



# Small Talk

## National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts

**Region N2, Fall 2024**  
<http://nameregionn2.org>

### From Your Regional Coordinators

#### Frances Bigler

My name is Frances Bigler and I am Regional Co-coordinator with Ynez Fritsch. I was born on Guam and lived there until 1990, when we moved to California. I have been married to my high school sweetheart for 46 years. We have two girls, one grandson and another one on the way. He is expected to arrive in October. I retired in 2019 as a school teacher and I love working on miniatures.

I used to drive by the Elegant Dollhouse to pick up my daughter from school, which was located a few blocks away. My younger daughter was 5 and we dropped by to browse around. We were very fascinated with the displays and all the cute, tiny things. Ethel Anderson was very helpful and gave me quite a bit of information about miniature activities in the Sacramento area. She encouraged me to join NAME. I came back a few times to look at the finished houses and room boxes. She talked about the Folsom Fiesta event and I wanted to take the workshop but it was already full. I was put on a wait list for the following year and I was able to get in. Shortly afterward, they decided that they were no longer going to offer the workshops. Luckily, Summer at Tahoe was offering workshops and I eventually got into the Itty Bitties Club of Sacramento. Oh, what fun I had!

In 2017, I attended the Sacramento Houseparty. Since I lived close by, I was able to drive to the venue everyday. I enjoyed all the activities and took a couple of workshops. We were able to tour Debbie Young's Miniature collection as part of the Houseparty events. I attended a few workshops offered in cities close by. Luckily they were on a Saturday and not more than two hours away. I attended the Bishop Show in Chicago and got a chance to see the Thorne Rooms at the Museum. I ordered the Jacobean Room in quarter scale and plan to work on it when I get home. Ynez and I attended the convention in Cape Cod and we had such a great time. We hope to encourage more miniaturists to attend these events.

**Frances Bigler**

**State Rep for Sacramento/Central Valley/  
Sierra Foothills**

#### Ynez Fritsch

I am working with Fran Bigler and together we will be your new Regional Coordinators.

My immediate family consists of a husband, six children, and six beautiful grandchildren. In my prior life, I was an accountant; most of my working life was in the medical field.

I retired in 2016. My world changed at that time when I discovered this wonderful organization of Miniaturists. I thought that when I did retire I would become a quilter—in all fairness, I did try quilting, once!

At that time one of my Sorority Sisters was an avid miniature collector. I would visit her house and oooh and aah over her fabulous collection of tiny furnished houses. She told me about "The Elegant Dollhouse" store in Sacramento. When I visited the store I met Linda, who talked to me about the miniature organizations and how it all works; she also gave me a copy of the "Miniature Gazette." I was sold—I joined NAME in July 2016 and have not looked back.

My eight years as a Miniaturist dims compared to the time that many of you have been enjoying this wonderful art form—but I am working hard to catch up. I love, love, love miniaturizing and all that goes with it.

I discovered miniatures too late for the fun of "Folsom Fiesta" and the houseparty in Sacramento. Even so, I have been fortunate enough to be able to attend two conventions and to attend many of the "Summer at Tahoe" workshops and a smattering of clubs and events in our area.

I hope that we can get back to or even surpass the pre-Covid time when we could meet in clubs or workshops and other activities and share our hobby in person. We would laugh and learn from, and with, each other and really see, up close, our tiny projects. I am not discounting Zoom meetings, which are a great alternative for many and a way to be social and get some projects finished. My hope is that we can have both.

*(Continued on page 2)*

# Small Talk

Fran and I are planning to be at Good Sam on October 12th & 13th to help represent NAME.

We will also be sponsoring NAME Day here in Sacramento on October 5<sup>th</sup>. I sincerely hope that we will see many of you then.

There are plans currently in process for our third annual mini-sale in Sacramento, to be held at a larger venue than we have had in the past.

I am home after attending another incredible convention and I am so proud to be able to congratulate our own Barbara Thornton-Hill for receiving the prestigious Mell Prescott Award, the highest award given by NAME.

There were 12 miniaturists from our N2 area at the convention, and I was honored to meet every one of them from our area, either at our N2 meeting or other venues.

I wish you all much happiness in whatever you do.

**Ynez Fritsch**  
**State Rep for Sacramento/Central Valley/**  
**Sierra Foothills**

## Interested in Starting a New Miniature Cub?

Please contact me for more information.

lynnehoffmanca@gmail.com

Thank you!

Lynne Hoffman

## Compiling a List of On-line Miniature Sources

Several people have shown interest in a list of sources for miniature tools, materials and special objects that we all search for.

I am willing to compile a list, but need your input. Please send me info on your favorite sites: name, email address, what products are available, etc.

