

Small Talk

National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts

Region N2, Fall 2025
<http://nameregionN2.org>

From Regional Coordinator Fran Bigler

Ynez and I have been working very hard to learn about our responsibilities as co-coordinators! We will both be heading to Cincinnati for the NAME National Convention in August. We will meet other miniaturists that we have only heard of, or met through Zoom sessions. We both signed up for classes and we will mingle with leaders of the NAME organization. We hope to learn more ways to grow the membership in the N2 Region.

We are looking forward to NAME Day in October. We are so excited for the upcoming NAME Day event. It will be on October 4th at the Sacramento Elks Lodge #6 on 446 Riverside Blvd. Several clubs have already completed their prototypes and have shown different ways to complete this project. Some clubs are working on different techniques that can be used. For more ideas and workshops, check out the Create site at create.miniatures.org for tutorials and workshops.

Our next big event is the California National Convention (California Dreamin') that will be held in LaQuinta, California, in July 2026. The committees have been meeting with the Convention Chair and Co-chair and will work hard after we get back from the Cincinnati Convention to plan a fun and exciting event for next year! We are counting on participation from the N2 Clubs and other individuals to make this event a memorable one!

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

Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures October 11th & 12th 2025

Two months and counting! Have you checked the workshop listing on our web site or received our mailer to sign up for adult workshops, youth workshops or The Sidewalk Sale with an affordable price?

Exhibits forms are up and on the website. We will be honoring some special miniaturists this year in the exhibit area.

3D is back! We'll have a local couple to service you in their special Photo Booth/trailer just outside of the double doors. Check out their website for ideas and clothes.

I'm looking forward to seeing what has been created in the cigar boxes. They will be on display at the show.

Please email me directly to volunteer. We need you!

Grouchybeartoo@aol.com

See you soon!

Ruth Heisch

Goodsamshowcase.org

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NAME DAY 2025

NAME Day is coming up in just a few weeks. I have seen several samples of what people have done with it and they are so creative. One person, actually made it into a courtyard shop so you can shop outdoors, or make a little marketplace inside the walls? Be creative and join in the fun. Only one cutter is taking orders after August 15th and that one will be until September 1st. So get your orders in and join in the fun.

Barbara Thornton-Hill

NAME Day in Morgan Hill: September 27

MiniCals & Through the Looking Glass are planning a fun day working on the courtyard/Secret Garden project for 2025. We've got lots of gifts for you to decorate your courtyard or whatever plan you have for your project. If you read MiniCals report, you can see that Brenda Hough planned a Mexican shop instead.

We will have exhibits to share, silent auction, shoebox sales lots of food and mini friends.

Come join us on Saturday, September 27 at 9:30 at M&L Precision, 18665 Madrone Parkway in Morgan Hill. Reserve by September first to Grouchybeartoo@aol.com



Beth's NAME Day gate

NAME Day in Sacramento: October 4

By Small Design committee has been working to prepare for the upcoming NAME Day in Sacramento. It will be held on October 4, 2025 at the Elks Lodge #6. Join us and spend a day with other miniaturists for a day of fun as we work on our courtyards. We will provide a continental breakfast, lunch, and raffle prizes.

We have shared different prototypes of completed courtyards with varying styles. You can order your kit which is available in three scales. Accessories to complete your project will be available at the event and online. If you wish to join us, registration forms are available on [National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts – Region N-2](#). You can scan download and fill in the form and mail it to Ynez Fritsch at 10390 Nicanor Ct. Elk grove, CA 95757. If you have any questions, you can email Ynez at nezy2@msn.com or Fran at fran_big@comcast.net. We are currently accepting registration forms until August 11, 2025. Please send it in as soon as possible so we can order the kits and get them in time.

August 13 was the deadline to be able to order a kit. You don't have to order a kit from us to attend the function.

Create Event Site

In the next couple of months, watch the Create Calendar for new workshops, new Create Shares (these are under "Freebees" on the site) They might be demonstrated techniques, shares of miniature collections, chats with a variety of artisans and more.

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State Rep Reports

Sacramento, Central Valley, Sierra Foothills

Open Position

Itty Bitties: A Creative and Busy Summer

The Itty-Bitty Miniature Club of Sacramento, California, has enjoyed a vibrant and productive summer filled with creativity, learning, and community engagement.

In June, members delved into the detailed craft of hand-sewn bookbinding—a skill that perfectly complements this year’s club project: designing and building book nooks. July brought another exciting opportunity as members learned the fine art of felting. Each participant created a unique felted animal, discovering that while the process is time-intensive, the results are truly rewarding.

