

Small Talk

National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts

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

From Regional Coordinator Ynez Fritsch

A big SHOUTOUT to Miniaturists: your smiles, your kindness, and your giving spirits make this world a better place.

We started this year with a mini visit and presentation to the care home of one of our miniature friends, MaryAnn Chapman. We brought examples of miniatures to show and discuss with the residents of the home. We were welcomed with a warm interest and a barrage of questions from the residents. We ended that happy day with discussions of returning next time with kits for the residents to construct.

March brought us the first annual miniature play day, "Tiny Talk at Red Hawk" This function was held on a beautiful day in an incredible room with the most beautiful view of the Sierras. Many screens around the room showcased oversized photos of various local miniature events. Attendees constructed "The Cabinet of Lost & Found," dined on delectable goodies at a buffet-style lunch, participated in raffles, received an array of adorable accessories for the cabinets, and participated in the "Hope Chest Challenge," where the winner received a free ticket to next year's "Tiny Talk at Red Hawk."

In May, I had the pleasure of manning our NAME table at the "Miniatures in the Wine Country Miniature Show" in Lodi. This two-day show offers two incredible shows in one place with an array of other activities.

With so much going on around me, I still had the opportunity to speak to so many people, answering questions, and handing out brochures. Several of these people decided that they liked our miniature community so much that they wanted to join NAME. I was very happy to be able to welcome them to our NAME community.

With our "California Dreaming" convention rapidly approaching, our workload has increased. I can certainly vouch for the tote bags that Fran and I have the pleasure of collecting and putting together for attendees to the convention. This particular project makes my heart swell with pride at the kindness and giving spirit of miniaturists. The photo shows an incredibly large pile of packages in the middle of my craft room. This is not all the packages—there are more, but I still need to move around in here, so the rest are piled in the hall outside my room. These wonderful favors were hand-made by miniaturists from all across the United States.

With a Special Shout-out to our own Dorothy Hansen for cutting and sewing every tote bag that Fran and I will be stuffing and handing out at the convention.

Happy Miniaturizing, Ynez

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 and 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



NAME National Convention California Dreaming 2026 July 20–26 in LaQuinta California

Please join us for the NAME Convention in LaQuinta, CA at the beautiful LaQuinta Resort. There will be Workshops, Roundtables, a Sales Room, a fabulous Hospitality Room to visit and work in (with lots of kits and projects for you), Auctions, a Garage Sale, and a great Wednesday Evening Project with Shoebox Sales, Souvenirs, Door Prizes, Swaps and more.

Go to NAME@miniatures.org for detailed information

The Wednesday Night Project



Day Passes are still available and don't forget the Public Days for the Sales Room, Exhibits and Hospitality Room on Saturday and Sunday, July 24 and 25. We hope to see you there.

Sandi Shalometh and Barbara Thornton-Hill, Co-Chairs

Small Talk



Making California Dreams Come True...

It's not just the workshop we take or the Theme Luncheon that fulfill our dreams. There are also unique treasures waiting at the Garage Sale, in the Tote Bags, with Door Prizes, and at the Hospitality Room.

Garage Sale

Last year at the NAME National in Cincinnati, I found myself digging through stuff packaged and stacked nearly three feet high, searching for a couple Garage Sale goodie bags to bring home for a friend who couldn't attend. That night, my roommate and I went through "the stuff" and decided there probably wasn't anything she'd really want.

Well, when we got back home, she opened the bags and pulled out each item one by one, telling us exactly how she could use it. Whew—what a relief! My Garage Sale adventure turned out to be a success for her and a shared experience for us. What fun.

Tote Bags Favors

They are back this year and they're always a treat. It's so much fun to see what individuals and Clubs from across the Country—and beyond have contributed. You know...those little treasures that are perfect for accessorizing scenes. And, this year, the Tote Bags themselves are something special!

Door Prizes

What a treat to receive an unexpected "gift" valued between \$10 and \$30. Yes, this Convention will have Door Prizes, too!

Hospitality Room

I also always look forward to the Hospitality Room and seeing how each Convention host interprets their role. I can't wait to see what the Host Club has planned to charm us and bring us all together.

