



UGA LADY AWARD

The UGA is pleased to recognize a Utah Women golfer based solely upon what she gives back to the game locally. We are proud to recognize one recipient each year as the UGA Lady. A title that additionally pays tribute to the 86 year-old ladies association.

This award is based on women's golf participation, giving back to women's golf, passion, love and respect for the game, teamwork that makes a difference and being a friend, leader and inspiration to your peers.

2019 - [Karen White](#)

2018 - [Margaret McDonough](#)

2017 - [Patty Brimley](#)

2016 - [Denise Vilven](#)

2015 - [Joyce Billings](#)

2014 - [Sally Milbank](#)

2013 - [Karen Gardiner](#)

2012 - [Susan Simkins](#)

2019



Karen White

Karen White has a place in UGA history as an advocate of the merger with the Utah Women's Golf Association during her nine-year stint on the UGA board.

The recipient of the 2019 UGA Lady Award became involved in the administration of the game when she joined the Ogden Golf & Country Club and became friends with Susan Simkins who eventually asked her to join the UGA Board of Directors.

"I had no idea what that was, at all," White said.

White caught on quickly, joining the board and becoming a respected voice. As Simkins said, "She could be a bulldog on issues, but always supported the board's final decisions."

White was nearly 40 when she took up golf, playing with her sister, Marge Fackrell, at Schneiter's Riverside the Ogden area. She remembers having an initial handicap index of 41 and being teased by her sister. Their sibling rivalry plays out much differently on the golf course lately. "Now, I beat her soundly all the time," said White, a 13-handicapper.

She loves the handicap system that enables her to enjoy playing with better golfers and loves the camaraderie on the course. White also once determined that because golf was "the passion of my life, I should give back," she said.

2018



Margaret
McDonough

Margaret McDonough Nay's work on the book "100 Years of History – The Utah State Women's Amateur" could be quantified in hours, but there may be a better illustration. She spent so much time in The Salt Lake Tribune's office poring over microfilm that people thought she was a staff member.

That's just one example of her dedication to the game and ability to immerse herself in projects such as organizing and staging tournaments. Speaking from 45 years of her own involvement in the game, Patty Brimley said McDonough "has done more in this state to promote women's golf than anyone else I know."

That's why she will receive the UWGA Lady Award for 2018, recognition that she described as "a wonderful surprise."

"It's been a very rewarding experience all these years," Nay said. "It's just meant a lot to me. The people I've had an opportunity to work with have just been awesome."

The same could be said of her, with the 100-year anniversary of the Women's Am serving as a career highlight. Being able to stage the tournament at The Country Club of Salt Lake City, with LPGA Tour legend Patty Sheehan appearing at the Champions Dinner, created a "magical" moment in Utah golf history. "It was something that I felt was important to celebrate," she said. "It was awesome to be part of that."

The tournaments that McDonough has staged at the Homestead Resort's Crater Springs Golf Course and other venues are on a somewhat smaller scale, but no less meaningful to the participants. She's known for thoroughly organizing the events for every level of player. "I've enjoyed it," she said. "I'll continue doing it as long as the women enjoy it."

That's likely to be for a long time, continuing her nearly lifelong involvement in golf, while making lifelong friends.

2017



Patty Brimley

The Utah Golf Association presents the 2017 UWGA Lady Award to one of Utah's most influential female golfers, Patty Brimley. Born and raised in Salt Lake City, Patty grew up in a golf-loving home on the 6th hole at Bonneville Golf Course. Her parents and three siblings played golf, and she started playing competitively at age 12.

Brimley played in Utah Junior Golf Association tournaments every season, then directed by the Salt Lake City Parks and Recreation Department, winning the junior "Golfer of the Year" award in her age division in '76, '78 and '79. Brimley credits Hugh Hogle, father of her childhood best friend, Holly DeSantis, for her notable abilities at such a young age.

"Hugh would drop us off at different courses on his way to work all summer long," explained Patty. "We'd play and practice all day, sometimes playing 36 holes a day."

Her freshman year at Judge Memorial Catholic High School, Patty was the first female to make the boys' golf team. She played all four years as the only girl, competing with the boys at their own game, from the blue tees. Brimley graduated in 1979 and began her college education at The University of Utah, earning a bachelor's degree in commercial recreation in 1983.

After high school, Patty completed an internship with the Utah Golf Association, which later led to a full-time, 10-year position with the Salt Lake City Parks and Recreation Department as an assistant recreation manager. During her tenure, Brimley helped run the Utah Junior Golf Association tournaments, including the annual Rocky Mountain Junior, which included teams from the Western U.S.

Throughout her college career, Patty continued playing golf competitively. She won the UGA State Women's Amateur Championship in '82 and '84 and was low medalist at the Utah Women's State Amateur Championship in '82, '84 and '88. She played as a professional on the Futures Mini Tour in Florida in 1984, but she realized the hard knock life of a professional was not for her and regained amateur status two years later.

