

Small Talk

National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts

Region N2, Spring 2015

From your Regional Coordinator

Here it is March and really, have we had winter yet??? I have gotten part of my work area cleaned up but it is never-ending and I never will get it all together. How about you?

I'm preparing for the upcoming Small Scale Houseparty in Madison, Wisconsin. I think it will be fun, the first weekend of May. Of course, for those who do 1", the final Folsom Fiesta will be that weekend in Sacramento. I am going to miss that final one and am sorry because I have always enjoyed that over the years. Thank you, May Day Minis, for so many years of enjoyment in our region.

WANTED in N2

1. We are looking for someone to work on our N2 website to either update it or to create a new one. If that is in your interest and ability area, please contact me ASAP.
2. A Welcome Chair to contact and welcome new members to our region. We have a packet to send out. You would not have to create one. Please contact me if you are interested.

Read on for the many activities coming up soon and I hope I see you all there. Keep on miniing (is that a word?)

Barbara Thornton-Hill

Regional Coordinator, Region N2

State Rep Reports

East Bay/Tri-Valley

State Reps Bobbie Schmidt & Will Thomas

Mini Dreamers: The Mini Dreamers are already working on the 2015 CHAMPS show, which benefits the Oakland Children's Hospital. It's their 19th CHAMPS show! WOW! Dates are Friday, September 11, 5–9 p.m. and Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center dealer information may be obtained from Diane Walter at jandi2000@comcast.net. Thank you again to the club for hosting a NAME table at the CHAMPS Show in 2014. That gesture is very much appreciated.

The Mini Dreamers Club is open for members, should you be searching

for a mini group. They meet Monday nights, 7–8:30 p.m. Right now they are getting ready for CHAMPS and finishing up UFOs. Email Diane Walter at jandi200@comcast.net.

Their member Joan Kunze is recovering from surgery and speedy recovery wishes are sent her way.

Delta Do Littles: the East Contra Costa County's Delta Do Littles, always busy with minis, are finishing up individual shed and cart projects. The nine-member, six-year-old group has held two miniature shows at the Antioch Historical Museum that were well received by East Bay and Tri-Valley visitors. The club meets on the fourth Saturday of each month in Brentwood. Email Nancy Thomas at place1@comcast.net.

Keep your eyes peeled for future up-

dates on the 2017 Sacramento Houseparty.

North Coastal

State Rep Laurie Parker

Humboldt Small World Club: Hello Fellow Miniaturists, the Spring is such a lovely time of year and some of us like to get our Spring decorating done! Humboldt Small World Miniature Club is doing just that by creating an Attic Room Box you can decorate just as you wish. All our club members are making special gifts for the project and lunch will be served. The class will be taking place on April 18th. There are 20 spaces available for \$25 per kit.

Thanks go out to our club member Loren Parker who designed and cut each

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kit! Also to all club members who help to make this years Play Day a success!



Small World Miniature Club Project

A Glitter Swap was offered in Yahoo Group Small and Smaller. There were 25 people who joined and was it ever fun! Laurie Parker joined and made a pastel Glitter Tree all decorated with little packages underneath! Then she entered the swap Challenge and made her Story Book Cottage into a Glittered Gingerbread House! Everyone's project was wonderful. Be sure and check it out on Yahoo Groups.

Our last meeting was at the home of our secretary, Laurie Parker. Club members; Gail, Sharon S., Sharon O., Dorelee, Jean, Shirley, Kay, and Delorice were present.



Laurie's glitter gingerbread house

Laurie served homemade chicken soup and Susie Kunhousen made a delicious cheese-cake dessert. We made tiny decorated Christmas Tree Projects, and club provided papered boxes to place them in.

Our next meeting will be at President Gail Freeman's home. She will be offering a small clothes rack kit to be used in our Play Day Project.

Fresno

State Rep Barbara Fairbanks

Fresno Tinker Belles: The Fresno club has been very busy on many projects. As I write, most of the club has gone to the Morro Bay Show. After more than 25 years, this is the last show in that area. We will miss it!

