



Small Talk

National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts

Region N2, Sprng 26
<http://nameregion2.org>

From Regional Coordinator Fran Bigler

We are looking forward to the California Convention, in La Quinta, this year. When it was announced at the Cincinnati Convention, it seemed like it was months away. Now it seems like it will be here very soon. The planning committee, led by Sandi Shalometh and Barbara Thornton-Hill, and the various committees have been working very hard to insure that the event will go smoothly and be a success. We encourage you to attend the convention as it is right in our own backyard. There are many exciting activities and workshops to attend. There will be many dealers from around the country and from Finland and France. Ynez and I have attended a few conventions and we have had so much fun! If you need further information, you can reach out to us or log in to <https://miniatures.org> and you will find important information. Day passes are available for attendees who do not wish to sign up for the whole convention.

As Co-chairs for the Tote Bag Committee, we would like to thank Dorothy Hansen for making the tote bags that will be handed out to each attendee. We are also asking for tote bag favors in 1:12, 1:24, and 1:48 scale. You can work individually or with your club members. If you need suggestions, contact Ynez (nezy2@aol.com) or Fran (fran_big@comcast.net) and we can send a list to you.

We are looking forward to seeing you all this summer. You will be able to sign up for the convention on February 14. If you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out to one of us.

There are a few events that are coming up that are planned for miniaturists in or near our area: February 14, 2026 – Sacramento Miniatures Sale at the Carmichael Elks Lodge, March 28, 2026 - Tiny Talk at Red Hawk in Placerville, and May 2 and 3 – Lodi Show and Sale in Lodi, California.

Fran Bigler, Co-Regional Coordinator

Ynez Fritsch, Co-Regional Coordinator

NAME: Create Event Site

As always, In the next couple of months, watch the Create Calendar for new workshops, new Create Shares (these are under "Freebees" on the site) There might be demonstrated techniques, shares of miniature collections, chats with a variety of artisans and more. There's always something new to check out on create@miniatures.org There are currently several workshops available in several scales.

Small Talk



California Dreaming 2026

Getting Registered ...

This year February 14, 12:00 noon (Eastern), 9:00 AM (Pacific) is not only Valentine's Day but also the day General Registration opens online to NAME members for NAME's 2026 National Convention in La Quinta, California.

So mark your calendars and keep your January/February issue of the Miniature Gazette close by since it suggests the reasons you'll want to register and Dates to Remember.

Registration information will be online at <https://miniatures.org/26Cal>, in the NAME Newsletter, on Facebook and in NAME's Groups.io.

Planning Committee Hard at Work

Detailed information about the Wednesday Night Project, Workshop artisans, Theme Luncheons and Salesroom Dealers is all available on the NAME website at www.miniatures.org. The Planning Committee is hard at work making our dreams come true.

Committee members from all over, are very involved in planning and we, in Southern California are all lucky to be close to La Quinta near Palm Springs. For many of us it's within a day's drive or a short hop via air. So let's take advantage.

Convention Setting

The La Quinta Resort and Club is a marvelous setting for our Convention, with excellent negotiated group rates of \$159 per night. 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.

For More Information ...

Questions may be sent to Carol Hodgson, Publicity Chair, cadreaming2026@yahoo.com, Sandi Shalometh, Convention Chair, sandi.shal2@gmail.com, Barbara Thornton-Hill, bathca@gmail.com or Kim Ash at the NAME Office, kim@miniatures.org



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!

Small Talk

Meals at Convention

Alician Pearce, Convention Liaison



Since day one of my Presidency and now continuing on as Convention/Houseparty Liaison, I have tried very hard to be transparent about NAME workings. I feel you all need to know exactly how NAME works, and how hard all our volunteers work to give you all the best experience possible.

I have been saying for several years now that conventions must change. The Board has voted to make some major changes to how conventions will look starting next year. Well, the Board is facing some major money issues regarding the convention in California this year. The actual food costs are way more than the Board had planned on. Even with the Board figuring out a higher food budget for the convention, we

did not figure enough of a barrier for the costs. We are always looking to make sure events are affordable for everyone, and this year we had to increase registration costs to cover just the food for the event. The hotel has come back to us and has told us the actual food costs we are looking at either needing to increase the cost of registration even more or make some changes. We didn't like having to increase the cost of registration to the \$325 this year, and we knew that we could not raise it to the \$500 that it really should be without some changes.