Yes, I'm California Dreaming...and you can, too.

We still have some space available or you can get a Day Pass or come on Public Days. Check it all out at miniatures.org/26Cal or contact Kim Ash at kim@miniatures.org.

Submitted by: Carol Hodgson, Publicity for National Convention, cadreaming2026@yahoo.com.

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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). 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 at create@miniatures.org. There are currently several workshops available in several scales.

Please join us for Camp Make-A-Mini in August. This year's project is a Conservatory. The kit will be available soon in 1:12, 1:24 and 1:48 scales. This year's project was designed by Alician Pearce. Watch the NAME Newsletter or the Create site for sales information as it becomes available.

MINI CYBER CLUB

Please join us on the Mini Cyber Club for zooms, posts, ideas, sharing of miniatures, This is a NAME Club Online for all scales and for anyone who is interested in working with other miniaturists. We host four Zooms each week that start at 4:00 PM Pacific time and we are often still on until 7:00 or 8:00 PM. We visit, share minis, share tips and tricks, and have a fun time for a couple of hours while working on our various projects. Please join us.

To join the Mini Cyber Club, go to main@minicyberclub.groups.io and join our group to get the notices of meetings and more.

Small Talk

Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures 50th Anniversary

Big things are happening with Good Sam's 50th Anniversary.

Saturday night we're having a banquet with a special program planned. There will be Door Prizes and a special gift for attendees. We hope you will join the celebration. More information to follow.

The committee is at work on workshops, exhibits and White Elephant donations. Thanks to those volunteers who have helped sort and package White Elephant items.

We also have several new dealers this year for you.

We are looking for volunteers to chair a couple positions of retiring members. Email Ruth at grouchybeartoo@aol.com.

Ruth Heisch
Chairman

NAME Region N2 Needs Your Help

By donating unwanted, unused miniatures,
overstocked items,
items in your 'stash' that you will never use,
you will be helping our region N2.

These funds help to keep our website up and running: nameregionn2.org
We use the funds to help miniaturists and fund activities in our area. We also help fund the Convention.

Please, Consider Donating

For questions or pick-up service call:

Ynez Fritsch (916) 838-8153

or

Fran Bigler (916) 505-1505

Small Talk

State Rep Reports

South Bay, Peninsula

Angela Gates

The Spring Fling mini flea market and potluck held in March in Morgan Hill was a big success. (I personally came home with all kinds of fun stuff!).

After a fun Spring Fling event in March, MiniCals took a respite from April/May workshops. Next they will work on the inside/outside room, which is a centerpiece from the pages of the Fiesta de Los Amigos convention back in 1988.

In March Polly Morris taught members a great and simple marbling technique on a store counter. They turned out great and elegant looking! MiniCals spent April making tote bag favors for the upcoming national convention in Palm Springs.

Some members also spent a day packaging and pricing White Elephant items for the annual Good Sam show in San Jose. As most of the members of MiniCals are on the show committee, they will continue to work on preparations for this big event.

MiniCals will also work on presents for the NAME day event that will be co-hosted with Through the Looking Glass in September.

The members of Mini Attics have been busy making tote bag favors for the convention this summer. Five members plan to attend California Dreaming. In addition to working on individual projects, some members attended the February MiniCals Catch-up Day while others participated in the Spring Fling in Morgan Hill. Carol Walls went to the Small Talk at Red Hawk workshop in Placerville.

—Angela Gates



Trish Billard wins a door prize at Spring Fling

Mini Attics: We are really pleased to welcome a new member this month, Susannah Gardner. She is fairly new to miniatures but has decided to attend the California Dreaming convention. I can't think of a better orientation. Lisa Panken, Brenda Hough, Michelle Ortez, and Laura Johnson all plan on attending so it should be great fun.

The totes for the California Dreaming convention are bagged, boxed, and ready to go! So many members contributed different elements this year that it was fun to see it come together.

Diane Phillips finished her NAME Day courtyard project. Diane does not have much room to garden at home, but she really enjoys doing it in miniature.

Carol Walls has been very busy downsizing. She took some time to attend the Placerville Tiny Talk workshop and is working on her "Cupboard of Lost and Found." She is still deciding the theme of which items from her stash she will feature there.