We are all working on Karen Cary's Houseboat and I am sure no two will be alike. Between the colors being used and the furniture, they will be so different.

Also, Joan McLean left glass paperweights for the club. We are just now getting to the project. We will be using a M.E. card set to make in dimensions. Kayanne Yung is teaching the class and has given us lots of homework in cutting out all the tiny pieces. We will assemble the cards to fit into the paperweight at a later date.

As to why I am home while the club has gone to Morro Bay, my husband fell this week and broke his arm in two places, one at his shoulder and another a little way down his arm.

Mini hugs,

—Barbara Fairbanks

Marin, Napa Valley

Cary Yerves

San Francisco/ N. Peninsula

Open Position

Central CA

State Rep Margaret Gordus

Our Little Mini Club Chico/Paradise:

This year for Christmas we went to a restaurant for lunch and to Melba Wellsfry's home for dessert and a gift exchange. Some of the members are finishing 'A

scene in a book' room box. We will be starting a new project next month.

Liz Driver is participating in the On-Line Swap. Vegie Maclean and Carlene Brown attended The MiniCals January workshop in Morgan Hill, where they made a "Memory Box." Vegie and Carlene have been approved to teach a Friday workshop at Good Sam in October. It will be a one-inch Market Stall. Carlene is going to teach a Roundtable at the MiniCals May workshop—the Roundtable is a Vintage French Watering Can in one-inch scale.

No. Nevada, Tahoe

State Rep Mary Ann Van Buskirk

Tahoe Miniacs: Despite some of my health issues, we are busy working on the 22nd annual "Summer at Tahoe state day workshop." Please join us for an interesting project designed to preserve memories and be a space saver also. The workshop will be held on Saturday, August 8, 2015 in beautiful South Lake Tahoe at the Sierra House school.

As soon as we receive your registration, we will ask for a photo of someone or something you would like to remember. You will receive the original picture back.

Breakfast snacks and a buffet lunch will enhance your day. Project, prizes and food will be offered at \$65 for the day. Tahoe usually has nice warm days, cool nights, and the best scenery to be had anywhere. Come join us for a wonderful workshop! Please see the advertisement in this issue.

Carson City Mini Makers: have been busy each month doing projects. In December we had our Christmas luncheon at a Chinese restaurant. It's nice to have their round table to put our gifts for everyone on. We have two members who are still in school, one is in elementary and the other in middle school. They come with their grandmothers, which is so nice. We received very nice gifts.

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I had made a Christmas table and chairs and put my gifts in a Christmas tin I had gotten at Michael's. So in January we made the tin into a Christmas room-box. I taught that workshop.

We usually have our meetings the second Sunday afternoon at the Calvary Chapel on Cleaview Drive in south Carson City, Nevada. Someone from our group brings some refreshments for us. In February we made 1/4 scale cherry pies, plus items that would be used to make them. Our two young members finished theirs. Mine isn't quite finished! Guess I talk more!

Some of us are participating with the QuarterConnection Online Convention. So that keeps us busy. Our workshop in March will be a roombox that we can either use for a living room or a kitchen!

We welcome visitors who might be in our area to our meetings. I would appreciate an email or phone call if you are coming.

Mini Hugs,

JoAnn Jacot

Carson City Mini Makers Coordinator
Bearsathought@Charter.net
Cell phone - 775-720-5184

Sacramento, Central Valley, Sierra Foothills

State Rep Leslie Flint

I want to give kudos for all of you that put on miniature shows. It's tons of hard work and up until you open the door on the day of the show, you are being driven crazy! This year will be my 4th miniature show and every year has been a challenge. It's amazing that there are so few places in Stockton that can host a show with exactly what we want, as far as a venue goes. I have been jumping over obstacles from everything from rooms that are too small, hotels with a restaurant onsite but unwilling to open it for the show (dinner only or it's for club members only), locations that want to charge

\$7,000 because the show will cut into the hours of a possible wedding/bridal show, locations that have a huge ballroom, huge fees but no tables, locations that have an issue with setting up the night before, coming in early and the list goes on... I thought by now that I would have a permanent home for the show but so far that has not happened.