Also in July, the club hosted two full-day doll-making workshops led by renowned miniaturist Carrie Lourenco of Las Vegas. The first day was dedicated to crafting whimsical fairies, followed by elf-making on the second day. Looking ahead, members are already anticipating next year’s doll project, which is expected to feature Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

Next month, the club will participate once again in the annual Winters Library display, coordinated by Debra Taylor. This cherished tradition brings together several Sacramento-area miniature clubs to fill a wall-sized glass display case at the Winters Library with miniature creations. The community response has been overwhelmingly positive each year, and in 2025, the event will expand to include a “make-and-take” pumpkin project and a family-friendly scavenger hunt organized by Maria Dover.

The Itty-Bitty Miniature Club continues to foster creativity, craftsmanship, and connection within the miniatures community—and this summer was no
—Connie Ribble



Sac Valley Miniature Club: The Sac Valley Miniature Club is pleased to announce its participation in two exciting events scheduled for 2026.

First, Roslyn Jacobs will be leading a Miniature Paint Night during Miniatures in the Wine Country, a two-day event taking place May 2–3, 2026, in Lodi, California. In addition to the paint night, the club will be hosting a raffle to raise funds for the National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts (NAME) Day National Convention, which will be held in La Quinta, California, from July 23–26, 2026.

Also in development is a brand-new event titled “Tiny Talk at Red Hawk,” hosted by Stephanie Cuellar. This event is set to take place at the Red Hawk Casino in Shingle Springs, California, and will be the first in what is expected to become an annual tradition. The day-long event will feature a group build project, lunch, games, and prizes. The theme for the inaugural this year is the “Cabinet of Lost & Found.”

In the meantime, the club is eagerly looking forward to the upcoming NAME Day event in Sacramento on Saturday, October 4, 2025. In preparation, our most recent club meeting focused on learning

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paper clay techniques. Members practiced applying these skills to create realistic wall finishes, including brick and stone effects—skills that will be invaluable for upcoming projects.

—Connie Ribble



Lost and found cabinets for the Tiny Talk at Red Hawk event



The paper clay project

Quarter Persuasion: Our Quarter scale club continues to meet on Mondays every week on Zoom. We love getting together every Monday, chatting and sharing so much. As usual, we work on our minis and chat and we've all know each other for so long that we do have much to chat about. A few of us actually got together for lunch in person recently but we do live fairly far apart so that is not something that happens often.

—Barbara Thornton-Hill

By Small Design: By Small Design committee has been working to prepare for the upcoming NAME Day in Sacramento. It will be held on October 4, 2025 at the Elks Lodge #6. Join us and spend a day with other miniaturists for a day of fun as we work on our courtyards. We will provide a continental breakfast, lunch, and raffle prizes.

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—Fran Bigler

North Central

Margaret Gordus

Our Little Mini Club: Margaret shares a 1/2" roombox she made for her granddaughter's friend who makes jams that she shares with them.

—Margaret Gordus



Nor-Cal Gals: is a new NAME club that meets twice a month (2nd and 4th Tuesdays) in Red Bluff at the Red Bluff Arts Council. The club members are: Chrissie Clapp, Secretary, Diane Ruess, Joann Peterson, Carlene Brown, and two members that have only come once: Nancy Weir and Jill Gorman. We would love to have more members.

The Club formed in November due to the efforts of Leslie and Chrissie, with the help of the NAME Club liaison, Lynn Hoffman.

We are sad to report that our President, and about to be NAME President, Leslie Swager passed away on June 18, 2025. She is greatly missed by all of us.

—Carlene Brown

NorCal Miniature Guild: Join the NorCal Miniature Guild—Sacramento's Newest Miniature Club.

The NorCal Miniature Guild, based in Sacramento, California, is proud to be the newest addition to the four established Northern California miniature clubs. We currently have two membership openings available. If you're interested in joining, contact Connie Ribble at CribbleLP@usa.com

Our recent monthly meetings have focused on building community and forming new connections among members. At our most recent gathering, we explored the art of junk journaling—starting with handcrafted books and embellishing them with whimsical and unexpected themes such as aliens, Sasquatch, fairies, and vintage-style photo albums.

In June, we hosted a lighting and wiring workshop that introduced members to a range of portable wiring techniques, including the use of timers, battery packs, and neon lighting elements.

Upcoming meetings will feature creative and unique projects such as candle making and miniature taxidermy.

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To stay informed about our events—as well as activities hosted by other Northern California miniature clubs—please follow us on Facebook. You can scan the QR code to connect with us and join in the fun.

—Connie Ribble



The Nor-Cal Gals work on miniature books



Nor-Cal Gals QR code

Fresno

Barbara Fairbanks

Marin, Napa Valley, Sonoma, Solano

Barbara Thornton-Hill

Wine Country Miniature Society: We have had a few new members to our club in the past couple of months and we are so happy to have them join us. Later in August we will be visiting with Sharon Zanassi's daughter to view and buy some of Sharon's miniatures. Sharon is unable to do minis any more and her miniatures were recently featured in an auction by DThomas but there are still more items in her home. Sharon is a miniaturist who used to be very active in the Sonoma County area and she did beautiful work and collected some very high end miniatures but unfortunately she is unable to do miniatures any more and is moving into memory care shortly.