We as a Board have decided to make some changes to keep your registration costs as low as possible. This year will be the first year that we will have only two meals covered in the registration fee. We had to make the hard decision of eliminating the Sunday Brunch. By removing the brunch, we will be able to break even for the event. As you all know, NAME depends on our events to be profitable to keep going. Centerpieces will still be given away; it is just that they will be given away at the Saturday night banquet instead. We will still have the Houseparty Helpers, but we will also have an auction for extra centerpieces Saturday night. There will still be public day on Sunday, and the exhibit room and hospitality room will still be open on Sunday. Attendees will still be able to do the table exchanges as they always have. It will still be our wonderful convention, just without Sunday Brunch.

You have two convenient onsite breakfast choices. If you're looking for a sit-down meal, Twenty6 serves classic comfort food with a creative twist, featuring a wide variety of amazing breakfast dishes. Prefer something quick? Visit The Marketplace for grab-and-go coffees, breakfast sandwiches, and pastries.

Explore all of the onsite dining options at www.laquintaresort.com/dining! We look forward to seeing you California!

Welcome, Angela Gates, State Rep for the South Bay and Peninsula Region

Hello fellow miniatures enthusiasts! I wanted to introduce myself, as I've signed up for the open South Bay/Peninsula rep position for the N2 region. My name is Angela Gates, and I am a new NAME member as of last fall, although my interest in miniatures has lasted nearly all of my life.

My first dollhouse consisted of a few pieces of scrap plywood that my dad nailed together for me. I fondly recall furnishing it with items I found around the house, pictures I cut out from magazines etc. Although I later received a much fancier Victorian dollhouse as a birthday gift, I never forgot the joy and satisfaction of making things from scratch.

Fast forward to much later in my life, and I came across a \$20 homemade dollhouse at a thrift store. I picked it up and decided to turn it into a Halloween haunted house. It took me years to finish, as I was a young mother at the time, but this project represented the rekindling of my interest in dollhouses and miniatures.

I particularly enjoy finding and refurbishing used room boxes, dollhouses, and other structures in order to give them new life.

Last year I decided to join the National Association of Miniatures Enthusiasts. I participated in my first NAME event last fall as well as signing up for my first Creative online class offering.

I look forward to becoming more involved in the organization this year, and participating in and supporting events in the South Bay/Peninsula region. Also, I plan to attend the NAME Convention this summer, which I am very excited about! At some point I would love to start a miniatures club in the Santa Cruz area.

A little about me outside of my interest in miniatures is that I live in Santa Cruz, CA, with my husband, two sons (ages 20 and 16), and two dogs. I am a semi-retired librarian, and when I am not crafting, I am usually reading, gardening, writing, or walking by the ocean.

I look forward to meeting you!

Angela Gates

Small Talk

Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures

Greetings of the new year to

All our miniature friends and supporters. The last article I mentioned a banner year in 2025. It was my honor to present a whopping \$20,000 check to the Auxiliary President. Needless to say, it was well received. (And they bought my lunch!). Seriously, this is what we work for and you're a huge part of it. Thank you!

We're getting excited about this 50th year and making plans for a special event. TIP: You may want to make a Saturday night hotel reservation early for room block pricing. I hope to elaborate on that next time.

Rhona Lee has been preparing a Tribute to Good Sam through the last 50 years. At the same time she is recuperating from a major surgery and long recovery. That is true dedication!

We have been doing some switching of jobs on our committee for various reasons.

We Welcome Trish Billard as assistant to Trish Weber with exhibits and Jennifer Gonzales, taking over the Youth workshops. We are looking for more new members for some retiring members. If you're interested in joining our merry band, contact Stay tuned!

Ruth Heisch

grouchyheartoo@aol

Mini Cals of Santa Clara Valley's Spring Fling

March 21, 2026

\$8 for entry, including table space

EVENT LOCATION:

M & L PRECISION

18665 MADRONE PARKWAY

MORGAN HILL, CA 95037

(Highway 101 south to Cochrane Rd., exit rt. Then, first right is Madrone Pkwy) (if coming from north/San Jose)

The entry fee is \$8 and includes 1 table space, if you wish to sell stuff. Additional tables available for \$8 each. Tables are 6 ft. long. Let me know if and how many you wish to reserve.

Lunch is potluck. It doesn't have to feed everyone, as there will be many dishes. Drinks & Door Prizes included w/entry.

If you pre-pay, you can get in at 8:30 AM for table set up. Otherwise, you can pay cash/check at the door but may have to wait for any pre-paid persons to enter first. The event is open to the public from 10 AM-3 PM.