Meg Milani loves exploring her Italian heritage with many trips over the years. Recently she treated us to photos of her latest mini projects, inspired by the beautiful Lake Como district. She has also been inspired by the Filoli Gardens in Woodside.

—Lynn Miller



Diane's NAME Day courtyard



Meg's Lake Como box



Meg's Tuscan winer box



Flowers are abloom in Meg's Filoli box

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Through the Looking Glass: We continue to meet each month at a member's church conference room, which gives us a nice big table to work on miniatures.

We just finished and turned in our club's tote bag favors for the upcoming National. No spoilers but very California!

Generally, we each bring projects to work on but we are currently thinking ahead to NAME Day 2026. Partnering with MiniCals we are anticipating a very fun project and a creative Work Day.

Just for fun we recently got together with other miniaturists in the area for a "brown bag lunch and bring whatever you want to work on" day! It was very successful

—Barbara Adams

MiniCals: Happy Spring!

MiniCals took a respite from April/May workshops. We will be doing the inside/outside room in January and possibly February. This is a centerpiece from the pages of the Fiesta de Los Amigos convention back in 1988.

We spent April making tote bag favors for the National in Palm Springs. In March Polly Morris taught us a great and simple marbling technique on a store counter. They turned out great and elegant looking!

Some of our members spent a day packaging and pricing White Elephant items for Good Sam. We will do some more in summer as most of us work on the show committee.

We will be working on our presents for the NAME day event we will host with Through the Looking Glass in September.

—Ruth Heisch

Wee Housers of the Peninsula: The Wee Housers are on a break but some of us are still working hard.

During their aging in place remodel Rhona had to move many items, including her miniatures and found some pieces that needed to be reglued or replaced. This wonderful shop counter from England is missing a round headed pin. If anyone has one that they are willing to part with, let me know.

Laura spent many, many hours working on Debbie Young's Bed and Breakfast house, making many furnishings, flowers and shrubs and accessories.

—Laura Johnson



Rhona needs a special pin for her shop counter



Laura's Bed and Breakfast

Fresno

Barbara Fairbanks

Tinker Belles: Our club has gone down to just a dozen members due to relocating and the loss of our friends. We are looking for new members in our area.

Wendy Bidy (club member and my daughter) had a stroke the first of March and is in rehab and working hard to regain her left side. We are all looking forward to her returning to minis.

Kayanne Yung is taking several members to Lodi to a sale. It is always a fun day.

I was given a half-scale kit of a greenhouse and I loved putting it together and then presented it to the owner of a nursery thinking about retiring. He loved it!

Barbara Encinas will be leaving us at the end of the school year. She is moving to Oregon to be closer to her children. She is a teacher and already has a job there. We will miss her.

Margaret Gordus has been having some ill health and has been in the hospital.

Glad to see her back to minis, enjoying her family, and working on Diamond Dots.

—Barbara Fairbanks

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North Central

Carlene Brown

Not too much new and exciting going on in the North state but three members of Nor-Cal Gals are planning on attending the California Dreaming Convention this Summer in La Quinta!!

Our Little Mini Club: Chico/Paradise continues to meet monthly through Zoom, which is facilitated through the NAME office and organized by our Margaret Gordus. We have an afternoon to share projects and catch-up on what's going on in our lives. It's great that we are able to do this through NAME!

Nor-Cal Gals continue to have fun in the North state! 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 even non-members donate miniature ideas and videos to the site!! We would love to find more new members, so if you know someone in the North state with a dollhouse, perhaps they would like to join in on the fun! Always, more fun to share!

—Carlene Brown

NorCal Miniature Guild: The past few months have been full of activity for the NorCal Miniature Guild! At a recent meeting, club member Sharonda Holt shared her expertise by teaching three different techniques for creating beautiful stained glass windows—an inspiring and hands-on experience for all who attended.

