Lula Ellis was born in Greenwood, MS., but currently resides in Fort Worth. She received a BA in Sociology from Mississippi Valley State University in 1998 and an MA in Professional Development from Dallas Baptist University in 2008. Lula has two wonderful children: Chrysantheum and Ishmael. She is the CEO/Founder of Lend Me Your Ear Ministries, a non-profit organization for needy families. For 20 years Lula has been a radio show personality, minister, motivational speaker, emcee, event coordinator and poet, participating in Spokenword performances all over the U.S. She has acted in many plays such as “Take Me to the King.” She is one of the most charismatic people on the planet. Her trademark laugh will have you feeling warm and welcomed.
Tarrant County. He and Barbara, a lifetime PST member, would have celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary on September 28.

**Jimmye Inez Sessions** was born in Lewisville, and died there on December 21 at age 79. She joined the Mockingbird chapter in 1992 and PST in 1993. She served on the Board in various positions, including 23rd president. She also won the Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award in 2018. Jimmye was known for her quick wit, and she never lost her sense of humor in spite of serious health problems.

Catherine ended the program by acknowledging that 2020 was a difficult year for many of our members and their families.

**Program Chair, JDarrell Kirkley.** kicked off the Poem–Athon, a January tradition. Twenty members were present, and each had a chance to read two poems.

**Spotlight on Poets Chair, Susan Maxwell Campbell** introduced our fourth Legacy/Spotlight Poet, **Mo H Saidi**, a physician, born in Iran, who now lives in San Antonio, was the winner of the 2007 Eakin Manuscript Award for his book, *Art in the City*.

**Contest Chair Rich Weatherly** announced the winners of the January monthly contest, along with the Laugh Lines winner and the Book Prizes. See the winners in the contest box below.

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### JANUARY MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

**Critic Judge:** Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO  
**First:** Ann Howells, Carrollton – “Dining on Custard”  
**Second:** Johnnie B. Carter, Humble  
**Third:** Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas

**Laugh Lines**  
Judge: Von S. Bourland, Happy  
Winner: Birma C. Castle, Beaumont

**Book Prizes**  
Popular – Christine Boldt, Temple  
Wm. D. Barney – Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield  
M. Tandy Duemke – Aman Khan, Dallas  
Naomi Stroud Simmons – Steve Sanders, Fort Worth

**Other Poems were by:**  
John Bartell, Barbara Blanks, Sheila Tingley Moore, Hollis Davis, Beth Honeycutt, and Eric Blanchard

Send contest entries before the 15th of each month to Contest Chair, Richard Weatherly at 7617 Palomar Dr., N. Richland Hills, TX 76180 • 817-428-8088 • WeatherlyR@sbcglobal.net.

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Beyond the announcement, there was no publicity for the chapbook, which is always promoted during the summer conference. Due to the pandemic, our summer conference was cancelled, and the winning chapbook was never featured, and Catherine had no opportunity to read from her book or let people know how to obtain a copy. This was not only a disappointment for Catherine, but also for the Fort Worth Poetry Society as its sponsor, and it was a loss to all who would have enjoyed reading this chapbook. The judge, David Allen, retired journalist from the Poetry Society of Indiana had this to say about Catherine’s prize-winning work, *The Limping Mermaid*: “I loved this chapbook…There were some really good chapbooks submitted, but I kept coming back to (this one). It was clearly the best. I’d love to get a printed copy when it is published.”

This publicity is late, but not too late for you to get a copy of this highly acclaimed chapbook. It is available at [http://tinyurl.com/y4og58hq](http://tinyurl.com/y4og58hq). Also, PST chapters may want to contact Catherine to see if she’s available to attend one of your monthly Zoom meetings and read from her excellent chapbook.
**A Personal Letter to the PST Membership from Nancy Baass, PST’s Annual Contests Chairman (Retired)**

Dear Friends,

In September, in spite of keeping regular doctor appointments and doing all I was told to do, I suffered an acute angle closure glaucoma attack in my left eye. I experienced excruciating pain and near blindness. In an effort to lower the extremely high pressure in my eye, the doctor prescribed many different eye drops, pills, and capsules, and made laser holes all over the eye. I also underwent paracentesis prior to emergency cataract removal/lens implant surgery and more eye drops. Using only my right eye, I slowly and carefully performed and completed the duties of the Annual Contests Chairman for a fourteenth year.

