

## SUQ

### Denise Browning

What an exciting year for the Suq! With the opening of the new Mesopotamian Gallery, it felt like things were finally back to normal for the first time since the renovation started. It was like seeing old friends to see our Mesopotamian objects back on display. The opening stimulated interest, which meant higher sales in the Suq, continuing almost a year later.

Unfortunately, the year also brought us the death of Rochelle Rossin one of the most dedicated volunteers the Suq has known. She hardly ever missed a Tuesday morning, and volunteered for over twenty-five years! She loved helping a customer find that perfect piece of jewelry. Rochelle has been missed.

On the bright side we had two new volunteers who pitched in when we needed extra help during the holidays. Special thanks to Kavita Rajogopal and Caryn Noble. We have also added Irene Glasner who has turned into a weekly regular that has been helping in the office. She has been great to have around.

I can't say thanks often enough to our loyal regular Suq volunteers who make the Suq such a special place: Muriel Brauer, Patty Dunkel, Peggy Grant, Jane Thain, and Norma van der Meulen. In addition, Norma donates her artistic talents many a Monday to design beautiful one-of-a-kind jewelry for the Suq.

The most exciting event of the year was the arrival of our new jewelry case, made possible by a very generous donation. The cabinet was custom designed to meet our very limited space requirements, adding new storage space underneath the jewelry displays. Plus the cabinet is truly gorgeous! The walnut matches the existing wood in the lobby, and the antiqued bronze on the upper glass case matches the beautiful bronze gallery doors.

We also say good-bye to three of our students employees who graduated this year: Laura Herrick, after four years, plus Eric Christensen and Kristin Halvorson who each worked two years for the Suq. They contributed their many talents and computer knowledge to help reconfigure our new inventory system and update our Web site.

The future is very exciting for the Suq: new customers, new reproductions, increased Web presence, and higher sales!

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