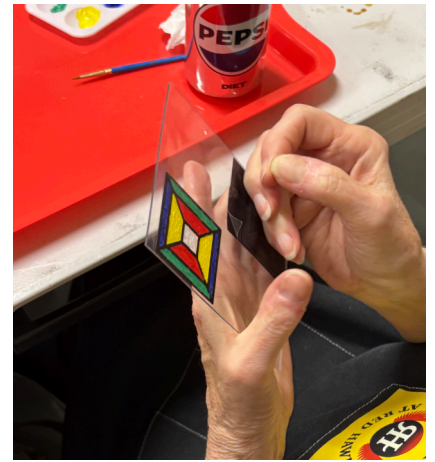
The club also hosted this year's raffle fundraiser at Miniatures in the Wine

Country, which proved to be a great success thanks to the support of our members and the miniature community.

Excitement is building as several members have already completed their 2026 club project, The Attic. We can't wait to showcase these incredible creations at the Good Samaritan Showcase of Miniatures this October in San Jose—especially as the show celebrates its 50th anniversary. It's truly an event you won't want to miss!

Looking ahead, we're preparing to complete our club project giveaways for the upcoming national convention in La Quinta this July. With so much on the calendar, it's shaping up to be an exciting—and very busy—summer!

—Connie Ribble



Sacramento, Central Valley, Sierra Foothills

Open Position

Sacramento Valley Miniature Club: Spring Success for Sac Valley Miniatures

Spring has officially arrived in Northern California, and with it came an exciting and highly successful season for the Sacramento Valley Miniature Club.

We are incredibly proud of everyone who contributed to making the Lodi, California Miniature Dollhouse Show & Sale such a tremendous success. This year marked Miniatures in the Wine Country's first-ever two-day event—and

Small Talk

State Rep Reports

what a milestone it was! Attendance more than doubled compared to last year, creating a lively and inspiring atmosphere for miniature enthusiasts of all ages. MiniaturesInTheWineCountry.com

The weekend was filled with creativity and community. Saturday evening featured a delightful Sip & Paint workshop led by Sac Valley Miniature artisan Roslyn Jacobs, where participants enjoyed painting in a relaxed, social setting. On Sunday, Connie Ribble led a charming Lemonade Stand children's build, which was a hit with our younger attendees.

Adding to the excitement, Debbie Heard's ever-popular Sunday garage sale tables drew enthusiastic crowds, while Leslie Flint did a fantastic job accommodating vendors and treating everyone to a wonderful lunch on Saturday.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event so memorable. We can't wait to share what we have planned for next year—stay tuned!

—Connie Ribble



Itty Bitties: Club members have been busy making tote bag favors and some have been helping to prepare for the 2026 Convention in La Quinta. We are very excited to be a part of the preparation for this event! We can't wait to spend time with friends from around the nation!

Carolyn Paul stepped down as president. We are happy that she will continue to attend our monthly meetings and make memories with us. Deb Laue is our current president, Dr. Deb Taylor is our vice president, and Maria Dover is our current secretary. We will continue to thrive as a club with strong leadership and talented and creative members.

Maria hosted a club mixer and combined members with members of the other clubs in the area. She and Deb Laue taught attendees how to make potted plants. It was a fun, social event to unite club members. Everyone had a great time!

In March, Dr. Deb taught us how to make parquet floors. We focused on technique and completed samples of floors in different shades and patterns, using coffee stirrers. We hope to use this technique to complete our floors for our book boxes.

Club members attended the Mini event at Red Hawk on March 28th. We made a cabinet and filled it with anything that we desired. We worked, played, and socialized with members from other clubs. We enjoyed good food and a great venue. Thank you to Stephanie Cuellar and Connie Ribble for putting this event together.

—Fran Bigler

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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. Each week we share what we're working on and we've learned so many tips and tricks from each other.

Many of us are also looking forward to the NAME Convention in LaQuinta, CA in July.

—Barbara Thornton-Hill

Marin, Napa Valley, Sonoma, Solano

Barbara Thornton-Hill

Wine Country Miniature Society:

Many of the members of our club are working on a club project by participating in "Creatin' 2.0" It's a community-led revival of the

former miniatures.com annual Creatin Contest. This year's kit, "A Door to Somewhere, is a limited edition and is currently available for pre-order through Melvins Miniatures". Those who were interested have ordered a kit and are developing their projects as a club.