In early December, I learned that while my left eye had finally healed, my vision will always be impaired, my inability to focus being permanent. This made me realize that it is time for my retirement from the position that I have considered an honor to hold. It prompted me to notify PST President Irene C. Robertson regarding my decision and plans.

Although retired, I am taking care of the sponsorship part of the job one last time. I will also see to the preparation of the brochure, but someone else’s name must go on it as Annual Contests Chairman prior to it being printed in *A Book of the Year*, and posted on the PST Website in the Spring.

Anyone who is interested in information about the position of Annual Contests Chairman should e-mail me at nancy.baass@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Nancy Baass,
PST Annual Contests Chairman (Retired)

P.S. An irregularity in my left eye’s retina was aggravated by the necessary surgery, and more surgery is soon to be scheduled to repair the macular hole that formed, which has added linear distortion to my already impaired vision. I also face cataract removal/lens implant surgery on my right eye in the near future. Prayers are appreciated.
ALAMO AREA POETS OF TEXAS
Sheila Tingley Moore Reporting

After welcoming members and our guest poet Loretta Diane Walker, President Antoinette Winstead led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

Patricia Keoughan made the motion to accept the December minutes as read, and Vivian Skinner seconded. Everyone agreed. The bank balance remained the same since Sheila Moore donated the postage cost to mail everyone's old poems, award certificates, and critiques from the last six months.

Our speaker, Loretta Walker, has had five poetry collections published, and AAPT was blessed to have this award-winning poet as guest reader and presenter. Among the many accolades she has won, she is a multiple Pushcart Nominee, winner of the 2016 Phyllis Wheatley Book Award, winner of the 2011 Bluelight Press Book Award, and she has been published throughout the US, Canada, India, Ireland, and the UK.

She read several of her poems from her five collections of poetry, some of which paid tribute to her family, especially her mother, who was a strong influence in her life. She also shared her experiences of being a three-time cancer survivor, which was a welcome encouragement to several of AAPT’s members who are currently, or have experienced traveling the same hard road. Members expressed interest in buying her books (she has a new one coming out soon). If you e-mail her at Walkerld1@aol.com, she will lead you through the process to get the book(s).

Afterward, she led the group in a fun writing exercise. Each person chose a phone number then had to write a poem with each line having the same amount of words in sequence as each of the phone numbers. To have been written "off the cuff," the shared poems were surprisingly good and even up-beat in this time of hope for a much better upcoming year.

The December contest winners were read and are as follows: For the open category, Iris Maahs won first; Patricia Keoughan won second; Antoinette Winstead won third; and Sheila Moore won honorable mention.

For the assigned category, Antoinette Winstead won First; Rene Ornes won second; Iris Maahs won third; Patricia Keoughan won first honorable mention; and Carol Siskovic won second honorable mention.

For the new business, the club voted to keep the sponsored PST contest the same, and Carol Siskovic offered to make a $25 donation to the cause. Also, Antoinette Winstead is collecting old poetry books and making a list of the good ones to recommend to the group.

After Happy New Year salutations all around, the meeting was adjourned.

BEAUMONT CHAPTER
Birma Castle Reporting

I got so busy with my up-coming birthday(Christmas Day) that I forgot to send any news for December.

I have been getting educated in a lot of technology and have enjoyed the Zoom Sessions, especially the Zoom Awards. I won one first place and almost didn’t get to read it. I changed the name of the poem and didn’t record the change. I had no idea what the poem was about. I plowed through my Word World, even called the contest sponsor, called the Zoom Master, Steve suggested I text Nancy to scan the poem for me and I finally left Nancy a message.

My computer had been hacked by then so I couldn’t send or receive. Dear Sweet Nancy could not scan at the time, so she re-typed the poem for me and sent it to my neighbor the night before the Zoom Meeting. Now, that is dedication! I was able to read my poem because she cared, and my neighbor was a sweetheart and printed it out for me. Thank you, Nancy, Sue and Steve!

Congratulations to Laurie Kolp on her First
Place win. She was unable to be on Zoom and read it so we’ll have to wait for A Book of the Year.

Congratulations to Dorothy Clover who has a poem accepted for publication in Studio Ink Magazine. Good job Dorothy, keep sending poems out.

