

## **PATTI THOMPSON BIO**

**10/5/21**

Patricia (Patti) Thompson came to Tupelo in 1979 from Houston, Texas. She was head of customer service for Texas Office Supply for 3 years, moving to Hagerman Electric as an executive secretary as well as assisting in preparing the nonunion electrical apprentice classes. She also earned 750 hours as a volunteer in the emergency & maternity wards of the Texas Memorial Hospital System.

Patti came to Way-Fil Jewelry in September 1979 as a secretary and ended up in the apprentice bench jeweler and jewelry appraisal courses becoming a Certified Gemologist Appraiser and a Certified Bench Jeweler. In the late 1980's Patti enrolled at Liberty University's distance learning programs to study the Old Testament. She quickly came to use her volunteer hours as a board member at Tupelo Community Theatre, the Mississippi Jewelers Association, the North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Club, the Tupelo-Lee Humane Society and the Southern Heights Neighborhood Association. She assisted in setting the syllabus for the Tupelo Police Academy and was the first female graduate from the Tupelo Police Reserve Unit.

Patti purchased Way-Fil Jewelry from the original owners in 1985 and is still there today. She won the International Society of Appraisers "Lamp of Knowledge" award in 2004 for her article on watch appraising and has written several short stories for books, including the "Chicken Soup" books. She and her husband, Stephen Thompson won the Cat Writers Association Muse Medallion Award for their book "Cat Hymns" in 1998.

In 2009, she was appointed to the Tupelo Planning Committee and is very proud to be still serving on the committee.