Luckily, I remembered the Scottish Rite Hall and hopefully, this will be a permanent location. There is no hotel onsite but there are several hotels less than three miles away so I can finally breathe a little easier these days. The venue is large with a kitchen and the restrooms have a large sitting area for those that want to temporarily get away from the stress of being tempted to spend your whole paycheck on that special miniature item that you have had your eyes on since the last show:)

The Scottish Rite Hall is located at 33 W. Fremont Street in Stockton and I have a room block at the University Plaza Waterfront Hotel, which is less than two miles away from the event location. Plus, Luci Hanson has agreed to do a FREE LED Lighting Seminar as well, so I am looking forward to learning something new. Please RSVP to reserve your seat if you are interested.

On another note, I want to thank Renata Winters for all her efforts in trying to get me to attend her clubs events. For the past six months, I have been battling everything from health issues to two deaths in my family and the death of four of my good friends. I am now back to work and I am ready to take on the miniature world one club at a time :) I am also working with Sigrid Williams on the new club for the Stockton area called the Small Wonders Miniature Club. We have five confirmed members so far and hope to grow once we get all the details worked out. I am also looking forward to attending all the miniature shows so I can get to know all of the wonderful and talented

people in the miniature community. I hope that the year brings good health and happiness to all of you.

Gold Country Petal Pushers: Not much going on with the Petal Pushers up here in Nevada City. We have been working with water colors to paint a background for our garden scenes. This is new to some of us. Otherwise, we're enjoying summer this winter but are really afraid of the summer in the summer with no water.

—**Barbara Thornton-Hill**

Gold Country Miniature Society: The Gold Country Miniature Society club has started a new project for 2015. At our last Christmas party each member received a special gift from Laurel Gross: the Mocking Bird Cottage, a Pre-convention workshop in half scale, in Arlington, VA that she taught in 1996. She had just the right number of kits stashed away in her treasures. Now Laurel is teaching another group of miniature enthusiasts.

The project is a front porch built into a cigar type box covered in a pretty flowered fabric. The box looks and opens like a book. We've installed the the front of the house with a curtained window, front door, floor, steps, and porch railings. Included in the kit are all the accessories to make welcome any little guest. Thank you, Laurel!

—**Dawn Cecil**

Quarter Persuasion: In January we all made 1/4 scale toys. That was fun. In February, we will be starting a new project. It is an English style cottage. We will all use the same basic cottage that Connie Younker is cutting out for us, but they will all have their own style and personality. We have several classes scheduled for this year. The classes will teach us how to make things to go into the cottage.

We all received mini loaf pans from Lynn Hamel at Christmas. We have plans to make a Christmas room in the

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pans. We are already thinking of next Christmas.

We have a great time together and invite anyone who is in the Sacramento, Nevada County areas to join us. You can reach me at peppermint_pattie@att.net or 530-432-3271. Enjoy your minis.

—Pattie Hong, President
Quarter Persuasion Club

The Itty Bitties: – No report

By Small Design: By Small Design's first meeting of the year isn't until late March. We will have more club information in the next newsletter.

MayDay Minis: MayDay minis is sad to say we've lost a very special lady. Ethel Anderson has joined the group of Angel Miniaturists. She is deeply missed. Folsom Fiesta will be in her honor.

—Karen Sandvick

Small Wonders: We are still taking names for the Small Wonders Miniature Club. Call Leslie Flint at 209-406-1206 or Segrid Williams at 209-594-1563. We should be up and running within the next couple of weeks so stay tuned for more information.

South Bay & Peninsula

**State Reps Barbara Adams and
Lynne Hoffman**

The South Bay Area/Peninsula clubs are off to a good start in 2015. Lots of club projects in the works, classes offered, and plans being made for NAME Day events. I hope that we will see each other at one or more mini get-togethers this season. How about bringing a friend along?

