



Small Talk

National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts

Region N2, Spring 2025
<http://nameregionn2.org>

From Regional Coordinator Fran Bigler

We have been working hard to learn our roles as regional coordinators for N2. We attended the Good Sam Show in San Jose, which was quite an experience. I used to go with my club members during my early years as a miniaturist. One of our more experienced members would arrange a train ride from Sacramento to San Jose. However, we would just go for the day and had to board the train to get back home later in the afternoon. I was so excited to see all the lovely things that so many talented artists had at their tables. There were so many exhibits and vendors and I wanted to spend more time at each table and see all the exhibits. I discovered that there were many other shows in different states! And oh, what fun I've been having ever since. I retired a few years ago and have been able to attend bigger shows and meet many wonderful people.

Ynez joined the Itty Bitties club a few years ago and we have enjoyed working together. We thought working together as Regional Coordinators would be easier as both of us were new to this type of leadership. We had the same goal, which was to encourage more people to join NAME and enjoy the hobby. We attended a few out-of-state shows and sales and we have met some of the nicest people. We have been able to get some guidance from more experienced miniaturists in the leadership role.

Our Itty Bitties Club was full and we had a waitlist with individuals who were excited about joining a club. We wanted to get new people in, but we just didn't have space for them. We met some at the Good Sam show in San Jose. A new member to our club, Connie Ribble Smith, created a FaceBook page and we started to get inquiries about joining a club. So, in December of 2024, we had enough people to form a new miniature club in the southeastern part of the Sacramento area called the Sac Valley Miniatures. Some of the members (Gwiin, Dee, and Stephanie) at the urging of Connie persuaded us to attend the San Diego Show. We hope to bring more people in to share the love of miniatures!

Fran Bigler, Co-Regional Coordinator
Ynez Fritsch, Co-Regional Coordinator

NAME: Create Event Site

Have you been checking in on the NAME Create site, create.miniatures.org There is something new to see all the time. There are some free "Create Shares" (demonstrations, talks, etc.); Workshops coming up for several projects; a new feature which is "Chats with miniature Artists; and of course there are many videos listed, puzzles, etc. on the site.

Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures

Once again we thank everyone for supporting the Good Sam Show and we were pleased to present the hospital Auxiliary a record donation.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Bruce Steinke who, with wife Judy, were longtime supporters of our show and Shawn Betterly, another supporter of the show and the great hobby of Miniatures.

Another sad note. We learned Ferd Sobel's inventory was lost in the Altadena fire. A report from daughter Lynne, tells us Millie is holding up well, all things considered. We will miss seeing his fine pieces at this year's show.

Jurying begins as I write this and we hope to offer up an outstanding dealer selection.

Look for workshops on our website in early June. Goodsamshowcase.org

As always we look for volunteers as we can't succeed without you. A special need this year.

If you enjoy working with children, we are looking for someone or a team to work with the kid's roundtables. The kids attending are really enjoying the experience.

See the Showcase of Miniatures—Good Sam Cigar Box contest info on page 8.

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NAME DAY 2025: The Courtyard

Watch for news about the 2025 NAME Day in the Gazette. This year you can make a beautiful courtyard in your choice of scale and there will be tutorials and workshops on Create to teach a variety of techniques for finishings for your Courtyard, plants, flowers, etc. Keep your eyes and ears open for these events as we get closer to October. Cutters do not have prices available yet but the kits will be ready for orders in May sometime. See the finished Courtyard that the Wine Country Miniature Society of Sonoma County completed. More ideas coming soon.



MiniCals Workshops

On March 15, MiniCals will hold a plant, flower and fern workshop depicting three different seasons.

For those who have done the terrarium workshop, they are on a base that can be interchangeable in the terrarium.

On April 12, Rafael Acevedo will be teaching a stained glass class using a standard Housework's window.

May 17 will be the Spring Fling pot Luck and Flea Market 10-3

Questions?? Grouchybeartoo@aol.com

February 15 Terrarium

March 15. Plant making

April 12. Stained Glass

May 17. Spring Fling Sale

Location: 18665 Madrone Parkway, Morgan Hill at 10am



See the Showcase of Miniatures–Good Sam Cigar Box contest info on page 8.

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North Central

Margaret Gordus

Our Little Mini Club: We are scattered across California, so we meet via Zoom once a month, each one working on a project in 1/12" and 1/4" scale.

