



Small Talk

National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts

Region N2, Winter 2025–26

<http://nameregionN2.org>

From Regional Coordinator Ynez Fritsch

As we move toward Winter, I welcome the Fall, my favorite time of the year, as Mother Nature provides us with cooler temperatures and all the fabulous colors.

Summer was a very busy Season for us. We went into August with the “Summer at Tahoe” workshop, which featured building and furnishing “Grandpa’s Workshop”. We always look forward to this great event, held in Tahoe City. There is an abundance of miniature camaraderie, laughs, food, fun and, of course, an incredible project to take home.

Fran and I attended the NAME Convention in Cincinnati. I cannot describe this incredible week of miniatures nearly as well as Suzanne O’Connell, our Gazette Editor, describes the experience on page #17 of the November/December Gazette.

October brought us the NAME Day celebration in Sacramento. We worked on our Courtyard Gardens while feasting on a wonderful brunch put on by Fran. There was a raffle, a sale and gifts given throughout the event from the members of “By Small Design”, with an abundance of free landscape material for the garden style project.

October also brought Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures in San Jose. We manned the NAME table Saturday and Sunday with help from Barbara Thornton-Hill. There was a steady stream of visitors at the table; we talked until we were nearly hoarse and handed out countless flyers. We signed-up many new people and a few renewals to our NAME community. We sold all the grab bags on Saturday, so had none for Sunday.

A big thank you to Ruth Heisch of The Good Sam Showcase and to all our “NAME Night” kit creators and teachers who made this two-hour event a big success.

Looking forward to 2026 —is of course —The Convention in La Quinta, California. Fran and I are part of the convention committee, heading up the “Tote Bag Favors” portion of the convention. We are also involved in many other tasks that are necessary to make this Convention a total success. A huge “Thank you” to Dorothy Hansen who volunteered to make several hundred tote bags, one for every person attending the convention. Making these tote bags is no small task. Dorothy explained that she has a lot of fabric that she would like to use up.

It takes our entire Community to keep NAME afloat and working for all of us. If we band together and share the work the old proverb “Many hands make light work” shines through and we will be a success.

We are asking our Miniature Community to consider, either personally or in the club setting to donate items for the tote bags.

The items should be a small and something that you would be proud to give or happy to receive. We accept any of the three scales 1:48, 1:24, or 1:12.

Thank you,

Ynez Fritsch, Co-Regional Coordinator

Fran Bigler, Co-Regional Coordinator

NAME: Create Event Site

As always, In the next couple of months, watch the Create Calendar for new workshops, and 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. There’s always something new to check out—create@miniatures.org

Small Talk



CALIFORNIA DREAMING 2026

It's not too early to mark your calendars. The 2026 NAME National Convention is scheduled for July 23 – 26, plus three days of Pre-Convention workshops. Make those dreams come true and come for the week!

It's exciting that the National Convention will be back to the West Coast and will be within a day or less driving distance for many of you or the ease of using one of the 13 airlines flying to Palm Springs International Airport.

The three western NAME Regions (N1, N2 and N3) are directly supporting the Convention with human and monetary resources. General Registration is online beginning February 14th.

The upcoming Gazette issues, Social Media, and our NAME Website (<https://miniatures.org/26Cal>) will have all the information to excite your appetite for the breathtaking oasis that defines the La Quinta Resort and Club in La Quinta California near Palm Springs. (Check it out at: <https://www.laquintaresort.com/>)

**As a Hilton resort property, the La Quinta is not the affiliated
with the Inns and Suites located across the Country.**

We'll have unique centerpieces, workshops by skilled artisans, opportunities for networking and purchasing from your favorite new or familiar artisan. Self-parking is free so once you are settled in, getting around the Resort and Club is a breeze, too—golf carts will shuttle us wherever we need to go on the resort grounds, so no long walks required.

So, why should you attend?

There are so many reasons so put these dates on your 2026 calendar and watch for detailed information in forthcoming media releases. For questions, contact: Carol Hodgson, Convention Publicity Chair, cadreaming2026@yahoo.com or Kim Ash, NAME Office, kim@miniatures.org, or visit <https://miniatures.org/26Cal>.

Small Talk



WE HOPE YOU ARE COMING TO THE NAME NATIONAL CONVENTION IN JULY '26

See info on the NAME Website at www.miniatures.org

REGISTRATION FOR THE CONVENTION WILL BE ONLINE ON FEBRUARY 14th.