Barbara Powell and her husband, Curtis were sad that they didn’t get to see great grandkids from Wyoming, but glad they didn’t get to see their granddaughter from Las Vegas, who came home to the Dallas area and brought Covid to her parents. They had planned to be in Beaumont for Christmas, but spent the holiday in bed. Barbara’s daughter-in-law is still in the hospital. Their daughter from Springfield, MO with husband and daughter did make it to Beaumont for Christmas. Son, daughter-in-law, granddaughter and grandson from Beaumont joined in to make it a festive day.

Sherry Morgan has finally finished the task of emptying her late mother’s house. Jo Ellen Fant knew it was going to be a big job and left instructions for much of what needed to be done. Sherry called me on December 22, and offered poetry books from Jo’s collection. Many were authored by Violette Newton. I am sharing with our group.

I am sending out information for Lucidity April 19, 20, 21. My motto is: It won’t happen if you are not ready when the time comes! If the world has calmed by then, I’ll be ready. You can get information at: www.lucidiypoetryretreat.com (If the 2021 flier information is not there yet, it will be). A great BIG thanks to Terry Jude Miller for creating and maintaining the Lucidity webpage for me. For the Video, which is also on Youtube, I learned that I can say a lot in less than 60 seconds, if I have to! I truly hope that this wonderful retreat will be able to meet on MONDAY (New start day), April 19, 2021. One of these days I will be able to hug every one of you!

**DENTON POETS’ ASSEMBLY**

**Richard Kushmaul Reporting**

The Denton Poets Assembly met via Zoom Saturday December 19, and welcomed two guests, Christine Bolt and Jason Cravens. Betty Roberts introduced the “Spotlight” poet of the month Diane Glancy, who read and discussed her award-winning poem “Unbound” about the forced relocation of the Cherokee nation from Georgia in 1838.

Following, Beth Honeycutt gave a close reading of “Try To Praise the Mutilated World” by the featured poet of the month, Adam Zagajewski. DPA members then read submitted “Read and Respond” poems from their prior month readings of Zagajewski.

During the second half of the meeting “Free Choice” poems were read. Massood Parvase discussed his inspiration for his Read and Respond Poem “On My Knees.”

**FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY**

**Steve Sanders Reporting**

The Fort Worth Poetry Society met on January 12, 2021 for their first monthly meeting of the new year. Attending were President Patricia Ferguson, Treasurer Mike Baldwin, Secretary Steve Sanders, Marilyn Gilbert Komechak, Mary-Margaret Belota, Cade Huie, and John Bartell (who graciously ran the meeting by Zoom). The minutes of the last meeting were read, the Treasurer’s report given, and we voted to continue sponsoring the Derry Tutt contest for PST. We also chose a judge for the Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest.

Steve Sanders is sponsoring a Zoom celebration of Robert E. Howard’s birthday on January 22. If you are interested in attending and reading one of Howard’s poems, send Steve an email (at steve.sanders@gmail.com), and he will send you the Zoom invitation. Kudos included Mike having EIGHT poems accepted by different publishers in the month of December and Steve being the guest speaker and contest judge for the San Antonio Poets Association’s December meeting. We critiqued seven excellent poems and adjourned till February.

**HOT/LIVE POETS OF CENTRAL TEXAS**

**Christine Boldt Reporting**

Four members of the Hot/Live Poets held a cozy meeting on December 10. Gwendolyn Brooks was our Poet of the Month. Dwight Gray introduced us to her work and we discussed the poems we had previously highlighted: “Boy Breaking Glass,” “truth,” “The Bean Eaters,” and “An Aspect of Love Alive in the Ice and Fire.” We then read response poems based on Brooks’ work.