—Lynne Hoffman

MiniCals Club: The MiniCals have been busy with our annual club Christmas party and the spring workshops. A birthday box was featured in Janu-

ary and the February 21/March 21 workshop will be a retro closet complete with garment bags, clothes and a chest of drawers. We will also have Joan Maclean cabinets and a Roundtable day later in the year. Please join us for the Spring Fling Potluck and Flea Market on March 28, 2015. One of the features at our Spring Fling will be the collection of Mary Scholl's peddler dolls and some smaller pieces of her years of collecting. For more information, call 408 997-1004 or grouchy-beartoo@aol.com

—Brenda Hough

Through the Looking Glass: It is hard to believe but Through the Looking Glass in San Jose is already thinking about NAME Day 2015! We will be working with Mini Cals again this year to host the Work Day in Morgan Hill. We are looking forward to working on our store display window prototype kits and ideas for themes, kits and gifts are under discussion. We are also looking forward to the upcoming Mini Flea Market and Pot Luck held in April in Morgan Hill. Happy Spring and many happy miniature things to do!

—Barbara Adams

The Wee Housers: The Wee Housers are back at work (not work but fun) making miniatures and attending meetings. At our February meeting we made peach tarts. They all looked wonderful and good enough to eat!

Some of us are already looking forward to attending the national convention in Indianapolis. And of course, there are more workshops and a flea market to attend before that.

Happy Miniaturizing!

—Laura Johnson



Mary Scholl's peddler doll collection

MiniAttics: Ten years ago a group of miniaturists from the San Francisco Peninsula met and formed a club with the intent of sharing skills as well as friendship and camaraderie. We named our club The MiniAttics because we met at Caryl Lepelley's home in an attic which had been fully refurbished as a workshop for miniatures.

2014 brought the 10th anniversary of the MiniAttics, and we felt we needed to do something special to observe the event. Brenda Hough suggested a memory shadow box. The plan was to put framed photos of each our 12 members in a shadowbox, with shelves in the lower third for placing swap items that represented each member of the group.

Brenda, President Lynn Miller, and Laura Johnson worked on purchasing shadowboxes, gathering photos and creating the graphics. Club members worked on their exchange items, keeping them secret until we had our 10th anniversary potluck and exchange party. It was great fun seeing what items people chose to exchange, and we were all delighted and eager to arrange them in the boxes.

Brenda Hough gave souvenirs from her travels of French feves (King's cake favors) and German wooden ornaments. Laura Johnson made a lovely 10th anniversary cake. Diane Phillips, our treasurer, gave a stack of cash on a gold coin. Honorary member Janet Smith sent quarter scale chilled wine and glasses

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on a tray, so necessary for a proper celebration. Marjorie Milani made darling dolls. Meg Milani created a breath of spring with potted flowers. Hong Mc-

Kinsey, our petit point wizard, designed tiny framed pandas holding each of our initials. Gerry Silberstein loves the ballet and made ballet slippers and a musical score. Caryl Lepelley, who provided the original attic that inspired our name, made little houses with attics!

Carol Walls provided materials and furniture for summer on the patio with books and a cat in quarter scale. Jasmin Schwarz personalized a designer plate of cookies for each of us in a rose topped box that was almost too pretty to open. Lynn Miller created a mini table saw. And in honor

our concert flute virtuoso, Kathleen Sli-ter, who passed last year, we have opera scores with a rose and a glass of wine in her favorite color which was pink.

It was a fitting tribute to the close of a 10-year period. 2014 was our last year in the attic, as Caryl and her family have moved from that house. Marjorie Milani has graciously offered to host most of our meetings at her lovely home. And the new year has brought us a new member. We are pleased to welcome Billi Cline, who has recently returned to the Bay Area after 10 years in New York. We look forward to many more pleasant years of mini making.