Send your favorites to me at: dollsinmin@sbcglobal.net

Thanks, Laura

## Barbara Thornton-Hill Wins NAME's Highest Honor: The Mel Prescott Award

The Mell Prescott Award is the highest honor that NAME can bestow on an individual. At this year's convention, Barbara Thornton-Hill was presented the award by Debbie Young, head of the awards committee.

Barbara has had a long association with miniatures and NAME. She became interested in dollhouse miniatures in 1984. She took a class at a local miniature store and was hooked, joining a club and NAME, and now, 40 years later, she is still completely absorbed with the miniature world and NAME. She attended her first convention in 1988 and found the Village Miniatures Store in San Jose shortly after that where she took many classes, met Debbie Young and became a quarter scale enthusiast.

Barbara became involved in several local miniature clubs, miniature events and attended many conventions and houseparties. Around 1998, she became a State Rep in her region and moved on to Regional Coordinator in 2000. She took that job off and on for 20+ years, as needed by the region.

In 2007, Barbara joined the NAME Board as the first Special Events Coordinator and continued on the Board for 13 years in various capacities (RC Coordinator, Secretary, Second Vice President).

She became First Vice President and then President and Past President.

She has worked as Chair of many Convention/Houseparty Committees and as a Houseparty Chair for ABCs of Miniatures in 2016.

Barbara was an instrumental part of the institution of NAME Day and continues as the Chair of NAME Day today. She has continued working for NAME as a State Rep, as a member of the Create Steering Committee, as a member of several other NAME committees and as the Coordinator of the Mini Cyber Club (MCC), an online NAME Club.

Barbara is, as Debbie so aptly put it: "the ultimate volunteer" and truly deserving of the Mell Prescott Award.



*Debbie Young presents the Mell Prescott Award to Barbara*



*The audience laughed as Barbara unrolled her acceptance speech!*

# Small Talk

## NAME Day in Morgan Hill—a Halloween Event

MiniCals and Through the Looking Glass will be hosting a Halloween themed event on September 28, from 9-4. The cost will be \$45. Lots of fun, food, gifts, auction and exhibits. Also shoebox sales open to attendees.

We plan to be doing the hutch from 2010. If you'd like a different kit, we need to know by July 30 so we can order it, unless you are planning to order yourself. You're also welcome to bring an unfinished kit from another year. The cost will be adjusted. Whatever you choose to do, we need to know if you'll be joining us.

Contact Ruth Heisch at: grouchybeartoo@aol.com

## NAME DAY in SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Project: 14 years of NAME

*Sponsored by: By Small Design Miniature Club*

**Date:** Saturday, October 5, 2024 Time: 10:00–3:00

**Place:** Governors Inn Hotel - 210 Richards Blvd. Sacramento, CA  
*Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be provided.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Bring a previous NAME Day Kit you haven't finished and join us for a fun day**

Registration fee - \$35

form and check to **Barbara Thornton-Hill at 102 Cardinal Way Santa Rosa, CA. 95409**

**Please make checks out to "BY SMALL DESIGN"**

**Deadline to register is September 20, 2024**

Questions? Call or email Barbara @ 650.380.2028 bathca@gmail.com

Frances @ 916.505.1505 [fran\\_big@comcast.net](mailto:fran_big@comcast.net)

Ynez @ 916.838.8153 [nezytwo@msn.com](mailto:nezytwo@msn.com)

## Good Sam 2024

Once again we have a great group of workshops for Friday, October 11. Pictures and registration forms are on the website [goodsamshowcase.org](http://goodsamshowcase.org).

We have some new social media links for you on the homepage and contacts.

As always we are in need of volunteers. The last couple of years we have had some teens doing their service hours at our show and enjoying it. Let us know if you know of any groups of teens who would like to help. Contact me at [grouchybeartoo@aol.com](mailto:grouchybeartoo@aol.com).

See you in October!

**Ruth Heisch**

[grouchybeartoo@aol.com](mailto:grouchybeartoo@aol.com)

[goodsamshowcase.org](http://goodsamshowcase.org).

# Small Talk

## State Rep Reports

### North Central

#### Margaret Gordus

*(In the last issue I attributed this article to Margaret Gordus. It was an introduction to Billie Ruonavaara. My apologies to Billie and Margaret.)*

**Our Little Mini Club:** Hello everyone. It is my immense pleasure to introduce Billie Ruonavaara, an individual who embodies the true meaning of our motto “Only through sharing can we really enjoy our treasures.”

A few years ago Kathy and I were shopping at a place called The Doll Mercantile in Petaluma. We met a woman there who was also shopping. And she had a granddaughter with her—about 7ish. It happened she also lives in Healdsburg. She said her husband was wanting to build a doll-house for the little one. I had a nice house still in the box that I had gotten at a garage sale in Paradise years ago. But I've never done a scratch build and it always felt like it was to BIG a project for ME! So I told this woman to come take a look at it if they might like to have it.