DON'T MISS IT!

MiniCals Workshops for 2026

January 17. Bicycle and Baskets

February 21. Catch up workday

March 21. Spring Fling

April 18. Inside/Outside building. Adobe style

May 16. Round table workshops Start thinking of a project to share

Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures

Another successful show is in the books. We're looking forward to 50th Anniversary next year. Be sure to join us!

Did you see the Cigar box winners? Very clever. First place, Janice Peacock. Second, Carey Appel and third was Connie Ribble. They won credit and alone time shopping.

I hope some youth attendees saw what one can do inexpensively, as a beginner.

We will have some retiring committee members this year so if you are interested in joining the show committee please contact Ruth at grouchybeartoo@aol.com.

Have a great holiday season.

Ruth Heisch

Thank you to all these special people who shared their talent at NAME Night at the San Jose Show!

Volker Arnold – Christmas Trees

Trish Billard – Halloween Garlands

Debbie Young – Tic-Tac-Toe game

Barbara Thornton-Hill – Palm Trees

Connie Ribble – Making Minis with RV Resin

Maria Dover – Spooky Book Stack

Kelly Trichter – made Spooky Book kits

Angela Kinnunen – "NAME" Toy Box

Ginger Langdon-Siegel – Piano Keys Knick-Knack shelf

Small Talk

Welcome to our Miniverse

by Maria Dover:

Let us welcome you to the miniverse! This year, the Itty Bitty's of N2 Region collaborated with N2's newest clubs, Sac Valley Miniature Enthusiasts and NorCal Miniatures Guild, to bring more miniatures and more fun to their annual Winter's Community Library Miniatures Display. Since 2011, this popular event has drawn people of all ages into our little world. With the founding of the additional clubs in the local Sacramento region, the Itty Bitties saw an opportunity to expand the month-long display to include a new Tiny Treasure Scavenger Hunt, Mini Maker Event, and Meet the Miniaturist Reception. The display and the event was an incredible success, thanks to all the clubs and local support!

We would like to share all the work that happened behind the scenes with other clubs, so these techniques can be used anywhere to help generate community interest into miniatures, the clubs, and NAME. Once the Vintage Style Jack-o-Lantern project was created by the clubs, a member created a simple, fun flyer with bright colors and charming graphics to visually pique interest. Both the library and the county graciously added our event, with an enticing description and our pictures, to their Events & Classes calendars and websites. The local librarians printed and displayed our flyers and shared the event to library patrons. A short article, written by our club, was published in the library newsletter and a local newspaper. Simple advertising was posted on Facebook, with the same graphics and links to the library and county websites. Flyers were posted at our beloved miniatures shop, The Elegant Dollhouse, and shared with incoming customers. Last, but not least at all, club members shared with friends and family!

Winters, CA is about 45 minutes away from Sacramento. Each year, we carpool and make a fun day to set up our display on the first Saturday of the month. Once our display was set up, a club member took a picture of one miniature from each scene. At home, she was able to photoshop out the background to isolate each unique item. She then created a Tiny Treasure Scavenger Hunt flyer to be hung on the display cabinet. This serves many purposes, from making the display interactive and fun for all ages to highlighting a special miniature or technique that has been made or collected with love by our miniaturists. On the last Saturday of the month, we drive back and pack everything up. This is the perfect time to plan a community event. We allowed an hour for set up and anxiously awaited for our first participant.

Much to everybody's surprise, people started showing up early. And then more people showed up. And then even more people showed up! We scrambled to get more tables out and make more room! Soon, it was all hands-on deck. We had greeters, teachers, supply refillers, refreshment maintainers, NAME explainers, and miniature community informants. We even had an assembly line of miniature candy makers so when a participant finished their jack-o-lantern, they could trick-or-treat and leave with a tiny Halloween candy supply.

The community members had lots of questions about miniatures, our displays, what is NAME, how can they join us, and can we please do a community event again. It was rewarding for club members to share their passion to such an agog audience excited to learn how they could do what we do.

In total, there were about 15 participants of all ages—young children, teens, young adults, adults, and grandparents. The true beauty of our event was that we ended with all abilities and capabilities and even some with special needs and everybody was able to have fun and feel pride and success in making their tiny jack-o-lantern.