—Gerry Silberstein
photos by Lynn Miller



MiniAttic's Anniversary box



Swap items for the box



More swap items

NAME Day, Saturday, October 3, 2015

For 2015, NAME Day will be Saturday, October 3, 2015. However, check with your local event to see for sure that they are celebrating on that exact day. A lot depends on venue access.

The theme this year is "Window Shopping." It is a framed shallow setting in which you can create a shop window display. Sidings will be optional and the interior will be a theme of your choice. Here you see only one basic example of the 1" prototype. Watch the Gazette (March/April) for a variety of what some of the NAME Day Committee and Kit Testers have created. Watch this newsletter and the Gazette for lists of Event groups or create your own event (what about a PJ party?)



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Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures 40th Birthday October 11–12, 2015

The committee is gearing up for a very special milestone. This will be the 40th birthday of the Good Sam Show (Showcase of Miniatures). We hope everyone will come and help us celebrate. We have some surprises in the making.

We will be jurying dealers at the end of February, so that information is not available at press time. But rest assured they will be fabulous as always. We have more entries than we can handle spacewise so the decisions will be tough. The dealer list should be on the website in late March.

Look for Friday registered workshops on the website around June 1.

We're happy to present Two Academy classes following the show. They are one day classes in Morgan Hill. IGMA Fellow, Alan Hamer, is an experienced teacher in the use of copper. He will start with pattern making and layout and then on to cutting, bending, seams and edges, safely joining copper with low temp solder. Simple projects like cans, buckets, pots and planters will be completed. The skills learned in class will allow you to attempt any copper project and will also apply to the use of tin sheet, brass sheet and iron shim stock as well.

It's been a while since we have had a doll workshop and Fern Vasi, an IGMA Artisan for many years and Good Sam dealer for over 15 years, is the person to teach a fun and informative class. You will be dressing a character doll of your choice—Male or Female. Young or Old—Shopkeeper, Maid, or Someone else. Each doll will be unique. Watch for the signups as classes are limited.

Be sure to check out the wonderful pictures and articles

in American Miniaturist and Dollhouse Miniatures from the past show. Many dealers and exhibitors are featured on a regular basis and their works are extraordinary. The Photography of Michael Puff is stunning. We're now on Facebook thanks to Suzie Jones, <https://www.facebook.com/GoodSamShowcaseOfMiniatures> and Martha Puff is doing an exceptional job with a new blog and photos every Saturday. (<http://goodsamshow.blogspot.com>)

You will also find us in the Miniature Gazette, as we have become a business partner with NAME. You will find the NAME table in the foyer at the show.

I'm climbing on my soapbox for a bit to make known the importance of filling out our mailing address tickets. We use these to continually update our mailing list. If a name is inactive for a few years it is dropped from our list. If you haven't filled one out regularly, that could be you. You also may have forgotten to tell us of an address or phone change in the last year or so. We're adding emails to this year's ticket and hoping to eventually deliver information electronically. Working for charity means saving on expenses is a big deal to us. So please, please fill them out while your waiting in line or resting your feet. Thank you. (Stepping down off of soapbox)

We are pleased to welcome Joan Hammon back with us as Exhibit chairman. She did this job for many years before moving to Oregon.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for October 10 and 11 at the Doubletree Hotel. See you then.

Ruth Heisch, Good Sam Show Chairman.

grouchybeartoo@aol.com; 408-997-1004 cell 408-386-

NAME Houseparty Coming to N2



Yes, we are having a Houseparty in Sacramento in March of 2017 (exact date not determined yet). We have not had a Houseparty in N2 since the Fresno Small Scales in 2007 and, before that, Reno in 1999.

The theme is “**ABCs of Miniatures**” with emphasis on tools and techniques in the workshops and activities. This will be primarily a 1” and ¼” Houseparty but ½” and 1/44” will be juried for workshops, dealers and roundtables just as every other scale. Souvenirs, doorprizes, tables and swaps will be only in 1” and ¼” and you will have to declare a scale when you register. This is a new concept and we hope you will all enjoy it.