Her greatest achievement was winning the Women's State Am in 1990 at Bountiful City Golf Course, now Bountiful Ridge Golf Course, by one stroke over Terry Hansen and Lachell Simmons. Patty had been two strokes off the lead, but she steadily climbed to the top of the leaderboard with a final-round 74 and total of 224 to defeat her rivals and earn the come-from-behind victory.

Patty has been a member of The Country Club since 1982 and has played on the Ladies A-Team every year since. She is the reigning TCC Women's Club Champion, winning the title 18 times and making history in the process.

Over the years, Brimley has worked to promote golf at many levels. She was on the board of directors at The Country Club from 2003-2006, joined the UGA Course Rating Team in 2013 and acted as The Country Club's Ladies Golf Association chair in 2014. One of her proudest moments was serving as co-chair of the 100th Utah Women's State Amateur in 2006. She and co-chair Margaret Nay wrote the 116-page book, "100 Years of History: The Utah Women's State Amateur," providing the state of Utah with the rich history and traditions of the prestigious event.

In addition to her impressive list of accomplishments, Patty and her husband, SLC Golf Head Professional Mike Brimley, were granted the opportunity to coach the Judge Memorial Bulldogs boys' and girls' golf teams from 2008-2013. In doing so, they were awarded the Richard Schubach Champion of Youth Award for their outstanding contributions to the youth of Judge Memorial.

"Golf is a gift," stated Patty. "It's something you can do your whole life. The friends you meet and the experiences you have because of golf cannot be beat."

Together, Patty and Mike have two sons, Tyler (26) and Justin (24). When not on the golf course racking up holes-in-one (Patty has nine), she enjoys pickleball, skiing, traveling, bike riding and volunteering for organizations such as Huntsman Cancer Institute and The Children's Center.

2016



Denise Vilven

The UGA is honored to present the 2016 UWGA Lady Award to one of Utah golf's most loyal and selfless contributors, Denise Vilven. She was born in Salt Lake City on September 21, 1953 to Mike and Kaliope Sargetakis. She graduated from Highland High School in 1972 and from the University of Utah in 1991 as a non-traditional student. Denise has an impressively versatile golf background that all began when she married PGA Professional Doug Vilven in 1975.

Denise did not play golf before meeting Doug. In fact, Denise's sister, Mary, was the golfer in the Sargetakis family. Mary's husband at the time, Mike Cowan, was one of Doug's fraternity brothers. Mary was interested in taking lessons, and Mike recommended Doug. During this time, Doug was working summers as an assistant professional at Salt Lake Country Club and winters as an assistant at Tamarisk Country Club in Palm Springs, CA. After Mary's lessons, she insisted on setting up Doug and Denise on a blind date. The couple recently celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary on December 28th. Together they have two children, Capt. Mike Vilven, USAF, and Dede Vilven, Westminster College public health master's degree 2016 graduate.

Following their wedding, Doug and Denise relocated back and forth from Salt Lake City to Palm Springs until Doug got his first job as a head professional at Plum Tree National Country Club in Harvard, IL. During their two years at Plum Tree, Denise worked for Superintendent Mike Bower, learning golf course maintenance and grass care on the fly.

They moved back to Utah in 1978 when Doug took the head professional job at Oquirrh Hills Golf Course in Tooele where Denise learned another aspect of golf, managing food operations. She also joined the Tooele Ladies Golf Association, which influenced her to join the Utah Golf Association. She has been a member ever since.

After three years at Oquirrh Hills, Doug was hired as head professional of Park City Golf Course in 1982. Denise was a starter, managed the books, and acted as merchandiser of the golf shop. She became very active in the Utah State Women's Golf Association and used the knowledge she received from the Tooele Ladies Golf Association to start the Park City Women's Team Play team and the Park City Invitational.

In November 1993, Doug and Denise opened Golf in the Round in Salt Lake City, which turned out to be a steep learning curve for the couple. The broad array of golf-related knowledge Denise gained over the years was put to the test each day as the pair experienced the struggles of entrepreneurship. After 19 exhausting yet rewarding years, they sold the business in 2012.

In addition, she helped form the Old Mill Women's Association and is currently a member of the Meadowbrook Women's Golf Association where she was club champion for five years. Denise also served as captain of the USWGA State Team in 1990 under the direction of President Jeannie Goddard. She has attended several USGA/PGA Rules Workshops and has officiated numerous UGA and Utah Section PGA tournaments.

"No matter the task, volunteering at her church, doing UGA work or taking care of her family, Denise has honorable intent," expressed Doug Vilven. "Nobody will outwork her."

The annual presentation of the UWGA Lady Award will take place on Wednesday, January 18th at Alpine Country Club beginning at 6 p.m. Other awards to be highlighted include the UGA Gold Club Award and the 2016 UGA Player of the Year Awards.