Several members of WCMS entered miniature display in the Sonoma County fair this month One won a blue ribbon and another a red ribbon. It was a nice little display.

—Barbara Thornton-Hill



Barbara Thornton-Hill's "Little Trailer" scene, from a kit by Robin Betterley, won a blue ribbon.



Elisa Tudor's "Little Red Riding Hood" scene won a red ribbon at the fair.

South Bay, Peninsula

Open Position

Through the Looking Glass: Members of Through the Looking Glass have been finishing up their Club projects, individual interpretations of a three-sided building kit from Germany. We plan on displaying them together at the upcoming Good Sam Show, October 11th and 12th.

We also have been working with MiniCals on this year's garden courtyard workday for NAME Day in Morgan Hill. Our theme is "A Secret Garden."

Both clubs have met together on-line and in person to plan the Day's activities and to make themed table gifts and kits.

Some of us are making samples of the imaginative and creative ways the kits can be put together. Our Workday will be on Saturday, September 27th.

—Barbara Adams

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MiniCals: While the MiniCals do not have summer meetings, the club members have been busy working on our two projects for the year. We are making a wood trunk for traveling or attic storage and a vintage Hoosier cabinet with storage baskets.

We are planning our NAME day workshop with the Through the Looking Glass club on September 27 to construct the Secret Garden display. Club member Brenda Hough used the components to make a market patio and we will have materials to add a wall if participants are interested. If you have questions, contact Ruth Heisch at grouchybeartoo@aol.com

October's Good Sam show will keep club members busy with displays and helping with this "biggest show on the west coast." Plan to attend and see the exhibits and White Elephant Sale and browse the many dealer offerings.

The new year will bring more Morgan Hill workshops. Our first will be a French style bicycle with French foods and flowers.

—Brenda Hough



Brenda's patio market



The French style bicycle workshop scheduled for next year

Mini Attics: We recently learned that our dear friend, and the person who founded the MiniAttics, Caryl Lepelley, passed away in April 2025 in the home she retired to in Valley Springs, California. For many years she lived in Redwood City, and many of you will remember Caryl if you lived in the southern part of the San Francisco peninsula. She had the kind of adventurous spirit and organized drive that made things happen, pulling people and events together.

She started our group off with a name, and a home, and generously encouraged members to use her beautifully finished attic workspace. She was a tireless supporter of NAME and loved to encourage people to go to workshops and conventions. She was always finding good ideas. She was always up for a field trip. Many of our wonderful Good Sam Show club exhibits had their origins in workshops offered by other clubs throughout the state. When it was possible, club members would attend together. Often the enthusiasm it generated would lead to finishing in time to show them as a group at Good Sam.

Caryl relocated a little over 10 years ago, and The MiniAttics club just celebrated their 20th anniversary in 2024. We had a party and published an article in the NAME Gazette about our club's origin story. So here is a tribute to

Caryl Lepelley, and all the amazing miniaturists who generously invest their time and talent in our miniature world.

Summer, with all its special activities, tends to push minis aside. But two of our members have been really busy with some very innovative activities. Meg Milani was invited to put together a mini presentation of a collection of her projects to show with a group of artists. Her friend puts on an open studio in her front yard, and Meg spent a very enjoyable day talking with other artists and displaying some of her favorite creations from her collection.

Meg is a biologist and gardening specialist, which reflects in her miniatures. She showed her Keukenhof garden, and two Beatrix Potter gardens. This was rounded out by her fun and colorful Mexican kitchen. Congratulations, Meg!

Cindy Loman has pushed into new frontiers with her latest wonderful project, which she designed almost totally from scratch. She started with a kit of a large bay window and created an entire apothecary shop around it. She used her newly acquired skills in laser crafting to build walls and furnishings and etch glass. She is always challenged to try and make things from scratch, which she has done with many of the furnishings and accessories in this project. Several previous projects have pushed her to sculpt her own figures as well. So the engaging proprietor of Lydia's Apothecary was also sculpted and clothed by Cindy. What an accomplishment! Congratulations, Cindy!

As for the rest of us...thoughts are beginning to move forward to preparations for NAME Day 2025.