Our January Poet will be Jericho Brown. We will have our regular Zoom meeting on January 14. For information please contact Chris Boldt (pac-boldt@sbcglobal.net).
The Mockingbird Poetry Society met on Saturday January 2 in a virtual Zoom format. Attending the meeting were sixteen members. Beth Ayers was introduced as our new MPS president, and, (yours truly) Barry Rynk as new secretary. Member poetry readings followed MPS business reporting. A great selection of poems, including haiku, was shared from the group. Due to the pandemic, Beth Ayers announced that virtual meetings will be scheduled for the regular MPS monthly meetings at least through April 2021. Our annual Collin County Poetry Contest is currently accepting entries with the hope that the pandemic will not drastically affect student participation. During our member sharing time, John Alexander announced that he recently had three poems published in the January edition of Faith On Every Corner online magazine. Susan Mardele announced that she had three poems accepted for publication in Forces, an annual publication sponsored by the Humanities and Communications and Fine Arts divisions of Collin Community College. Our new president, Beth Ayers, shared that she also had a poem accepted for publication in Forces. The MPS Sunday, December 3 group activity at the Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney was a wonderful relief for cabin fever, attended by seven members and one guest. The weather was sunny, dry, and delightful in the mid-50s. There’s a plan-in-the-works to continue monthly outdoor activities, with proper PPE and social distancing, on the 3rd weekend of every month at new, inspiring locations in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

POETS NORTHWEST
Eric Blanchard Reporting
Poets Northwest has been meeting monthly via Zoom since March 2020. During our November 2020 meeting, PNW elected a new slate of officers, who began their term on January 1st. Congratulations and many thanks to our 2021 Board. We then discussed many of the various resources available to help us cultivate our craft of poetry, many of which have been assembled on PNW’s website.

POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY
Barbara Goerdel Reporting
The Poets of Tarrant County met on January 4 at 10 a.m. President Ron Eddins called the meeting to order after all zoom glitches were solved. There were nine members present. The program was presented by Susan M. Campbell and Christine Irving who were winners and placed in the PST annual contests for 2020. Lynn Lewis was Spotlight Poet. All of us know Lynn by her gift of writing poetry with few words but with a strong, profound impact. Contemporary poet reader was Jerry Johnston who read the poem “Oak Gall Wasp” by Robyn Schiff. Discussion followed about the author and poem. Hollis Davis performed an original musical composition which had all of us enjoying the music and his talents. There was a moment of silence in memory of our beloved deceased poets of Tarrant County. All will be remembered for their kindness, talents, and passion of purpose.

The minutes and treasurer reports were read by Barbara Goerdel. Kudos were acknowledged and discussed by those present. President Ron Eddins presented our new chapter stamp with logo. The pending banner was discussed with the conclusion to table the subject until necessary. The monthly read-around was “cutting edge” poetry. Members discussed each poem and with the explanation of what cutting edge meant to them. The next sched-
uled first Monday February meeting will have Hol- 
lis Davis as Spotlight Poet, Barbara Goerdel as Con- 
temporary Reader, and Susan M. Campbell will pre- 
present the program. The monthly assignment topic 
will be lyric poetry.

ROSE GARDEN POETRY SOCIETY
Mary Tindall Reporting
The Rose Garden Poets congratulate Carol Thomp- 
son for two first place awards and a third place in 
the PST 2020 Awards announced in November. 
Other Rose Garden members placing in the contests 
include Richard Hurzeler with four honorable men- 
tions, Jackie McVey with a third place and and an 
honorable mention, and Janet Tyner with a third 
place and two honorable mentions. We are proud of 
our poets.

Carol Thompson and Sue Roberts have poems 
in a recent anthology of East Texas Poets who meet 
quarterly with Peter Hoheisel at the Jacksonville Li- 

Rose Garden Poets continue to write and read 
poetry and stay in touch by cell phone and e-mail. 
For the present we are avoiding gatherings while 
Covid-19 continues to be a health threat. Our cur- 
rent prompt is Texas roadways, any form.

RUSK COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY
Janet R. Tyner Reporting
The Rusk County Poetry Society did not meet in 
January, but members continue to stay in touch 
through phone calls, emails, and texts. President 
Mary Tindall announced that in the fall, Linda 
Amos, a life member of RCPS living in Pennsylva- 
nia, published Never Postpone Joy, over 100 free 
verse poems expressing her response to life experi- 
ences. Congratulations to Anne McCrady, Adrienne 
Pamplin, Lillian Sue Roberts, and Carol Thompson 
on the inclusion of their poems in Twelve East Texas 
Poets, An Anthology. The book is a project of poet 
and professor Peter Hoheisel of Jacksonville, Texas, 
with the assistance of Destiny Kelley. In December, 
Richard Hurzeler and Adrienne Pamplin shared 
poems with RCPS by email, and several other 
members are currently revising and composing new 
works. Carol Thompson shared an insight into po- 
etic creativity: “I think as poets we have all found 
that any creative endeavor—whether it’s a museum 
visit, an inspirational walk, getting creative in the 
kitchen, reading the poetry you return to again and 
again, or asking another poet to discuss your own 
work with you—may bring a visit from your cre- 
ative muse.”

SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION
Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting
The San Antonio Poets Association met by Zoom on 
December 19 with 13 members and 3 guests attending. 
Steve Sanders of Ft. Worth was our guest speaker and 
he read an assortment of his excellent poems and our 
group and our guests were royally entertained by both 
his wit and his wisdom.

Valerie Bailey, our publications Chair announced 
the publication of our annual anthology, Inkwell 
Echoes, Darrell Pittman, SAPA member, volunteered 
his time to provide a pick up station for members to pick 
up their books, since we were unable to hand them to 
our members at an in-person meeting. We have 
found that Zoom has some wonderful advantages in 
that non-resident members and guests can join us, but 
one of the major drawbacks is that we cannot hand out 
trophies, certificates, or books and everything must be 
handled by technology. Sometimes the personal touch 
is only way some things can get done. We appreciate 
Darrel’s helpful spirit. The 2019-2020 edition of Ink- 
well Echoes features on the cover a photograph sub- 
mitted by Margaret Mayberry, a non-resident member 
living in Florida. The photo is of a Roseate Spoonbill, 
a large wading bird native to Florida, Texas, and Loui- 
sana, that was wading at the edge of the lake beside 
Margaret’s lovely home at LaPosada, a retirement 
home for seniors in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. The 
back cover features a photo and bio of Margaret, plus 
a small write up about the Spoonbill Roseate.

The winners in our December contests in the As- 
signed Topic contest were; 1st place–Margaret May- 
berry, 2nd place–Susan Sabino, 3rd place–Antoinette 
Winstead, HM–Sheri Anderson.

Winners in the Poet’s Choice contest were: 1st 
place–Sheri Anderson, 2nd place–Clyta Coder, 3rd 
place–Carol Siskovik, HM–Iris Maahs. The judge for 
the contests was Steve Sanders of Fort Worth. We ap- 
preciate his willingness to judge during the busy holi- 
day season.

Our January assigned topic for our monthly contest 
is “Circle of Life” and these poems will be judged by
Ann Howells of Carrollton. These poems will be read at our Zoom meeting on January 16.

WICHITA FALLS POETRY SOCIETY
Linda Dabney Smith Reporting

Eight members zoomed at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 12, 2020, in lieu of the usual Christmas gathering. President Nick Schreiber presided.

Members were prepared with a beverage of choice to be drunk in unison after toasts which were sprinkled throughout the meeting.

Robert Parkey read Longfellow’s “Christmas Bells,” and later Nick read Moore’s “A Visit from Saint Nicholas.” Nick reminded members that the January contest poem about the “why” of writing poetry, which was presented and discussed at the November meeting is due to Treasurer Sheri Sutton by midnight December 31.

The poems written in conjunction with the Kemp Center for the Art’s Mystery Art Exhibit were read. The results of that contest are: 1st pace: Lynn Hoggard; 2nd place: Nick Schreiber; 3rd Place: Roselle Sheetz; 1HM: Robert Parkey; 2HM: Mark Sutton; 3HM: Marcela Trice. Three other members participated. Toward the end of the meeting, Robert put on his doctor cap and answered questions about the pandemic. The most important take-away was his confidence in the vaccine. He urged everyone to take it as soon as possible.

FOR THE NEW YEAR

Currently, my ears are carrying my headphones, my glasses, and a face mask.
Ears are the new purse.

Hormel Foods made their first batch of Spam in 1937. With everyone out shopping and hoarding food, they have announced they will be making their second batch later this week.

They say we can have gatherings with up to eight people without issues.
I don’t even know eight people without issues.