We need a lot of worker bees and a couple of Steering Committee Chairs yet so contact me if you want to volunteer to work on this Houseparty. **Barbara Thornton-Hill, bathca@gmail.com, 530-265-5704**

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MiniCals 2015 Events, Workshops & More!

The **Mini Cals** NAME Club is hosting an array of educational and social events throughout the early part of 2015. On **March 21**, the workshop is a continuation of retro quilted closet accessories in five colors. On **April 25**, workshop attendees will choose one of **Joan McLean's** cabinet on legs to build—a lighthouse, castle, ark, school, or row house. We are looking for roundtable teachers for **May 30**.

All MiniCal's events are held at M & L Precision in Morgan Hill.

NEW ADDRESS:

**18665 Madrone Parkway,
Morgan Hill**



Spring Fling — March 28

Pot Luck and Flea Market in Morgan Hill



One of the features at our Spring Fling will be the collection of Mary Scholl's peddler dolls and some smaller pieces of her years of collecting

For more information, contact: Ruth Heisch, grouchybeartoo@aol.com
(and see MiniCals club report on page 4)

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Open Position

South Bay/Peninsula

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Welcome Chair

Open Position

Miniatures in Fremont?!



Blue Straw Vintage

"life's happy little surprises"

We now have a small
but ever-changing
selection of doll house miniatures
in our space inside

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Open Mon-Sat. 10-5
Sun 11-5

Lynne Hoffman
bluestrawgirls@gmail.com

NAME Estate Auctions

NAME accepts estate donations from gracious members who understand how key these gifts are to funding our operations. We make donated estate items available by auction on the NAME website. Just like Ebay, we post a wonderful array of miniatures of all different scales and let the bidding go for a few days. When the auctions are over, we notify the winners via email with options for payment, which is either check, Paypal, or calling the NAME office with your credit card information. The auctions happen at random so check the auction site regularly or join NAME's Yahoo groups or Facebook page for word on when new items are posted. All the proceeds go to benefit NAME and its members. NAME truly appreciates those who donate as well as those bidders, winners or not, who participate in helping to fund our wonderful organization.

For more information contact: NAME First Vice President Babette Overman, bsoverman@gmail.com
<http://miniatures.org/auctions/index.php>



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22nd ANNUAL SUMMER AT TAHOE STATE DAY WORKSHOP

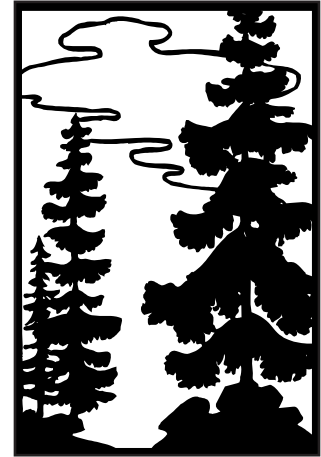
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Name N2 Region Calendar

March 21–22, 2015

Central Coast Dollhouse & Miniatures Show

Morro Bay, CA

Info: 1mcminis@att.net

N2 March 28, 2015

MiniCals Spring Fling Potluck

Morgan Hill, CA

Info: Ruth Heisch, grouchybeartoo@aol.com

April 25, 2015

MiniCals Workshop

Morgan Hill, CA

Info: Ruth Heisch, grouchybeartoo@aol.com

April 30–May 3, 2015

NAME Small Scale Houseparty

Madison, WI

Info: www.miniatures.org

N2 May 2, 2015

Folsom Fiesta State Day

Antelope, CA

N2 May 30, 2015

MiniCals Round Tables

Morgan Hill, CA

Info: Ruth Heisch, grouchybeartoo@aol.com

July 30–August 2, 2015

NAME National Convention

“What’s Cooking?”

Indianapolis, IN

Info: www.miniatures.org

September 11, 12, 2015

CHAMPS Show

El Cerrito, CA

N.A.M.E.
C/o Barbara Thorntoh-Hill
13703 N. Bloomfield Road
Nevada City, CA 95959