Club members provided easy to eat refreshments and drinks that did not require serving. We also donated miniature items or kits suitable for the gamut of ages and technical abilities to allow participants to pick a "prize" to take home and add to their collections. So if your club is considering a community event—don't be shy! The reward is worth the hard work. Just don't forget to advertise in as many ways as possible and be prepared for enthusiastic (and extra!) participants.



*Club members who set up the library display
From left to right: Ynez Fritsch, Maria Dover,
Gwiin Correa, Deb Laue Inda Vertrees, Francis
Bigler and Dr. Debra Taylor*

Small Talk



The library Display includes pumpkin club projects, book nook club projects, upholstered easy chair club projects, individual room boxes, club members handmade miniatures, favorite collections, tools, and a variety of miniaturist books new and old.



Tiny Treasure Scavenger Hint Poster



Maria Dover teaching, candy assembly team in back and our incredible, creative miniaturists!



Original prototypes handmade by Maria Dover



3D prints by Connie Ribble

Small Talk

State Rep Reports

North Central

Margaret Gordus

Our Little Mini Club Chico/Paradise:

We are enjoying meeting via zoom each month.

The picture is of a scene I made for my granddaughter. It was exhibited in the library with my club in Fresno.

—Margaret Gordus



Sacramento, Central Valley, Sierra Foothills

Open Position

Itty Bitties: The Itty Bitties Miniature Club of Sacramento is proud to be the longest-running miniature club in the region. This summer, our members participated in several wonderful events, including the Summer at Tahoe gathering, where many members created their own “Grandpa’s Workshop.” We also enjoyed a delightful public event at the Winters Library, organized by Debra Taylor, featuring a special children’s Halloween project led by Maria Dover.

We successfully completed our 2025 club project, Book Nooks, with several members showcasing their finished pieces at the Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures in San Jose this October. We were also honored to host Sylvia Leiner

of Wales, who stayed on to teach an inspiring two-day dollmaking class where participants created a charming dancing couple.

Looking ahead, the club is excited for our annual Dollhouse Sale, scheduled for Valentine’s Day, Saturday February 14—from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Elks Lodge in Carmichael. Vendor tables are still available for \$45 each. Those interested in selling may contact Ynez Fritch at Nezytwo@msn.com for more information.

—Connie Ribble



Dancing couples made in club workshop

Sac Valley Miniature Club: The Sacramento Valley Miniature Club wrapped up the summer season with great success as members completed their first club project—hollowed-out pumpkins. The variety and creativity of the finished pieces made for a beautiful debut display by our club chapter at the Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures in San Jose this October. Eight members proudly exhibited their completed creations, and seeing them displayed together truly highlighted the talent and accomplishment within our amazing club.

Looking ahead, the Sacramento Valley Miniature Club is excited to partner with the Miniatures in the Wine Country annual show and sale, scheduled for the first weekend in May 2026. For the first time, this event will span two full days. Our club will be managing the event raffle to raise funds for the 2026 NAME National Convention, which will be held in La Quinta, California.

In addition, the club is thrilled to promote an exciting new annual event, Tiny Talk, hosted at the Red Hawk Casino in Shingle Springs. This inaugural event will take place on March 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., featuring a full day of creative fun and hands-on projects. This year’s featured project, The Cabinet of Lost and Found, will be accompanied by a catered meal, raffle prizes, special gifts, and engaging challenges with awards for the winners.

For more information or to join us for this event, please contact Connie at (916) 517-8856.

—Connie Ribble



Club members with their pumpkins

Small Talk

State Rep Reports



Close-up of a finished pumpkin



Pumpkins on display at Good Sam

NorCal Miniature Guild: The Summer of 2025 marked an exciting milestone for the NorCal Miniature Guild, Sacramento's newest miniature club.

In August, Sharonda Holt led a wonderful workshop where members created beautiful candle centerpieces, followed by Jasmine Crabtree's fascinating "Tiny Taxidermy" class in September. Both sessions offered inspiring opportunities to learn new techniques and connect with fellow miniaturists.

We were also delighted to welcome two new members, Birdie Kloft and Judy Tucker, bringing even more creativity and enthusiasm to our growing group. The club is now thriving with remarkable talent and fresh energy.