I got a note from her yesterday these pictures. She said it took her husband two years to complete. She said it will be a “family heirloom.” I am SO THRILLED! This is just what I wish for ALL dollhouses—that they belong to a FAMILY.

—Margaret Gordus



Billie Ruonavaara's dollhouse in the box



Billie's completed dollhouse

### Sacramento, Central Valley, Sierra Foothills

#### State Reps Frances Bigler and Ynez Friatch

**Itty Bitties:** The Itty Bitties club members have been meeting with a smaller group than usual, as some members have been out of town, but we are still sharing and enjoying each other's company. We have two new members, Maria Dover and Annie Piper-Makin. We look forward to spending time with them as well.

In May, Linda sponsored the meeting at Fran's and Deb Laue taught us how to paint tiny flowers on accessories for a dressing table, using toothpicks and very tiny paintbrushes. We also used gold markers to add more details to the project.

Jan Kimbro taught everyone how to make a 4<sup>th</sup> of July themed plate set at the

June meeting. Everyone had a great time and are ready for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

MaryAnn Chapman hosted the July meeting. She taught everyone how to dress a bed that we can use in any of our existing room boxes.

—Fran Bigler



Connie's May and June projects



Linda's July Project

**Quarter Persuasion:** Our Quarter Persuasion Zoom meetings, almost every Monday at 11:00 am (think big holidays, for the few Mondays we don't meet), are lots of fun. It's a joy to see everyone that makes it there that Monday. We chat and craft together. We show each other what we're working on. We occasionally show each other our latest finished project.

We had our once a year in-person lunch on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at The Olive Garden in Elk Grove. Everyone in attendance had a lovely time.



# Small Talk

## State Rep Reports

The Sacramento Mini Sale in Roseville on April 13<sup>th</sup> was fun. It was great to see everybody. Several of our QP members were there.

I attended The Egg Show in Elk Grove on April 14<sup>th</sup>. I ran into other QP members there too. It was wonderful to be back.

—Laura Seibert



*I (Laura) finally finished my Raggedy Ann & Andy quarter scale room box recently. It was a QP club project in 2018. Buying Alicia Volta's Raggedy Ann & Andy dolls ((Alicia of AligraDolls on Etsy) spurred me to finish. These dolls are adult-size in quarter scale, so they're perfect for my sweet fantasy scene.*

### San Francisco, No. Peninsula

#### Open Position

### Marin, Napa Valley, Sonoma, Solano

#### Barbara Thornton-Hill

**Wine Country Miniature Society:** If you live in the area and are interested in joining us, contact Barbara. We continue to meet on the third Sunday of each month. Each member brings a small snack item and we eat very well. We are planning to do the NAME Club project, the display cabinet by Ruth Stewart, at our September meeting. Members have been bringing items they don't need to give away to others who may be able to use them. This has been fun.

Members have been bringing finished minis to share. This is very inspiring and we hope is encouraging us all to finish

our projects. In May, Aimee Laird demonstrated ways to age and stress wood floors and she brought wood for members to make a variety of small items using some of the techniques she showed us.

So far, our club has decided not to have a slate of officers. We have no dues and have had no expenses. We have a "Contact" person for the NAME Office and we do not have formal business meetings. We are very casual and make plans in casual discussions.

Barbara Thornton-Hill

### No. Nevada, Tahoe

#### Mary Ann Van Buskirk

### Fresno

#### State Rep Barbara Fairbanks

**Tinker Belles:** The Fresno Tinker Belles have been cooking in this heat. Nearly all of the end of June and all of July the temperature has kept us in the house (100 to 114 day after day). We are all waiting for it to cool off.

Six of us have been working on our Birdhouse Bluff houses. It is a huge project and we have all wondered if we will ever get done.

Most of us are retired but Barbara Encinas is still teaching so she has not been able to relax this summer. She has helped us out a lot as she gets the key and makes sure we have a meeting place each month.

Kayanne Yung is taking a rest from minis as she is having her house remodeled. Of course it is taking longer than expected. Will be nice when it is finished.

Wendy Biddy will be taking a week off and enjoying her granddaughter in Colorado this next week. I expect they will have a great time.

Looking forward to Good Sam and a road trip!!

—Barbara Fairbanks

### East Bay, Tri-Valley

#### Open Position

### North Coastal

#### Sharon Ocheltree

### Hawaii

#### Open Position

### South Bay, Peninsula

#### Open Position

**Through the Looking Glass:** In addition to their on-going individual miniature projects, Through the Looking Glass has been working with MiniCals on the upcoming NAME Day Workday in Morgan Hill. We met with them in July at Ruth Heisch's house to make and bag table favors for the event and Ruth provided us with a lovely lunch.