To pre-pay, make check to me, Lynn Elliott, and send to me at: 9800 Rolling Meadows Lane Salinas, CA 93907-8807

PL EASE send full names of anyone attending with you to expedite quick entry. Regular entry, w/o table, is also just \$8. Name tags & door prize tickets will be ready for you.

Let me know if you are mailing a check. I will confirm when it arrives.

Lynn Elliott, Registrar

Mini-Cals Treasurer

831-663-2193 (no text. can leave msg. w/your phone #)

MiniCals Workshops

March 21 Spring Fling

April 18 Inside/Outside building. Adobe style

May 16 Round table workshop—Start thinking of a project to share

Small Talk

State Rep Reports

North Central

Carlene Brown

Our Little Mini Club Chico/Paradise:

Happy Spring Everyone! This article is dedicated to Margaret Gordus. Margaret is retiring from her position as Northern Area Rep after serving for over thirty years! Margaret has done a wonderful job supporting NAME and miniatures by sharing information, knowledge and many pictures of projects to inspire others. Margaret has truly supported the NAME motto of “only through sharing can we really enjoy our treasurers”. A huge thank you Margaret!!

Although our members are spread near and mostly far, we continue to meet monthly through Zoom, which is facilitated through the NAME office and organized by our Margaret Gordus. It is great that we can still keep in touch while working on a project and sharing news.

—Carlene Brown

NorCal Miniature Guild: The NorCal Miniature Guild is diving into 2026 with an exciting new group project: an attic build! Members are looking forward to finally putting their treasured collections of miniatures to use as they bring their attics to life.

The guild is also proud to help sponsor goodie bag treats for the upcoming NAME National Convention, taking place this July in La Quinta, California. Members from miniatures clubs throughout the Sacramento area will be working together over the next few months to create these delightful gifts for convention attendees.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to introduce what we hope will become a beloved annual event—Tiny Talk—hosted at Red Hawk Casino in Shingle Springs, California. Our first Tiny Talk event will be held on March 28 and will feature the theme Cabinet of Lost and Found. The day will bring local

miniaturists together for raffles, prizes, networking, and plenty of miniature-making fun.

—Connie Ribble



Members of Nor-Cal Miniature Guild Club

Nor-Cal Gals: Nor-Cal Gals reached it's one year anniversary in October. Our members live in Redding, Anderson, Palo Cedro, Cottonwood, Red Bluff and Paradise. We meet twice monthly at the Red Bluff Arts Center, downtown Red Bluff. We have both one inch and quarter scale enthusiasts and work on individual projects. We are a NAME Club but decided that we would welcome anyone interested in miniatures to visit our club. One of our members has set-up a Facebook page and we have gotten interesting inquiries from afar!! I am the one that lives in Paradise and it's an hour drive for me, but I always drive home HAPPY!!

—Carlene Brown



Nor-Cal Gals QR code

Sacramento, Central Valley, Sierra Foothills

Open Position

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. Several of us participated in Debbie Young's Toy Cottage Workshop on Create and are continuing to finish and furnish that project. We are also looking forward to the NAME Convention in LaQuinta, CA in July.

—Barbara Thornton-Hill

Itty Bitties: In January, members gathered for a hands-on meeting focused on learning eggshell art, a technique that was new to many and sparked significant interest. The club will continue work on its reconstructed book projects next month, beginning with electrical components and flooring.

February marked the club's annual Dollhouse Miniature Show and Sale, held on Valentine's Day in Sacramento. With more than 30 vendor tables sold, the event has grown into a popular annual gathering for miniaturists throughout the Sacramento region.

Club member Maria also hosted two open houses at The Elegant Dollhouse, where she led paper flower-making workshops. The events welcomed several new miniaturists and introduced many attendees to The Elegant Dollhouse for the first time.

—Connie Ribble

Sacramento Valley Miniature Club: The Sacramento Valley Miniature Club has started work on its annual group project, Rooms Around the World, a showcase celebrating global cultures through detailed miniature scenes. Each club member selected a favorite country and a distinctive element to feature,

Small Talk

resulting in a wide-ranging collection that highlights both cultural diversity and artistic skill. Planned pieces include a Mediterranean villa inspired by Santorini, Greece, as well as lively scenes set in traditional German pub, among others.

