

Wasatch Branch AAUW Fund Raising Event

Passport to Sicilian Food and Wine



As AAUW Fund Chair of Wasatch Branch, Sue Nissen invited President Brenda Clausen, Treasurer Kathy Horvat, and Co-Program VPs Carol Copene and Peggy Richards to assist in organizing a wine tasting event that became a virtual trip to Sicily to sample the island's culture through its food and wine. The committee found two outstanding presenters who were happy to work together. Salt Lake City Chef Marguerite Henderson brought her heritage and expertise with food to create small plates, and Sheral Showe, of the Wasatch Academy of Wine, brought her scholarship of Italian wines to pair two red and two white Sicilian wines with the foods served. She brought experienced friends to assist with the wine pouring, and seven terrific young people helped plate and serve the food.

The event was held at Holladay United Church of Christ, which has a permit to serve, but not sell, wine. Therefore, it was essential to have all passport applications paid in advance. There were 79 paid reservations made, and 75 actually attended. On October 3 from 6:00 until 9:00 PM, members and guests enjoyed Chef Marguerite's stories of travel in Sicily, its people, and its culture. Her mother was from Sicily, and many of the recipes found in Marguerite's cookbook, *Savor the Memories*, grew out of her mother's cooking. The King's English Bookshop made copies of her book available for guests who wished to purchase and have Marguerite autograph them.

Sheral told about the four Sicilian wines she chose to pair with Marguerite's small plate items, and suggested which of them to taste with each item on the plate. One of the red wines was reserved for the crowning touch – dessert cannolis for everyone. We learned all four wines offered are available at a reasonable cost from Utah State Liquor outlets.



Marguerite Henderson, Sue Nissen, Sheral Showe

Many Wasatch Branch members brought spouses and friends from their non-member networks. We were delighted to have several members of Sat Lake Branch attend as well. Donations were also received from members who were unable to attend. A total of \$1185 was raised for the AAUW Fund, all expenses covered, and a small seed money remainder will be available for a future fund raising event.

The great collaborative effort resulted in an extremely successful and enjoyable event.