October was another highlight, as we participated in our first major local miniature show—the Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures in San Jose. It was a joy to share our projects with the wider community. Special con-

gratulations to Kenny Chen, who made his debut as a vendor and enjoyed great success selling his charming miniature dinosaurs.

Looking ahead to the new year, the club has chosen "The Attic Project" as our 2026 group theme. Members are now on the hunt for unique and imaginative room box designs to bring their attic creations to life.

—Connie Ribble



Members at work



Jasmine Crabtree's "Tiny Taxidermy" class



Kenny Chin at at his table at Goos Sam

Quarter Persuasion: Our Quarter scale 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. Everyone is working on a different project but we all seem to do quite nicely this way and we share a lot of tips and "how-tos".

—Barbara Thornton-Hill

By Small Design: By Small Design was very busy in the last few months. We worked on preparations for NAME Day on October 4th, in Sacramento. We held the event at the Elks Lodge in Sacramento. We worked on The Courtyard in different scales. We set up a display of the various prototypes that were completed by club members. We had a mini sale and some give-aways, as well. We had a great time working on our NAME Day project with mini-friends!

We attended the Good Sam Show in San Jose with friends from the other Sacramento Mini Clubs, and met some old and new friends. Some went a couple of days before the show to participate in the workshops while some came for the show and sale. We also helped put on the NAME night event, with several miniaturists including club members Connie Ribble and Maria Dover, who taught quick make and takes.

Small Talk

State Rep Reports

We are now working on organizing the Sacramento Dollhouse and Miniatures sale which will be held on Saturday, February 14, 2026. We are currently accepting registrations for tables. We hope to see you all then!

—Fran Bigler

Marin, Napa Valley, Sonoma, Solano

Barbara Thornton-Hill

Wine Country Miniature Society: In October our club made a field trip to Benecia to meet at Jennifer Gonzalez' new Studio. It was amazing—in an old old building that has been renovated to hold several galleries and studios. High, high, high ceilings; tall, tall, tall windows; and fixed up beautifully. In November Erica Meade will be demonstrating how to use a Cricut to produce miniatures and accessories.

—Barbara Thornton-Hill

South Bay, Peninsula

Open Position

Through the Looking Glass: Through the Looking Glass partnered with MiniCals on the 2025 NAME Day Workday in Morgan Hill. Much fun was had as we worked on the Secret Garden project and enjoyed displays, table gifts, lunch, conversation, door prizes, a drawing and a silent auction.

We also enjoyed the 49th Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures. Many of us participated by displaying our Club project, a kit from Germany that we turned into very personal vignettes. Thank you, Juanita, for arranging for the kits to be available to us!

Lynne Hoffman, our president, drove cross country with husband Tim to attend the National Convention in Cincinnati. Along the way they visited Sharon Maher,

a former Through the Looking Glass member, who now lives in Westmont, Illinois.

Although Sharon is in assisted living and has donated much of her extensive miniature collection to our 2026 NAME Day silent auction and the 2026 Good Sam White Elephant Sale, she still loves miniatures and has kept several favorite vignettes.

Thank you, Lynne and Tim, for going out of your way to bring joy to our friend.

—Barbara Adams

MiniCals: After a busy summer, the MiniCals joined the Through the Looking Glass club to present the Garden Courtyard NAME day project on September 27th. Attendees enjoyed a day of construction and creativity and were delighted with the opportunity to share.

The October Good Sam show had most of our members working on raffles, exhibits, auctions and workshops. Ruth Heisch gathered all our club projects and workshops into a fascinating display. We are looking forward to the 50th show next year.

We are looking forward to our club holiday party and workshops next year

—Brenda Hough



Garden Courtyard



Another Garden Courtyard



Good Sam Display



Bootiful Halloween Display

Small Talk

State Rep Reports

Mini Attics: October always brings the Good Sam Show and this year Rhona Lee put together a wonderful slide show of the exhibits (and the creators who made them) and posted it on the Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures website. It was a treat to see our members Carol Walls and Diane Phillips featured with their Witch Kitchens exhibits. And I loved seeing the faces of many of the miniaturists we have met during the years at the show and at MiniCals workshops. Thank you, Rhona Lee!

The MiniAttics are busy gathering their projects for their annual Redwood City Main Library exhibit, and working away on totes for the upcoming 2026 California Dreaming Convention.

