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April 2026

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# A-1 Region Newsletter

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Greetings,

Happy spring! I am excited to have more daylight time and warmer weather on the way. Browsing through my seed catalogs has given me an idea for some plants I would like to grow in my "mini" garden. At least with these plants I won't need to worry about watering, weeding, or pest control!

Sincerely,

Meredith Hink  
Newsletter Editor  
[zondagmd@hotmail.com](mailto:zondagmd@hotmail.com)

PS: Our next newsletter will be published in June so please send me your updates anytime throughout the spring.

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## Regional Coordinator Notes

Hi A1,

The calendar says that spring is just around the corner. And with spring, is the miniature shows in Chicago. I hope that everyone in our region is able to attend either or both of them. I know that I will be there at the NAME table.

If you are planning to attend, please let me know. If you would like to help at the NAME table, I am always looking for volunteers. Or just stop by and introduce yourself.

Have you registered for the NAME Convention in California? There is still time and some great workshops that are available. If you plan to attend, I would love to meet up with you and more importantly, see you at our regional meeting.

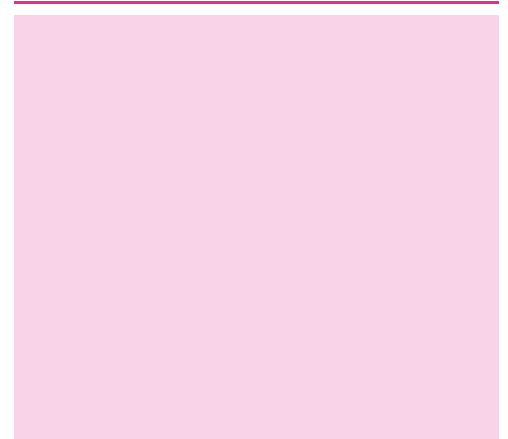
Beth Grabau



Image by [myungho lee](#) from [Pixabay](#)

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## Events

### **Tom Bishop Chicago International 2026**

Marriott Chicago O'Hare, 835 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631, Preview: Friday, April 10, 10AM - 5PM and Saturday, April 11, 9AM - 10AM, Show and Sale: Saturday, April 11, 10am - 5pm, Sunday, April 12, 11am - 4pm, Info here: <https://www.bishopshow.com/ci>

### **T&D Miniatures Shows 2026 Schedule**

Chicago Spring Showcase of Miniatures, Wyndam Garden Hotel, 1725 E Algonquin Rd, Schaumburg, IL, April 9-11, Thurs, 10-7, Friday 10-7, Sat 9-4, More info, including great class offerings, as well as information about the shuttle between the Tom Bishop and Spring Showcase of Miniature Shows: [https://miniatureshows.com/?page\\_id=56](https://miniatureshows.com/?page_id=56)

Ann Arbor Dollhouse and Miniature Show, Wyndam Garen Hotel, 2900 Jackson Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI, May 8-9

Cleveland Miniature Show, Don Umerley Civic Center, 21016 Hillard Blvd., Rocky River, OH, May 15-16

Kansas City Dollhouse and Miniature Show, Abdallah Shrine, 5300 Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park, KS, June 5-6

Minnesota Dollhouse and Miniature Show, New Brighton Community Center, 400 10<sup>th</sup> Street NW, New Brighton, MN, July 31-August 1

Tennessee Dollhouse and Miniature Show, Patriot Hall, 320 Emberson Dr, Ringgold, GA, September 5-6

Indianapolis Dollhouse and Miniature Show, Wyndam Westfield (Cambria Hotel), 18592 Carousel Lane, Westfield, IN, September 12-13

St. Louis Dollhouse and Miniature Show, Machinist Hall, 12365 St. Charles Rock Rd., Bridgeton, MO, October 2-3

Chicago Autumn Showcase of Miniatures, Wyndam Garden Hotel, 1725 E Algonquin Rd, Schaumburg, IL, November 13-14

Want to host a NAME table at a T&D show? Contact Teresa Zwiener at [tminiatures@gmail.com](mailto:tminiatures@gmail.com); 314-277-2601.

