GCNH Waterman Bowl

June 2018

A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.

— Gertrude Jekyll

The Waterman Bowl was given to the Garden Club of New Haven in 1956 by dedicated member, Elizabeth Waterman, to be awarded annually by a Trophy Committee “for a most noteworthy accomplishment by a member during the year.” In presenting the trophy to the Garden Club it was Mrs. Waterman’s desire to stimulate interest in all phases of Garden Club work. She suggested some fields, and encouraged the committees to add others. “Exceptional generosity in expenditure of time, effort and talent in behalf of the Club” was one of her suggestions. To that various committees have added the idea that the recipient “should have shown ability and achievement above and beyond that called for in fulfillment of a particular job.”

This year’s recipient is the epitome of those ideals, and follows in the footsteps of notable recipients like Leslie Tapscott, who was awarded the trophy in 1979 for her “commitment without reserve as a member, committee chair, officer and director”; Hory Wilson (Past President 1973 – 1975, who in 2004 established the Carol Stancliff Bowl), who in 1988 was recognized “for her contributions of initiative, organization and leadership over a span of 20 years that has sustained and enriched the quality of the Garden Club of New Haven”; and Peg Campbell (Past President 1993 – 1995), in 2001 “for her impressive history of contributions to the Club.”

The Trophy Committee this year is awarding the Waterman Bowl to a member who has over the years devoted generous amounts of time, effort and talent in behalf of our Club with boundless enthusiasm for its mission and unwavering dedication to its members.

After joining the Garden Club in 2004, she chaired Phelps Triangle from 2005 – 2007, served as Assistant Secretary in 2006, Co-President with Debbie Edwards (2014 Waterman Bowl recipient) from 2007 – 2009; headed the 2013 Tree Project from 2010 – 2013; served as President again from 2013 – 2015; from 2015 - 2017 chaired the Awards Committee, and co-chaired and then chaired Floral Design, and this year is Chair of Garden History and Design, for which she recently introduced a club-wide initiative. All along the way she has been an active member of numerous other committees of our Club and the recipient of many of its awards. As one member of this year’s Trophy Committee said: “She steps up and does whatever is asked of her, repeatedly.” And she has done so for each and every year since becoming a member of the Garden Club of New Haven, and always above and beyond the call.

It is with great pleasure and pride that we award the 2018 Waterman Bowl to Billie Ladd.

Respectfully submitted,

2018 Waterman Bowl Trophy Committee
Victoria DiSesa (Chair), Lisa Lovejoy, Bonnie Sullivan