Pictures are classes I took over Zoom.
—Margaret Gordus



San Francisco, No. Peninsula

Open Position

Sacramento, Central Valley, Sierra Foothills

Open Position

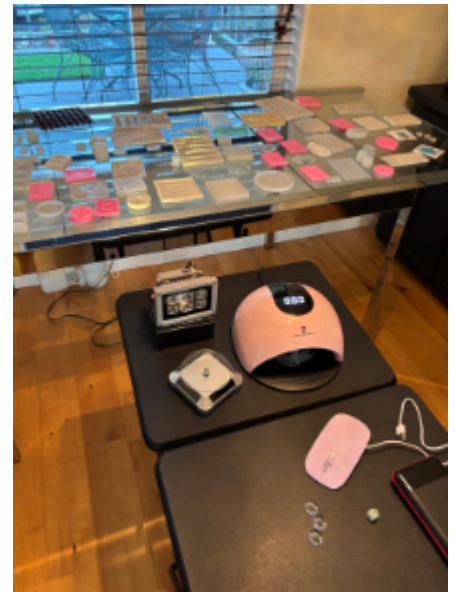
Sac Valley Miniatures: The past few months have been an exciting time for Sacramento's newest miniature club, Sac Valley Miniatures! As we continue working on our club project, hollowed-out pumpkins, we had a fantastic time at our last meeting creating UV resin pieces to personalize and decorate our works in progress. With so many silicone molds to choose from, it was tough to decide what to make next! Now, we all have plenty to

keep us busy as we paint our mini treasures over the coming months. We're hopeful that our club project will be ready for display at the Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures in San Jose this October.

Seven of us were lucky enough to take a break from our busy schedules and head down to Southern California for the 50th Annual San Diego Miniature Show & Sale. While there, many of our members had the chance to visit Miss Peggi's Place, one of the few remaining dollhouse miniature stores in the U.S. This beloved shop has been in the same San Diego location for over 40 years! If you ever get the chance to visit, we highly recommend it—be sure to say hello to the owner, Michael, for us. She's truly a gem!

We are also looking forward to our Miniature garage sale scheduled for May 3rd at the Robertson community center in Sacramento, California. We encourage you to come out and visit us and we also have tables available for as low as \$30. If you have things you would like to sell.

—Connie Ribble



UV resin equipment

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Working with UV resin



The group that went to San Diego



Miss Peggies

Quarter Persuasion: Our Quarter scale club continues to meet on Mondays every week on Zoom. We are so lucky to have this venue to meet on as we are spread out all over the place. Each member is working on their own projects but currently, several of us are working on the 1/4" Sweet Rose house being taught by Debbie Young through the Quarter Connection group online. I find this group to be a great support in getting things done.

—Barbara Thornton-Hill

Itty Bitties: We had our annual Christmas luncheon in December. We all brought the mini chairs that we upholstered to share and admire. We exchanged gifts, had a great meal with awesome company! We also had a chance to talk about important things other than miniatures.

In January, we had a lesson on using the Dremel tool. Maria and her husband have a neat setup in their garage and we practiced cutting windows out of a side wall for our next annual project. Deb and her husband created our kits for a book nook that we assembled during our workshop. One of our new members, Connie, offered to use her 3D printer to make windows for our book nooks. We have a group of incredibly talented and creative people!

—Fran Bigler



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State Rep Reports

Marin, Napa Valley, Sonoma, Solano

Barbara Thornton-Hill

Wine Country Miniature Society: Our club has been working together to furnish and finish a NAME Day Courtyard for the Gazette for publicity for NAME Day this year. It took us about three months to complete it with all members participating in one way or another. The walls are made from paper clay and painted and the base is made from egg carton flagstones. Flowers and accessories were made and donated by the members of the club. See photo in NAME Day article in this newsletter

We took a break from regular club meeting in December to meet for a lovely brunch and had a good time.

Currently, we have a new member to making miniatures who wants to fix up her childhood dollhouse for h

—Barbara Thornton-Hill

North Coastal

Sharon Ocheltree

South Bay, Peninsula

Open Position

MiniCals: The MiniCals ended 2024 with a festive tea and a Christmas get together at the home of Ruth Heisch. We are always delighted with her marvelous hospitality and the grand life-size nutcracker.

We are looking forward to our monthly meetings where we will begin a new hutch project and finish last year's trunk. The MiniCals are looking forward to new workshops in the next few months.

We had a Catch Up Day in January and worked on finishing individual projects.

Some attendees worked on the NAME day project from October with its hutch and Halloween theme. On February 15, Karen taught a Terrarium class and plants for the Terrarium will be featured on March 15th. April 12 will feature stained glass from Rafael and May 17 is our Spring Fling sale. To sign up or for more information, Contact Ruth at:

We are planning more workshops starting in January so save the dates. Costs and more details will be in the next newsletter.