## Club Information

### **Illinois**

Midstate Minimakers of Illinois  
Meets every two weeks 1:00-4:30 PM  
Bloomington, IL  
Contact: Sandy Staker  
309-585-0384

Mini Wonders in Chicago  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at 3:00 p.m.  
Chicago, IL  
Contact: Delia Gray (773-820-1519)  
President Carla Burruss (312-404-7986)

Wee "C" Miniature Club  
Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Friday at 7:30 p.m.  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL  
Contact: Monica Bernard  
773-251-5180

North Shore Miniature Society  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
Contact: Sharon Zingery  
773-262-7699

The 993 Club  
Meets Saturdays at 1:00 p.m.  
St. John, IN  
Contact: Lula Martlink  
219-627-4770

Town Hall Minis  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 12:30 p.m.  
New Lenox, IL  
Contact: Karen Dircks  
815-462-9527

Metro Mini Makers  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.  
Moline, IL  
Contact: Karen Cockerill  
309-797-6489

### **Iowa**

Miniature Club of Cedar Rapids  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at 9:30 a.m.  
Contact: Linda Freeland  
Marion, IA  
319-373-1993

WEST  
Meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month  
Contact: Beth Grabau  
Windsor Heights, IA  
515-993-3240

Omaha-Council Bluffs Miniature Guild  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday- La Vista Community Center  
La Vista, Nebraska  
Contact: Sheila Froendt  
402-305-2989; [sfroendt@cox.net](mailto:sfroendt@cox.net)

### **Minnesota**

Midwest Miniature Guild\*\*  
1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays February, May, October  
Minneapolis, MN  
Contact: Eva Donaghue  
[eva@evasetceteraetc.com](mailto:eva@evasetceteraetc.com)  
[www.midwestminiatureguild.org](http://www.midwestminiatureguild.org)

### **Missouri**

Dream Builders (all scales welcome) \*\*  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month – 10:30 am  
St. Louis Area  
Contact: Elaine Levine  
314-323-6193  
[elainebio@aol.com](mailto:elainebio@aol.com)

MINIS ONLY  
Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 11:00 a.m.  
Wentzville, Mo  
Contact: Frances Gerardi  
636-887-0167

## **Wisconsin**

Madison Area Miniature Enthusiasts (MAME)  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
Madison, WI  
Contact: Janice Waisman  
608-770-8458

Lakeshore Miniature Makers\*\*  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 9:00 a.m.  
Sheboygan, WI  
Contact: Elaine Dunisch  
920-452-4798

Retreat Into Miniatures (RIM)  
Meets second weekend (Friday-Sunday) October  
Cedar Valley Retreat Center – West Bend, WI  
Contact: Carolyn Mitchell  
414-355-8492

\*\* Non-NAME clubs

Milwaukee Miniatures  
Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Greenfield, WI  
Contact: Carolyn Mitchell  
414-355-8492

Mini Diversions  
Meets Sundays every couple of months  
Greenfield, WI  
Contact: Lynn Jensen  
414-235-8193

Three Rivers Miniature Club\*\*  
Meet Saturdays once a month  
Holmen, WI  
Contact: Yarrow Brown  
Yarrowbrown74@gmail.com

## State Representatives

Iowa: Beth Grabau  
[greta@alumni.iastate.edu](mailto:greta@alumni.iastate.edu)

Illinois: Sharon Zingery  
[szingery@gmail.com](mailto:szingery@gmail.com)

Missouri: Susan Goodwin  
[aspsusang@gmail.com](mailto:aspsusang@gmail.com)

Wisconsin: Alician Pearce  
[ubfaep@yahoo.com](mailto:ubfaep@yahoo.com)

Minnesota: Jane Sanem  
[janeansanem@gmail.com](mailto:janeansanem@gmail.com)

Welcome Chair: vacant

## NAME Updates

### **Illinois News**

Last November, Theresa of T&D Miniatures granted NAME a table at their Fall Show. I was nervous about my first time, but several friends stepped up to help and we managed to sell over \$200 in grab bag gifts while signing up one new member and handing out many brochures. What was most fun was meeting a lot of young people new to our craft, many of whom were not even familiar with a knowledge of scale!! I like to think they now know what NAME has to offer because of our fun chats. Theresa has been promoting our craft and her shows on Instagram and it seems to be working. In April I will be hosting a table at the Spring Show with T&D in Schaumburg - [Chicago Spring Showcase of Miniatures – Miniature Shows](#). At the last minute an estate was donated; so, I hope to sell some more grab bags to raise funds. I also hope members in Illinois, or from wherever, will look me up at the show and let me know how I can be of service. Feel free to contact me at [szingery@gmail.com](mailto:szingery@gmail.com).

## **Nebraska State Day News**

We know it has been a while, but the Nebraska State Day will be back in 2026 and will be better than ever!

The project is so amazing that we are extending the event to 2 days — and providing lots of gifts (welcome gift and 2 souvenir gifts), door prizes, tote bags, raffles and much, much more!

The kit for the event - inspired by Brooke Tucker's Golden Christmas room - is half-scale (1/24th) and was designed and laser-cut with precision so that it goes together beautifully. The kit also has many optional features to allow for customization if desired.

