. Friendly Ave, Greensboro

RSVP

Questions: Amy Meinecke

Diningout@wpforum.org

SERVICE TO OTHERS

Saturday, May 11, 12:30–3:30pm

**Healing Gardens
at Cone Health Cancer Center**

2400 West Friendly Avenue

Service to Others will be working in the Healing Gardens at the Cone Health Cancer Center on the Wesley Long Hospital campus. The gardens provide peace and respite for cancer patients and their families as well as hospital staff and visitors. The Healing Gardens were a gift from the community to the Cancer Center.

Thank you to Mary Magrinat for hosting this month's service project. We will be ordering lunch, eating on the patio at Cone, and then working in the gardens.

RSVP to Amy Baradell @ amyb@windowworksstudio.com

LADIES OF LEISURE

Thursday, May 16

Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden

6500 South New Hope Road

Belmont, NC

We will depart Greensboro at 9:00 am and arrive there around 11 am. After touring the gardens, we will have a picnic lunch and head back home by 2:30 – 3:00. Plan to take your favorite sandwich or whatever for lunch. Water and dessert will be provided. And, of course, we will carpool deciding who is driving once we know who is going. For a virtual visit of the gardens go to <https://dsbg.org/>. The cost of admission for us is \$12.76 (\$11.95 + tax).

Please RSVP to retired@wpforum.org and route questions to Beverley Gass, beverleygass@gmail.com or 336-255-3173. Send her your check (2104 Rolling Road, 27403) or Venmo her your payment (@AliceB-Gass).

Join us for this outdoor and sunshine event!

BOOK CLUB

June 4 Book Selection

We are still looking for a host for this meeting. Please email or call Polly if you are able to host this one (or any other dates).

pollydsizemore@gmail.com or

336-202-6188

The Measure by Nikki Erlick

Aluminous, spirit-lifting blockbuster that asks: would you choose to find out the length of your life?

Eight ordinary people. One extraordinary choice.

It seems like any other day. You wake up, pour a cup of coffee, and head out.

But today, when you open your front door, waiting for you is a small wooden box. This box holds your fate inside: the answer to the exact number of years you will live.

From suburban doorsteps to desert tents, every person on every continent receives the same box. In an instant, the world is thrust into a collective frenzy. Where did these boxes come from? What do they mean? Is there truth to what they promise?

BOOKS AND ARTS

Summer Blowing Rock Trip

The year is speeding by and we are finalizing plans for our Books and Arts July trip to Blowing Rock from July 18th to 21st. Activities available for the weekend include the Chetola Symphony by the Lake (Friday night, the 19th), tubing, shopping, hiking, spa visits and biking. We have two houses reserved within a few miles of downtown Blowing Rock. Anticipated housing cost is \$200 to \$250/person, symphony tickets around \$65, biking or tubing, around \$30. We'll be taking breakfast and snack foods to share, and will plan to dine out in the evenings, with the possible exception of the Chetola concert where we can either take our own picnic or buy box dinners. We currently have space for two or three additional women. A \$100 deposit is necessary to hold your spot.

Please contact Kris Landrum at klandrum@tuggleduggins.com if you'd like to be part of this outing.

Women of Wall Street (WOW)

New York City

April 19-22, 2024

The WOW Investment Club, some members of the Books and Arts Club, and others inside and outside of WPF are planning our annual trek to NYC! The dates are April 19 to April 22, 2024, (or longer if you want to stay).

We'll be staying at the West House Hotel where we stayed this year as well as the Park Central Hotel, which is right around the corner from the West House. Please coordinate with a roommate if you wish. Theatre tickets can be booked on [Broadwaytickets.com](https://www.broadwaytickets.com) if you wish as well. There will be some dinners planned, I'm sure, after the first of the year.

If you are interested in going, please let Peggy Ward know at peggy.ward8@icloud.com and I will add you to the email list for further communications.

BOOKS AND ARTS

Portugal (Spain?) Travel Update Oct 6-13 or 20th, 2024

Several of our group have responded that they want to be included in the Portugal trip scheduled for the fall (and possibly to go on to a Spain adventure). If you have not yet responded, but are interested in the trip, please let Christie Soper know (christiesoper@gmail.com) asap and reach out to her with any questions you have regarding the info below.

G Adventures offers a guided tour of Portugal (Lisbon to Porto) in partnership with National Geographic Sunday – Sunday, Oct 6-13, 2024. Then they have another tour for southern Spain with Nat Geo Sunday – Sunday, Oct 13-20. Each tour is \$2449 per person, so if someone

chooses to do both tours back-to-back, the total cost for tours would be \$4,898 per person, and dates of travel would be Oct 5 (depart the day before for the overnight travel) – Oct 20. Note: the tours don't include all the meals; so add another \$350-500 per person per week for meals, and then add international flights and tour guide gratuity.

Below are the links to both tours. These are a good value and can work with different levels of activity within a group. A note on the guides – they are more generalists, like a cruise director, than experts on specific topics, so if folks wanted an expert art guide in the Prado museum as an example, that would be extra cost, but easily arranged and reasonably priced depending on the number of travelers.

GUESTS

WPF members signing up for the tour are welcome to invite a female guest to join the the trip. The maximum capacity for the public tour is 16, and it's first come, first served.

FLIGHTS

We estimate the flights for coach on Delta departing from GSO to be approximately \$1400. Note: price is likely to fluctuate until actually purchased.

Portugal: <https://www.gadventures.com/trips/ngj-portugal/EPENG/>

Southern Spain: <https://www.gadventures.com/trips/discover-moorish-spain/ESMNG/>

Women's Professional Forum, PO Box 38594, Greensboro, NC 27438

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