2015



Joyce Billings

We are pleased to announce Joyce Billings as the second Utah Women's Golf Association Lady Award recipient due to her selfless and inspiring dedication to Utah women's golf. The UWGA Lady Award is based on women's golf participation, giving back to women's golf, passion, love, and respect for the game, teamwork that makes a difference, and being a friend, leader, and inspiration to her peers. In other words, Joyce Billings is this year's perfect esteemed and highly-deserving honoree.

Joyce was introduced to golf at age 11 by her parents, Richard and Una. She joined a community recreational girls' junior golf program where multiple future inspirational women also were involved, including Mary Lou Baker. After learning to play in the East Millcreek Recreation Center gym and taking lessons from Mick Riley at Meadowbrook Golf Course, Joyce began her competitive career by playing in junior tournaments during her teenage years.

Despite the lack of women's high school and collegiate golf teams in Utah during the '50s and '60s, Joyce played on the University of Utah women's club golf team before transferring to Brigham Young University where she had the opportunity to play in sectional collegiate club tournaments in New Mexico and Colorado as well as a national tournament at Duke University.

Before taking over the Shivers Restaurant family business from her father after he passed away in 1978, Joyce coached golf and taught physical education for nine years at Kearns High School, which allowed for work-free summers on the golf course.

"It was nice having free time so I could play in tournaments when I wanted to," Joyce said. "That's when I started joining several women's golf associations, and the first one at Nibley was with my mother."

Joyce has participated in ladies associations throughout the years at Nibley Park, Mountain Dell, Bonneville, and has spent the last 15 years with the Bountiful Ridge Ladies Association where she also works part time as a starter and marshal.

"Last season was my first time as a marshal, and I really enjoyed it. I get to be outside on the golf course interacting with people and making new friends." According to her peers, everyone is a friend of Joyce.

In previous years, Joyce acted as the president, vice president, and team captain of the UWGA, worked on the UGA Course Rating Team and Handicap Committee, and represented Utah on the USGA Public Links Committee.

2014



Sally Milbank

This is the third year we are pleased to recognize a Utah woman golfer based solely upon what she gives back to the game locally. We are proud to recognize one recipient each year going forward as The UWGA Lady. An award that pays tribute to the end of an 86 year old ladies association.

This award is based on women's golf participation, giving back to women's golf, passion, love and respect for the game, teamwork that makes a difference and being a friend, leader and inspiration to your peers.

It is appropriate to honor a woman whose credentials embody the best in women's golf. This year, Sally Milbank is being honored. Sally is a familiar face to women golfers throughout the state. Since moving to Utah and taking up golf, Sally has supported tournaments all over Utah. She is an avid supporter of the Utah Golf Association and encourages friends and acquaintances to get involved whether it is as participant or volunteer.

Every year she is among the first entries in UGA events as well as association sponsored tournaments across the state. In addition to her participation in events Sally is always willing to support the UGA as a volunteer when not competing. She has been a supporter of junior golf throughout the state by generous donations of various items such as golf clubs, bags, balls and other items.

Sally has also been very active in the UGA Women's Team Play Competition playing for the Nomads and she is very active in helping tournament organizers in all facets even going as far as delivering tournament score sheets to the UGA for score posting.

2013



Karen Gardiner

Karen Gardiner was the recipient of the UWGA Lady Award at the UGA Annual Meeting Wednesday at Alpine Country Club. The award was presented by UGA board member Amy Mayberry. The award was established to recognize a Utah woman golfer and is based upon what she gives back to the game locally, on her participation in women's golf, her passion, love and respect for the game, for teamwork that makes a difference, and being a friend, leader and inspiration to her peers. The award will recognize one recipient each year and carries the name of the Utah Women's Golf Association in tribute to the end of an 86-year-old ladies association when it merged with the Utah Golf Association last year.

The printed program noted that Karen Gardiner embodies the meaning of the award.

She has been a familiar name and friendly face to women golfers in Utah for the past 15 years. Gardiner served four years on the Utah Women's Golf Association (UWGA) Board of Directors in the early 2000's as the organizations Handicap Chairperson and was also vital in the growth and development of the UWGA website and tournament programs during her tenure on the board.

Gardiner who is a retired IT Professional for Boeing started playing the game in 1984 and organized the Boeing Golf League for 22 years.

While playing with her best friend at Hubbard GC, she recorded her first hole in one. Over the past two years she has continued to give back to the game by serving on the UGA Women's Advisory Committee and assisting with UGA Women's Team Play activities. She is active in several golf associations serving as NUWGA Team Captain for Schneider's Riverside as well as Tournament chair for The Barn and HAFB Ladies Associations.

Karen and her husband, Ron, raised their family of three girls in western Weber County. Prior to taking up golf, she was an active horsewoman. Now, she leaves the horses to her husband as she heads to the course. Golf was always an activity during family vacations.

She hopes to interest her five grandchildren in a game that has been such a joy in her life. With so many beautiful golf courses in the area, she plans to enjoy time spent with good friends and family for many years to come.

2012



Susan Simkins