Carol Walls, Diane Phillips, and Cindy Loman made it to the MiniCals NAME Day. Cindy Loman interpreted her NAME Day kit as a tribute to Frida Khalo and featured a Day of the Dead celebration, complete with baked goods, fruits and flowers, learning to make marigolds along the way.

—Lynn Miller



Cindy's NAME Day Project



Another view of Cindy's NAME Day Project



Carol's witch kitchen



Diane's witch kitchen

Wee Housers: Several of our members enjoyed shopping and seeing the wonderful displays at the Good Sam show. Rhona was very involved.

Shown here is Rhona's settee made from a kit by Carol Sherry. It was originally taught in a workshop.

—Laura Johnson



No. Nevada, Tahoe

Mary Ann Van Buskirk

Fresno

Barbara Fairbanks

East Bay, Tri-Valley

Open Position

San Francisco, No. Peninsula

Open Position

Hawaii

Open Position

North Coastal

Open Position

Small Talk

Sacramento Dollhouse Miniatures Sale

Saturday, February 14, 2026
Carmichael Elks Lodge #2103
5631 Cypress Ave.
Carmichael, CA 95608



We will only have one size of tables. 8 feet - \$45
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.

Due Date: January 23, 2026

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of tables needed ____ \$____

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

You can mail or email completed form to: Ynez Fritsch 10390 Nicanor Ct. Elk Grove, CA 95757 or Email address: nezytwo@msn.com

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. _____

Small Talk

14TH ANNUAL

MINIATURES IN THE WINE COUNTRY MINIATURE SHOW



MAY 2 & 3, 2026

2 SHOWS, 1 LOCATION

RAFFLES
EXHIBITS
WORKSHOPS
SILENT AUCTION

OVER 80 TABLES OF MINIATURES PLUS
DOLLHOUSES, ROOM BOXES & MORE

FOOD AVAILABLE
FOR PURCHASE

SATURDAY

CABERNET HALL 9AM TO 3PM

BURGUNDY HALL 10AM TO 6PM

SUNDAY 10AM TO 3PM

1 DAY ADMISSION \$7 * 2 DAY ADMISSION \$10

SUPER SUNDAY SALE PLUS

THE FIRST 100 GUESTS GET A GIFT & ONE
ENTRY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A GIFT BASKET
FULL OF MINIATURES WORTH \$500

SCAN THE QR CODES FOR MORE INFORMATION:

QR CODE DIRECTIONS: OPEN THE CAMERA ON YOUR
MOBILE DEVICE AND POINT IT AT THE QR CODE. A
NOTIFICATION WILL POP UP WITH A LINK. TAP ON IT TO OPEN.

HOTEL
RESERVATIONS



SHOW
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CLASS
INFORMATION



WWW.MINIATURESINTHEWINECOUNTRY.COM

LODI GRAPE FESTIVAL GROUNDS

413 E. LOCKFORD STREET LODI, CA 95240

Small Talk



WILL YOU BE MY
**MINIATURE
VALENTINE?**

10:00 AM-
3:00 PM

FEBRUARY
14
2026

SACRAMENTO ANNUAL DOLLHOUSE & MINIATURES SALE

ELKS LODGE #2103 5631 CYPRESS AVE. CARMICHAEL, CA 95608

♥ CONTACT YNEZ: NEZYTWO@MSN.COM FOR MORE INFO ♥
OR VISIT THE ELEGANT DOLLHOUSE ♥ 1120 FULTON, SACRAMENTO 95825
♥ FIND US ON FACEBOOK: SACRAMENTO AREA MINIATURIST GROUP PAGE ♥

Tiny Talk at Red Hawk

Saturday March 28th, 2026 10am-4pm \$60

1 Red Hawk Parkway, Placerville, Ca. 95667

Join us for year 1 of our annual Miniature Play Day

This year's project: "The Cabinet of Lost & Found"

SPACE IS LIMITED PLEASE REGISTER WITH CONNIE 916-517-8856



Small Talk

NAME Region N2 Calendar

January 17	MiniCals Bicycles and Baskets Workshop
February 14	Sacramento Dollhouse Miniature Sale
February 17	California Dreaming Registration Opens
February 21	MiniCals Catch-up Day
March 21	MiniCals Spring Fling
March 28	Tiny Talk Event
April 18	MiniCals Inside/Outside Building
May 2, 3	Miniatures in the Wine Country
May 6	MiniCals Roundtable Workshops

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
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