Please join us for two fun-filled days of collaboration, education and skills-sharing.



**The Registration Fee for this event is \$175.** The fee covers the kit, gifts, prizes, tote bags, two catered lunches, snacks, coffee and bottled water.

The fee may be paid in two installments: a \$85 deposit is due upon registration and the remaining \$90 is due by July 1, 2026. If you cancel your registration before July 1, 2026, your deposit will be refunded. (If you cancel after July 1, you will NOT receive a refund, but you will still receive your kit. You must cover the cost of shipping.)

### **REGISTRATION:**

You may register for this event by either printing the registration form (see website below) and mailing it with a check to Sandy Sokoloski (645 Antelope Circle, Papillion, NE 68046). Alternatively, you may complete an online registration form and pay using your credit card. After reading through the details of the event, scroll down and complete the registration information. Then scroll down past the photos and click the 'SUBMIT' button. You will immediately see a confirmation screen and a link to make your payment. Please note that your spot is not secure until your deposit is received, so please complete that process after completing the registration form.

REGISTER HERE:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfEIS5zWzR1D0FNG4tPVo-XvCPUm6Wb\\_HGn8\\_Ony4eaKhGEQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfEIS5zWzR1D0FNG4tPVo-XvCPUm6Wb_HGn8_Ony4eaKhGEQ/viewform)



## California Dreaming ...

If you wish to join us in dreaming, there are still openings for full Convention Registration as well as two other ways to participate: Day Passes and Public Days.

Our 2026 NAME National Convention is located in the Coachella Valley near Palm Springs in Southern California. For full Convention Registration, contact Kim at the NAME Office. Pre-Convention and Registered Workshop Registration opened on March 21nd with the Evening Workshop/Gala and Theme Luncheon registration opened on March 22nd.

We have more than thirty outstanding Sales Room dealers with names you've likely heard plus dealers new to selling, and many unique exhibits to view.

For the latest, go to <https://miniatures.org/26Cal> or contact: Carol Hodgson at [cadreaming2026@yahoo.com](mailto:cadreaming2026@yahoo.com) or Kim Ash at the NAME Office, [kim@miniatures.org](mailto:kim@miniatures.org).

\*Day Passes – opens April 20th

Full Convention registrants have the first opportunities at Workshops, Theme Luncheons; however, opportunities may still be available for these as well as the Wednesday evening Workshop and Gala, Theme Luncheons and Sales Room featuring a wide variety of dealers. Of course there are fellow miniaturists with whom to share ideas.

\*Public Days – July 25th and 26th

Our dealers have an array of hand-crafted miniatures and our Exhibits will help inspire your dreams for your next mini creation.

Don't wait any longer for your dreams to come true!

NAME National Convention  
La Quinta Resort and Club (a Hilton property)  
July 20 – 26, 2026  
La Quinta California

LAKESHORE MINIATURE MAKERS RETREAT  
JUNE 18 – 21, 2026

**What is it?** A weekend get-together of up to 30 miniaturists begins on a Thursday afternoon and concludes after breakfast on Sunday. No classes, no gifts, and no centerpieces. This will just be a fun, relaxing time to work on unfinished miniature projects or other artistic endeavors, meet old friends, and make some new ones.

**Where?** Cedar Valley Retreat Center, West Bend, WI -- <https://ucci.org/cedar-valley/>.

**Cost – per person:** Based on three nights lodging, plus eight meals.

Single Occupancy: \$485.00      Double Occupancy: \$435.00      Commuters – Meals Only: \$215.00

Full payment is due by **January 31, 2026**. Complete this form, along with a \$50.00 deposit to reserve your spot.

**Cancellations:**

90 days or more prior to arrival date	100% of deposit less \$50.00 processing fee
61-89 days prior	80% of total deposit
60 days or less to arrival date	No refund

**Silent Auction:** We will again be conducting a silent auction. You keep the proceeds. It will be on Saturday evening, after dinner, around 7 PM. All items must be registered and a bid sheet attached. If there are missing pieces, it must be noted on the bid sheet. Bring cash, as no checks or credit cards will be accepted. You may bring up to ten items.

**Free Table:** There will be a free table. But be sure the item has some value. DO NOT BRING JUNK!!!

**Contact Person:** Laura Graney      Email: [Laura9326@charter.net](mailto:Laura9326@charter.net)      Phone: (920) 452-9326

Please make checks payable to:      Laura Graney



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LAKESHORE MINIATURE MAKERS RETREAT JUNE 18-21, 2026  
REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Single room \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ Double room \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Roommate's name: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ Meals only: \_\_\_\_\_