We are not sure the kits are still available if you're interested. For more information about Creatin' 2.0, visit www.creatinchallenge.com

—Barbara Thornton-Hill

Hawaii

Open Position

East Bay, Tri-Valley

Open Position

San Francisco, No. Peninsula

Open Position

No. Nevada, Tahoe

Mary Ann Van Buskirk

North Coastal

Open Position



@ GOVERNOR'S INN
SACRAMENTO

NAME Day

TIME TO
RELAX

SAT OCT 24TH
10AM - 3PM

Save the Date

WWW.NAMEREGIONN2.ORG

Small Talk

2026 **SMALLS mini mall** Miniature Workshop@Sea

DATE & ITINERARY CHANGE!

3-Night Sailing – Vancouver to Los Angeles
September 18 – 21, 2026

Join us for a creative retreat at sea
aboard Royal Caribbean's

Ovation of the Seas



Sherry Taylor
Miniaturist/Instructor

Gwiin Correa
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for Registration
& More Info!



Prices starting at \$254
per person, double occupancy.

*Space is limited,
so register today!*



Royal Caribbean
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2027 **SMALLS mini mall** Miniature Workshop@Sea

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MAY 23 – 30, 2027

7-NIGHT GREEK ISLES CRUISE

Sailing Roundtrip from
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Sherry Taylor
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916.549.7345

Small Talk

OUR SHOW FOR THIS YEAR JUST ENDED AND IT WAS OUR BEST SHOW EVER!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE AGAIN NEXT YEAR IN 2027.
MAKE SURE TO SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN A FUN WEEKEND IN THE WINE COUNTRY!
DEBBIE HEARD

SAVE THE DATE

The 15th Annual
Miniatures in the Wine Country
Shows & Sales - 2 shows 2 days!
May 22nd & 23rd 2027

BOTH Shows will be at the:
LODI GRAPE FESTIVAL GROUNDS:
413 E. Lockeford St. Lodi, CA 95240

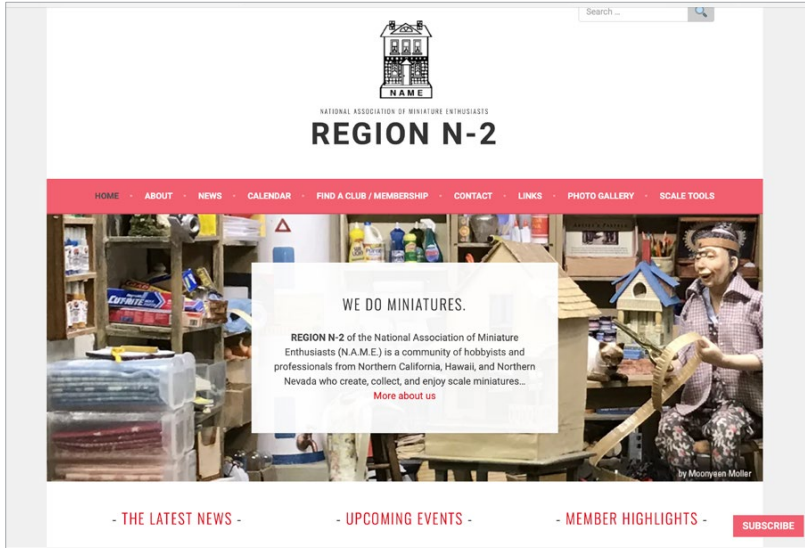
visit us at:
miniaturesinthewinecountry.com
for more information



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
56 Inches (in)

SOURCE SCALE
1:1 (Real World)

TARGET SCALE
1:12 (Standard Dollhouse)

RESULTING SIZE
4.67
in

RESET CALCULATE

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
Inches (in)

REAL LIFE SIZE
155

MINIATURE SIZE
3

IDENTIFIED SCALE
1:52
Closest Match: 1:48 (Quarter Scale / O Scale)

RESET FIND SCALE

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NAME Region N2 Calendar

June 21	Create Workshop
June 27–28	Create Workshop
July 20–26	NAME National Convention
October 9, 10,11	Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures
October 24	NAME Day in Sacramento
May 22–23	Miniatures in the Wine Coutry Shows & Sales

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
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