In addition to the annual project, the club is celebrating the upcoming participation of member Roslyn Jacobs as an instructor at Miniatures in the Wine Country, a two-day event scheduled for the first weekend of May. This marks the first time in the event's history that it will span the entire weekend. Her class, a Tiny Sip and Paint, will introduce participants to miniature painting techniques in a relaxed, creative setting filled with food, friends, and some good wine. Connie Ribble is also teaching a youth class at this event on Sunday for only \$10. Your youngster can make their own 1/12 scale lemonade stand or Girl Scout booth. Registration for this and other offerings at this event are available on their website at miniaturesinthewinecountry.com

To prepare for the class, Jacobs conducted a practice session with club members during the club's January meeting. Attendees worked on small painted scenes inspired by photographs Jacobs took during her travels in Fiji, making the meeting both a productive workshop and a preview of what participants can expect at the upcoming event.

—Connie Ribble



Sac Valley members with their paintings



A member works on her painting



The finished paintings

By Small Design: By Small Design members have worked very hard for the past few months, preparing for the Sacramento Miniatures Sale. It will be held at the Elks Lodge, 5631 Cypress Avenue, Carmichael on February 14th at 10:00 a.m. For more information, check out the NAME website <http://miniatures.org>. Click on Events and then click on Show Calendar. We filled the lodge with vendors who will have a variety of miniatures for sale to our miniaturists. We will have a NAME table with information on membership and to answer questions about NAME. Kenny Chen, a miniaturist from the NorCal Mini Guild, will demonstrate how to make 1/144 miniatures. We will give out earrings to anyone who signs up to become a new member, thanks to Connie

Ribble Smith and members of the Sacramento. Please come out and join us for a day of fun!

—Fran Bigler

Marin, Napa Valley, Sonoma, Solano

Barbara Thornton-Hill

Wine Country Miniature Society:

In December, our club visited Dena Avila's home where we were able to see much of her massive miniature collection. We had a potluck lunch and a fun visit for all. Several of us are looking forward to attending the NAME Convention in LaQuinta, CA in July and will be planning more activities as the year goes on.

—Barbara Thornton-Hill

South Bay, Peninsula

Angela Gates

Through the Looking Glass: Through the Looking Glass began 2026 planning for their miniatures year.

Our first group activity included participating in the Morgan Hill bicycle baskets class.

We are looking forward to February's catch-up workday and the very popular Rummage Sale and Pot Luck in March.

Our own Club project will use a hinged wooden box to create individual fantasy and whimsical houses.

We're looking forward to working on this year's NAME Day window box project and joining with MiniCals on the Morgan Hill Workday.

Our next meeting will be devoted to preparing our Tote Bag favors for this year's National.

Many of us continue to work through the year on individual ideas and creations.

—Barbara Adams

Small Talk

State Rep Reports

MiniCals: The MiniCals celebrated the holidays with a party filled with miniature gifts for all the club members and started the new year with a Bicycle and Baskets workshop in Morgan Hill. Other workshops this year include a “Catch Up” day in February, our annual Spring Fling sale on March 17 and a wonderful “Inside/Outside adobe setting on April 18th. May will be a contunuartio of the Inside/Outside project. Get more workshop information from Ruth Heisch: www.grouchybeartoo@aol.com

Judy Pick worked on a Girl Scout miniature project to create Juliette Gordon Lowe’s birthplace. The club also assembled a kitchen cabinet as its yearly ongoing project and Brenda Hough made hers part of a Spanish Tapas bar.

—Brenda Hough



Brenda’s Inside/Outside project



Brenda’s tapas bar using the MiniCals cabinet and Lynn Miller’s market stall.

Mini Attics: We had a lovely holiday lunch at Laura Johnson’s home, with mini wreath making and a white elephant give-away to start the new year.

Anticipation is building about the coming NAME Convention in La Quinta and a number of the MiniAttics are planning to attend. We’re still working on finishing totes, searching our stashes for donations, and mulling over the schedule of events.

Our traveling members have been traveling, and Brenda Hough returned from a trip to Germany to see the German Christmas Markets. She already had an impressive lifetime collection of Christmas items from previous trips, as well as three charming wooden market stall merchants who are ringing their handbells and calling out their wares. Years ago the MiniAttics did a group project of market stalls that were designed and cut by Lynn Miller. Many extra kits were cut and Brenda still had two of them. She created one stall filled

with gingerbread houses and edible Christmas treats and memorabilia. The other she filled with the delicate wooden Christmas arches, pyramids, and ornaments that are so representative of Germany, with a gluhwein seller and his stand happily tucked in between the two other stalls.

California is lucky to still have multiple regional sales and shows, and members are planning to attend some of them, to sell as well as to buy.