TTLG met in August for our regular meeting. We discussed our plans for the NAME Day Hunch. With the theme of Halloween being one of our group's favorites, we have a lot to talk about! Some of us are still working on table favors.

Of course, we are looking forward to the Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures in October!

—Barbara Adams

**MiniCals:** The MiniCals have been enjoying their summer days with some members going on adventures overseas and several others attending workshops at Tahoe. We look forward to our September meeting where we will continue our group trunk project and welcome our newest member, Lisa Panken.

We are also hosting a NAME day activity on September 28<sup>th</sup> in Morgan Hill with our partners in Through the Looking Glass. We have gathered a wonderful selection of over 28 Halloween miniatures for you to assemble into a very special display.

# Small Talk

## State Rep Reports

Contact Ruth if you are interested in participating. [gouchybeartoo@aol.com](mailto:gouchybeartoo@aol.com)  
Please join us!

—Brenda Hough

**Wee Housers:** Laura attended the national convention in Franklin, Tennessee, where she received her 45-year pin. She is still working on her Create “Challenge” project, making lots of jewelry.

Rhona Lee is working on several projects. The first is a Tiffany Lamp Kit created by Esters Miniatures on Etsy and taught by Juanita Landa in April 2024 with the MiniCals group. This will eventually go into a NAME Project, called “Antiques.” The second photo shows ornamental cabbages from a kit by Georgia Steeds of the Miniature Garden. These will go into a refreshed old time cobblers shop by Bonnie and Steve Goode and Ed Mabe and Eve Karobis-Mabe.

—Laura Johnson



*Rhona's beautiful lamp*



*Rhona's cabbage roses*

**Mini Attics:** Many members of the MiniAttics have been busy completing their name NAME Day projects with the theme of our 20<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary, and we hope to share them in an article for the Miniature Gazette. In spite of the lure of summer we got them finished.

Carol Walls, Laura Johnson, Diane Phillips, Meg Milani, Marge Milani, and Lynn Miller all took up the theme, filling their domes with celebration tables, gardens and mini workrooms. Laura Johnson created a special cake for those who wanted one to help complete the scenes.

The Franklin Convention got everyone's attention. Laura Johnson attended. Carol Walls stayed home but she fell under the charm of Debbie Young's Thursday night Old Southern Charm B & B, and she signed up for the class. Debbie Young's Make-A-Mini cabin also caught her eye and she is working on that too.

Diane Phillips is mining her stash for treasures and found quite a lot. She is pairing up a room box from Karen Benson with a set of furniture that she completed long ago, and will have a charming nursery. Another kit from BJ Miniatures with a complete modern kitchen is also waiting in the wings.

In anticipation of NAME Day 2024, Diane Phillips and Carol Walls are also

planning out their Witch's Kitchen, utilizing the 2011 NAME Day work center.

—Lynn Miller

*With our concentration on our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and our reminiscing about those 20 years, Lynn Miller was inspired to write a poem. She is sharing it with us.*

### Happy Anniversary MiniAttics!

Long ago beside a lake  
In a house on Emerald Hill,  
Diane and Caryl worked on minis.  
All the free space they did fill.

Caryl Lepelley lived in that house  
With cats, dogs, kids, and hubby.  
Hal looked around and knew this stuff  
Would never fit in a cubby.

This man could build! He got an idea!  
(These things aren't automatic.)  
He designed a gorgeous studio  
And built it in the attic.

Many friends would come and go,  
For life is never static.  
But that is how we got our name.  
We became the MiniAttics.

*Lynn Miller*



*Lynn's NAME Day anniversary project*

# Small Talk

## State Rep Reports



*Marjorie's anniversary NAME Day project*



*Carol's dollhouse room in her anniversary project*



*The outside scene in Diane's anniversary project*



*Meg's top view*

*Anniversary cake and gifts*



## **Small Talk**

### **SAVE THE DATE**

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**MARCH 29TH, 2025**

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# Small Talk

## NAME Region N2 Calendar

September 28	NAME Day in Morgan Hill
October 5	NAME Day in Sacramento
October 11–13	Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures

### Check the N2 Website

There are now more opportunities to get together and share our enthusiasm for miniatures online! Check out the calendar on our N2 website: [nameregionn2.org/events-calendar](http://nameregionn2.org/events-calendar) It's updated with online events, including workshops and sales. If you know of a miniature related event or have information/photos to share, please contact Carol ([namen2regionwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:namen2regionwebmaster@gmail.com)) to add it to the calendar page of the website.

NAME 130 N. Rangeline Rd. Carmel, IN 46032 317-571-8094	Newcomer/ Welcome Chair Open Position	Hawaii Open Position	Sacramento/Central Valley/ <b>Sierra Foothills</b> Laura Seibert 916-296-3613 <a href="mailto:lauraseibert@live.com">lauraseibert@live.com</a>
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