When Mrs. Frederick Waterman presented a silver bowl to our garden club way back in 1956 she wanted more than anything else for it to “stimulate interest in all phases of garden club work.” Those words “all phases of garden club work” are important because the recipient of The Waterman Bowl today has been very much involved in all those phases. To start with she has held 10 offices since she joined the club in 1990, including Treasurer, Vice President and President. She has been responsible for many of the very wonderful things we enjoy today both large and small. For instance, she had an idea of holding a perspective member cocktail party in her home at a time when our active membership was seriously dwindling. This idea was immediately embraced by the membership and each year thereafter we continue to enjoy this very successful way of introducing prospective members to our club.

She has always had a special place in her heart for the Civic phase of our club and has served as Chairman of Trees On The Green as well as Civic Chairman. She played a big role in the preservation of Edgerton Park by serving on its Board and by conceiving of and acting as Chairman for many years of the annual Sunday In The Park, an ongoing major source of funding for the park. In her capacity as President of the Garden Club we saw the establishment of The Habitat For Humanities Gardens and the beginning of our partnership with The Common Ground School through the planting of trees and shrubs on their campus.

She has been unprecedented in her generosity; offering her home to the Garden Club for parties and on more than one occasion, flower shows. Even her garage was pressed into service for 15 years as it doubled as a storage facility for our extensive flower show staging. All of the above are commendable but what distinguishes this recipient and makes her eminently qualified to receive this award today is her long devotion to anything concerned with The Garden Club Of New Haven. It gives me great pleasure to award the Waterman Bowl to this most valued member, Letha Sandweiss

Respectfully Submitted: Betsy Nininger, Chairman

Nancy Dubie, Natalie Ronai and Marty Daniels-Cohen