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| January 18 | Catch Up Day |
| February 15 | Terrarium |
| March 15 | Plant making |
| April 12 | Stained Glass |
| May 17 | Spring Fling Sale |

Location: 18665 Madrone Parkway, Morgan Hill at 10am

—Brenda Hough

grouchybeartoo@aol.com

—Brenda Huff



Ann's finished project

Through the Looking Glass: Through the Looking Glass enjoyed a lovely Christmas party at the home of our Club president, Lynne Hoffman. We exchanged small gifts and cards, nibbled on candy and worked on a wonderful miniature winter reindeer and trees project. Lynn and her husband and daughter cooked and served us a delicious meal followed by a rousing Pirate Game.

Our New Year started with a fun Club meeting and Twelfth Night celebration at Barbara Adams' home with yummy food and an exchange of miniature Holiday gifts. We worked on making tiny Christmas crackers like the full size ones that are traditional in England. We also planned our miniature meetings and projects for 2025 and discussed this year's NAME Project and Workday in Morgan Hill.

Many of us are signed up to take part in the miniature classes offered in Morgan Hill this spring and look forward to the Flea Market and Pot Luck in May.

—Barbara Adams



The MiniCal's at their Christmas party.

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Mini Attics: Happy New Year! We celebrated a new year with our January party, and a gift exchange. Our president, Carol Walls, provided a clever wreath project for everyone to make, and with the refreshments a good time was had by all.

Cindy Loman received a fun book nook kit from her grandson for Christmas and she finished it in record time. It came with everything to complete a glass greenhouse filled with a cozy chair, and lots of plants and books to make a fun hide-away.

The MiniCals have another fun workshop coming up on February 15. Diane Phillips, Meg and Marg Milani, Carol Walls, Laura Johnson and Cindy Loman are planning to make the Victorian style terrarium, and follow it up with a workshop in March to complete the plants for filling the terrarium

Michelle Ortiz is involved in her continuing year-long project of creating a room box for every month of the year. We've seen a few wonderful iconic elements of the Valentine Suite. Can't wait to see the whole thing!

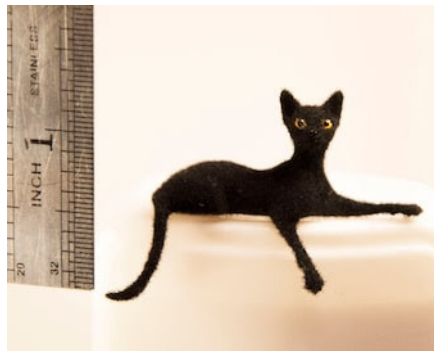
Carol Walls finished her quarter scale Gingerbread Kitchen. Carol Walls and Diane Phillips also completed 1/12th scale witch kitchens that were inspired by a stove project from a MiniCals workshop.

Lynn Miller joined a Quarter Connection group to work on one big quarter scale house project together. The pick this year was the Robin Betterley Cranberry Cottage. Lynn is also working on a 1/12th scale autumn witch kitchen, with the centerpiece being a hutch and espresso service from Robin Betterley. Drop in. Stash your broom. Have an espresso. Pet a cat black cat. And enjoy a Halloween cookie, produced by Paris miniatures.

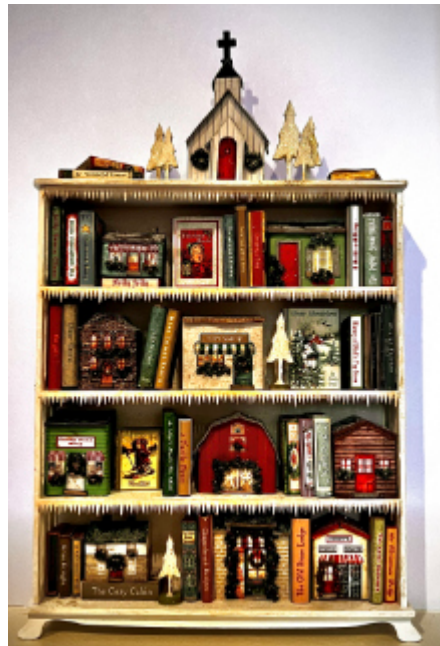
—Lynn Miller



Lynn's Halloween cookies from Paris



Lynn's tiny black cat



Cindy's Christmas bookcase

Wee Housers: The Wee Housers club members continue to work on their individual projects.

One club member is working on a small flower cart that she plans to fill with Christmas wreaths.

Rhona is working on Ron Hubble's "Passages."

Laura has just started her B & B Thursday night project from the convention. She finished her Santa Chef kitchen, a workshop put on by Cat Winger via Zoom. She is working on a skeleton kitchen.

—Laura Johnson



The flower cart in progress

For the past several weeks I have been re-wiring and re-staging my Ron Hubble "Passages" project. I still have to glue my globe lanterns and signage into place. The "Passages" are an optical illusion using a mirror positioned at a 45 degree angle to reflect another

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hallway. The skylights were achieved by taping together a series of black plastic arches with acrylic panels. The mirrored sideboard was created by Kathy and Brian Tepper of Rainbow Hand Miniatures.



