

## **Meet Linda Thomas, former Grants Committee member and now an active member of the Education and Lifelong**

No matter your sensibilities, life experiences or views on philanthropy, you'll have something in common with fellow WIN member Linda Thomas. Born in northwest England, Linda's wanderlust led her to France, Spain, Japan, Washington DC and finally, in 2007, to Wilmington where she became a naturalized citizen. Along the way she worked as an au pair, bartender, secretary, and for many years as a divisional assistant for the International Monetary Fund. She brought two daughters into the world and was once married to an Italian pastry chef. That might explain one of the three books currently on her night stand: *Taste, A Story of My Life* by Stanley Tucci, an Italian-American chef and actor. She's also reading Eudora Welty's *The Collected Stories* and *The Power of the Dog* by Thomas Savage (its film version is currently nominated for an Oscar).

Linda believes that travel is a form of education. Whether traveling by conventional means or via the magic of a book, Linda thinks that learning about other cultures not only broadens the mind, it "is the enemy of ignorance" (Mark Twain).

An imaginary dinner party at Linda's home would include Angela Merkel, John Lennon, Julia Child, James Baldwin, and Barbara Pym. Linda's intellectual curiosity is far-flung: that would make for a fascinating dinner!