—Lynn Miller

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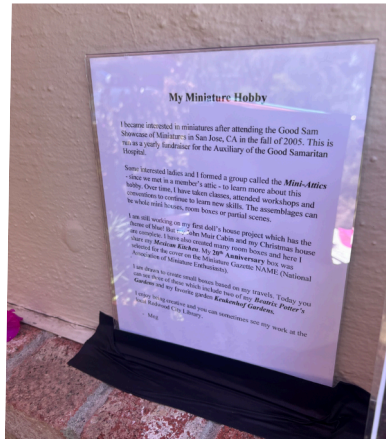
State Rep Reports



Cindy's apothecary shop



Meg's display



Meg's Kukenhof garden



Colorful kitchen made by Meg

Wee Housers: One of our talented club members is finishing a Ray Whitledge Petite Patisserie class she took years ago. She finished the shop side and is now working on the kitchen side.

Laura is making great progress on her B

& B Thursday night project from the last convention.

—Laura Johnson



Three views of the Patisserie

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A spice rack make from a kit

No. Nevada, Tahoe

Mary Ann Van Buskirk

Hawaii

Open Position

North Coastal

Open Position

East Bay, Tri-Valley

Open Position

San Francisco, No. Peninsula

Open Position

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NAME DAY in SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Sponsored by: By Small Design for NAME members

Space is limited! Sign up soon!

Date: Saturday, October 4, 2025 Time: 10:00–3:00

Place: Sacramento Elks Lodge #6 6446 Riverside Blvd.

Sacramento, CA 95831

Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be provided.

Deadline to turn in form is August 11, 2025.

Raffle & Gifts

Goody Bags & Fun!!

Name _____ Address _____

Email _____ Phone No. _____

Registration fee - \$40 + total for kits _____ = _____




If paying by check, please mail your completed form and **check payable to By Small Design** to: Ynez Fritsch at 10390 Nicanor Ct. Elk Grove, CA 95757

You can also email your form to Ynez and pay with Venmo or Zelle.

Questions?

Ynez @ 916.838.8153 nezytwo@msn.com

Frances @ 916.505.1505 fran_big@comcast.net

		Quantity	Cost of kit	Total	
courtyard structure					
1" scale	\$25				
1/2" scale	\$18				
1/4" scale	\$12				
gate 1 (optional, does not come with the kit)					
1" scale	\$6				
1/2" scale	\$5				
1/4" scale	\$4				
gate 2 (optional, does not come with the kit)					
1" scale	\$15				
1/2" scale	\$13				
1/4" scale	\$12				
Totals					
Registration fee	\$40			\$40	
			Grand Total		

We will build the 3-part structure and you will have to be thinking about a base that you would like to use. Barbara Thornton-Hill has offered to cut bases out of Gator board if anyone needs it. You can contact her at bathca@gmail.com with your size and a quote for the base. Many options will be offered by cutters and other vendors, accessories that you may want to complete your project. Demonstrations for a variety of options to complete this project will be offered on the NAME Create site at create.miniatures.org. (Look at the calendar for "Create Shares" offerings each month) There may be other vendors in our region and in NAME who may have items that you may purchase also."

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MINIATURES IN THE WINE COUNTRY MINIATURE SHOW

MAY 2ND & 3RD, 2026

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT!

Check out our website for these updates:



Buy tickets online to save time at the door. Check out the dealer list & download a contract for dealer space



Did you know that you can shop for miniatures on our website. Let's support local artisans



Workshops will be listed on the website soon so check back often. Adult & youth workshops available



We are proud to support your efforts in raising money for the 2026 national convention. See HOW on the website



Are you interested in showcasing your favorite miniature, room box, house or favorite project? We would LOVE to see your projects

www.miniaturesinthewinecountry.com

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NAME Region N2 Calendar

September 7	Create Bonnie Helterhoff Fall is in the Air cart
September 20	Create Teri Hanson Ode to Poe Diorama
September 21	Create Pamela Ridgley Blossoms in a Box Workshop
September 27	NAME Day in Morgan Hill
October 4	NAME Day in Sacramento
October 10–11	Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures in San Jose
October 17, 18	Create Cat Wingler Teddy Bear Birthday Tea Party
May 2, 3, 2026	Miniatures in the Wine Country

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	South Bay/Peninsula Open Position
Regional Coordinators Fran Bigler fran_big@comcast.net 916-505-1505 Ynez Fritsch 916-838-8153 nezytwo@msn.com	East Bay/Tri-Valley Open Position	North Central Margaret Gordus 559-325-5661 mh6gordus@gmail.com	
Newsletter Editor Laura Johnson 650-533-1239 dollsinmin@sbcglobal.net	Marin/Napa Valley/ Sonoma/Solano Barbara Thornton-Hill 650-380-2028 bathca@gmail.com	North Coastal Open Position	
N2 Webmaster Carol Kubrican true2scale@gmail.com	San Francisco/ N. Peninsula Open Position	Northern Nevada/ Tahoe Area Mary Ann Van Buskirk 530-541-0891 laketahoeblindgal@yahoo.com	
	Fresno Barbara Fairbanks 559-907-6051 minimage1@gmail.com	Sacramento/Central Valley/Sierra Foothills Open Position	