Laura's Santa Chef

Fresno

Barbara Fairbanks

East Bay, Tri-Valley

Open Position

No. Nevada, Tahoe

Mary Ann Van Buskirk

Hawaii

Open Position

2025 Cigar Box Challenge

Sponsored by the Showcase of Miniatures–Good Sam Show

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1st Place: | \$100 White Elephant Gift |
| 2nd Place: | \$75 White Elephant Gift |
| 3rd Place: | \$50 White Elephant Gift |
| Honorable Mention: | \$25 White Elephant |

Gift Certificates are redeemable at the 2025 White Elephant sales area of the Showcase of miniatures–Good Sam show.

Winners will be allowed into the White Elephant sales area 1/2 hour earlier than opening time for the general public.

Contest Rules;

- Entry Must be constructed using a cigar box(es).
- One side of the cigar box must be left exposed with cigar label clearly visible.
- To enter contest, submit photos of entry to: the **cigboxchallenge@yahoo.com** with scanned copy of the entry form or photo of entry form.
- Up to four photos may be submitted; one photo MUST be of the side with the cigar label.
- Entries must be received by: **August 1, 2025.**
- Entries will be judged by the show committee (committee NOT allowed to enter contest).
- Winners will be notified via email by September 1, 2025.
- Gift certificates are redeemable at the 2025 Showcase of Miniatures show in the WHITE ELEPHANT sales area ONLY.
- Gift certificates are NOT good for merchandise at dealer tables inside the show.
- Gift certificates must be redeemed at the 2025 show. Any unused amount will be forfeited.

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Join us for the

13TH ANNUAL MINIATURES IN THE WINECOUNTRY MINIATURE SHOW



2 Shows ~ 1 Location

March 29, 2025

OVER 70 TABLES OF MINIATURES

\$7 Admission for both Shows

Cabernet Hall

9:00am to 3:00pm

FREE RAFFLE

Burghundy Hall

9am to 6pm

Food Available

Lodi Grape Festival Grounds

413 E. Lockeford Street

Lodi, CA 95240

www.miniaturesinthewinecountry.com



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Sacramento Miniatures Sale

Date: Saturday, May 4, 2025
Robertson Community Center
3525 Norwood Ave. Sacramento, CA

Two sizes of tables will be sold. 6 feet - \$30 or 8 feet - \$40

Tables are limited to two per vendor. If you would like more than two, we can call you two weeks before the event to let you know if any are available. Please indicate that on the form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of tables needed 6 ft. _____ \$ _____ 8 ft. _____ \$ _____

I would like to be called if more tables are available. _____

You can mail or email completed form and payment to: Ynez Fritsch at 10390 Nicanor Ct. Elk Grove, CA 95757 or email to: nezytwo@msn.com on or before April 19, 2025.

Payment options: check payable to By Small Design, Venmo or Zelle – if you prefer one of these options, email this form to Ynez and she will help you with this process.

Tables will be assigned but if you have any special requests, please note it here. _____

*Questions? Call Ynez Fritsch – 916.838.8153
or Frances Bigler – 916.505.1505*

Small Talk

Summer at Tahoe Miniature Workshop

Grandpas Workshop

Lake Tahoe Presbyterian Church

2733 Lake Tahoe Blvd

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Saturday, August 9, 2025

9:00AM-3:00PM

It's that time of year again! Mary Ann has whipped up another great project. This year, we're constructing a fully enclosed scene – a quaint grandpa's workshop, complete with all the trimmings. Rustic tools, nostalgic toys, and even the old man himself, ready to regale us with tales of the good old days. You'll receive the project kit, breakfast, lunch, gifts, door prizes, raffle prizes, and more! Come join us for a day of mini fun, where the only thing that's bigger than your imagination is the size of your waistline after all that food!

We have limited space so please sign up soon

Cost: \$85.00

Deadline: July 1, 2025

Make Checks Payable to Diane Baumflek

1176 Margaret Ave, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Phone: (530) 725-9938 or Mary Ann (530) 541-0891

Or you can email me at mom2rusi@gmail.com for electronic payment information (Paypal, Venmo or Zelle) or with any questions.

I will email a picture when we have a completed prototype

Please return with payment

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Phone _____ Email _____

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NAME Region N2 Calendar

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| March 15 | MiniCals Plant Making |
| March 29 | 13th Annual Miniatures in the Wine Country Shows |
| April 12 | MiniCals Stained Glass |
| May 4 | Sacramento Miniatures Sale |
| May 17 | Spring Fling Sale |
| August 9 | Summer at Tahoe Workshop in South Lake Tahoe |
| October 5 | NAME Day in Sacramento |
| October 12–13 | Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures in San Jose |

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 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) 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/ Sierra Foothills Open Position |
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