NOW HERE IS THOUGHTFUL ADVICE TO PONDER

A Notice for Members at Large
If you live in an area where there are no PST chapters you can join and enjoy the company and encouragement of other poets, here are some suggestions. If you are energetic and can do so, try to start a chapter in your area. If you need help organizing a chapter, call one of our Board members and ask for a Zoom invitation to a general PST meeting on the 2nd Saturday at 2:30 p.m. Finally, you can send your personal news and achievements to the Bulletin editor and I will put your news in with the other chapters under the heading Members at Large. We would like for you to enjoy the camaraderie of belonging and sharing what you are doing with poetry. Send your news to vbaileybulletin@att.net. We would love to hear from you.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2021
MEMBERSHIP REPORT DECEMBER 2020
from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members...........171
Associate Members.........12
Life Members................35
Student Members...............12
Supporting Members............2
Sustaining Members............1
Recently Deceased...............1
New Members.......................3
Renewing Members ...........4
Current Member Total.....232

WELCOME NEW PST MEMBERS
Cade Huie, Grand Prairie, Texas
Sandra J. Nantais, Arcadia, Louisiana (Associate)
Susan Sabino, San Antonio, Texas

You Will ♥ PST

Book Donations Report
From PST Librarian Barbara Blanks

Librarian Barbara Blanks reports no new book donations to the PST collection at the Dallas Central Library.

Members are encouraged to donate books to the Library. If you have published a collection of poems or your chapter publishes an anthology, please consider donating a copy to this collection. Send the books to Librarian Barbara Blanks at 1518 Running River Rd., Garland, TX 75044-7254.

Bulletin Editor: Valerie Martin Bailey
vbaileybulletin@att.net
News Deadline: 14th of each month by 8:00 p.m. The Bulletin will be published in all months except July; however, only annual contest results are published in the November Bulletin. Note: Your Bulletin is now sent to you via e-mail, Notify the Editor if your e-mail address changes to prevent missing an edition of the Bulletin. If you do miss an edition you can request a copy from the editor or see it on our website at www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org. Click on Publications.

Membership Chairman: Lynn Lewis
1704 Enderly Place • Fort Worth, TX 76104
817-921-9322 • elsquared59@yahoo.com
Please notify the Membership Chairman promptly if your address, phone, or e-mail address changes.

THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS MEETS
on the second Saturday of each month at 2:30 p.m.
by Zoom until the Pandemic passes and we can once again meet in person.

* THE EXECUTIVE BOARD *

President: Irene Robertson
1625 Gayla Creek Dr. • Little Elm, TX 75068 • 972-849-5690
yranie@att.net

Vice President: Richard Weatherly
7617 Palomar Dr. • N. Richland Hills, TX 76180 • 817-428-8088
WeatherlyR@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Steve Sanders
6709 Del Prado Ave. • Fort Worth, TX 76133 • 817-896-2570
steve.sanders@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Barbara Blanks
1518 Running River Road • Garland, TX 75044-7254 • 972-495-7311
barbarablanks@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary: Susan Maxwell Campbell
115 North Wisteria • Mansfield, TX 76063 • 817-473-6314
susannmaxwellcampbell@gmail.com

Director: JDarrell Kirkley
18112 Hollow Oak Court • Dallas, TX 75287 • 972-733-3232
jdarrell@jdkcom.com

Director: Domingo Rodriguez
5917 Paloma Blanca Rd. • Fort Worth, TX 76179 • 805-302-9494
domingo.rodriguez@veteran.me

Director: Susan Mardele
1811 W. Midway Street • McKinney, TX 75069 • 972-467-5803
wordart@flash.net

Our Deepest Sympathy To…
The family and many friends of Lois V. Chapman who died on January 2 at the age of 82. Her funeral service was held on Jan. 9 at the Singing Hills Funeral Home in Dallas. She is survived by two daughters, Leann Zondag and husband Don, Tyra Sprabary, and husband Robert, five grandchildren: Jessica Zondag Lynn and husband Shane, Gerrit Chapman Zondag, Kyle Robert Sprabary, and Kara Grace Sprabary. Lois was a recipient of PST’s highest award, the Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award. The honor was well deserved as she served from 1991–2000 on PST’s board of directors. She was Spotlight on Members Chair from its inception until she stepped down from the board. During her tenure on the board, she served on the annual awards committee, and was part of the editorial staff for A Book of the Year for three years. As a board member, Lois was steadfast and reliable, and could be counted on when her presence and voice were needed. She attended summer conferences and award banquets for many years, and was both an award donor and a judge. She was a member of the state committee that helped plan and execute the 1996 National Federation of State Poetry Societies Convention in Dallas. She also served for a time as chairperson of the monthly awards. Lois will be remembered fondly by all who knew her,