Lynn Miller



Brenda’s market stalls

No. Nevada, Tahoe

Mary Ann Van Buskirk

Fresno

Barbara Fairbanks

East Bay, Tri-Valley

Open Position

San Francisco, No. Peninsula

Open Position

North Coastal

Open Position

Hawaii

Open Position

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
TICKETS



CLASS
INFORMATION



WWW.MINIATURESINTHEWINECOUNTRY.COM

LODI GRAPE FESTIVAL GROUNDS

413 E. LOCKFORD STREET Lodi, CA 95240

Small Talk

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"

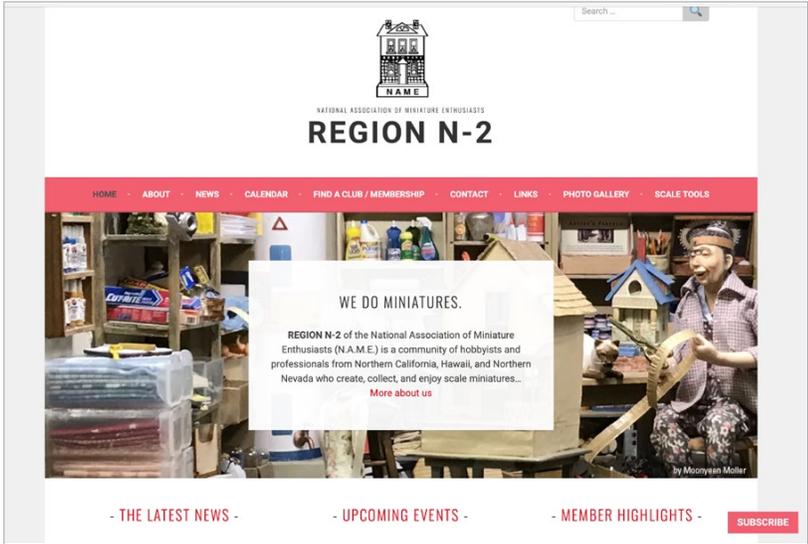
SPACE IS LIMITED PLEASE REGISTER WITH CONNIE 916-517-8856



Discover What's New in N2

VISIT OUR REGION'S WEBSITE: NAMEREGIONN2.ORG

Stay informed about mini news in our area! The N2 Region website is frequently updated with information about local miniature shows, workshops, sales, and online events hosted by N.A.M.E. Explore the current events calendar, use the new scale tools, browse photos of projects from fellow miniaturists, and discover clubs near you.



Receive the latest updates from the N2 website directly in your inbox, 1-2 times a month.



Subscribe for free!
You don't have to be a member of NAME to subscribe.

[or click here to SUBSCRIBE](#)

For questions about subscribing or to add your event/club info to the website, contact Carol Mittlesteadt namen2regionwebmaster@gmail.com

Explore the SCALE TOOLS on the website

New!

Quickly solve scale questions with two powerful tools designed for miniaturists:

QUICKLY CONVERT DIMENSIONS ACROSS SCALES
Works with dollhouse miniatures & model railroad scales.

MEASURE TO CONVERT

SOURCE SCALE

TARGET SCALE

RESULTING SIZE

4.67

in

SCALE CONVERSION CALCULATOR
Instantly convert measurements between real world & miniature scales

FIND THE SCALE
Determine an item's scale (or get the closest match) by comparing real life & miniature dimensions

FIND THE SCALE
Determine the scale of an item by comparing dimensions. Measure the miniature item and a similar item in real life.

MEASUREMENT UNIT

REAL LIFE SIZE

MINIATURE SIZE

IDENTIFIED SCALE

1:52

Closest Match: 1:48 (Quarter Scale / O Scale)

Small Talk

NAME Region N2 Calendar

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 Angela Gates 831-239-6894 angelagates@mac.com
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 Marin/Napa Valley/ Sonoma/Solano Barbara Thornton-Hill 650-380-2028 bathca@gmail.com	North Central Carlene Brown 530-701-1292 petecar55@yahoo.com North Coastal Open Position Northern Nevada/ Tahoe Area Mary Ann Van Buskirk 530-541-0891 laketahoeblindgal@yahoo.com	
Newsletter Editor Laura Johnson 650-533-1239 dollsinmin@sbcglobal.net	San Francisco/ N. Peninsula Open Position Fresno Barbara Fairbanks 559-907-6051 minimage1@gmail.com	Sacramento/Central Valley/Sierra Foothills Open Position	
N2 Webmaster Carol Kubrican true2scale@gmail.com			