

# THE SUQ

Denise Browning

***This was another record year for the Suq. With many shops reporting dismal Christmas sales our December sales were actually up over 6%, and our annual sales were up over 2 1/2%. The war in Kuwait seemed to increase awareness of the ancient Near East and people came looking for more information.***

Just the day before our Christmas Sale we received our new Visa/Mastercard Data Capture machine! It has made a world of difference for our volunteers (and hopefully for our customers) in processing charges. Every once in a while it still likes to give us a strange message, but overall it has speeded up the process immensely.

We also started new evening hours on Wednesdays, staying open until 8:15. The reception has been positive, starting slowly but steadily increasing as more and more people become aware of our extended hours.

All of this wonderful success is due to our volunteers. They work very hard, are very knowledgeable, and are very patient when dealing with our customers. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers — I learn from them all the time.

A special thanks to those who helped with inventory this year, and to Marie Baxter and Norma Vandermeulen, who make such beautiful jewelry for us. Thanks go also to Florence Ovadia for her lovely displays, and to Eleanor Swift and Georgie Maynard who help to get us organized on Mondays.

## **SUQ VOLUNTEERS**

Muriel Brauer

Lois Cohen

Charlotte Collier

Miriam Di Cretioni

Barbara Frey

Peggy Grant

Janet Helman

Jane Hildebrand

Ruth Hyman

Jo Jackson

Carol Johnson

Inger Kirsten

Peggy Kovacs

Mandy Kwok

Georgie Maynard

Agnethe Rattenborg

Rochelle Rossin

Mary Schulman

Eleanor Swift

Mardi Trossman

Norma Vandermeulen

Barbara Watson

Denise Weeks