

Small Talk

National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts

Region N2, Spring 2021

<http://nameregionn2.org>

From Your Regional Coordinator

Here we are in the middle of Winter, writing the Spring (?) Newsletter. Well, there are daffodils sprouting around here so I guess it's coming. I think we still need a bit more rain and I'm looking forward to getting outside more.

As you all know, in person events are still not going to happen anytime soon. In NAME, all in-person events have been postponed. The NAME Create.miniatures.org site is still the main NAME place to go for activity. Each month there is a new monthly theme and activities to help you with miniatures and to keep you involved.

The Portland, OR Houseparty "Come Fly with Me," has been postponed to May of 2022. The Providence, Rhode Island National Convention has been postponed to summer of 2023 and the Indianapolis, IN National Convention to the Fall of 2022. Keep an eye on the Gazette for new dates and information or you can check out the regular NAME website at miniatures.org

In March of 2022, there will be an Online Houseparty. The theme is "Splintered Fairy Tales." There are some great plans being made for this event online so keep an eye out for Registration opening for that—probably in August or so? Do you remember the old "Fractured Fairy Tales" on TV back in the day? Well, this is the general idea of this HP and they are actually including more modern-day tales as well as old fashioned Fairy Tales. For example, Harry Potter, Shrek characters, Frozen characters, etc, etc. Use your imagination with modern day "tales."

I hope you are all staying safe, have an amazing wardrobe of masks (don't you hate them?), and are getting your vaccines soon if you so choose.

So, take advantage of some of these sites and get involved. I have been getting more minis done than ever by joining groups to work with others.

**Barbara Thornton-Hill,
Temporary Regional Coordinator, Region N2**

In Memory of Laurel Gross

We are grieving the recent passing of Laurel Gross in our Region. Laurel was a 40-year member of NAME. She was best known for being a specialist in 1/2" scale miniatures. For many years, Laurel owned a 1/2" Scale Miniature Store in Pleasanton, CA until she moved to Nevada City in the late 90s. Laurel was a member of the Academy of Honor in NAME, served as Region N2 Regional Coordinator for four years, chaired a Houseparty in Reno, NV in 2000, served on many Steering Committees for Houseparties and Conventions and was a member of several miniature clubs. Laurel taught workshops in her shop and at Houseparties for many years and manned a sales table at these events.

Laurel was a member of at least three clubs in the Nevada City/Grass Valley area for several years until she suffered a stroke. After that, she worked on some minis but turned her attention to coloring and designing cards, yet another creative skill.

We will miss Laurel's amazing talent, creativity and skill in almost any craft or creative endeavor she pursued. Her optimistic outlook and problem-solving skills were always an inspiration to others.

Barbara Thornton-Hill

Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures—October 9–10, 2021

I have finally heard from my hotel contact. She is working on our room reservation/discount rate so we are hopeful that the show will go on as planned. Our dealers and teachers are ready! It will be so great to see everyone again and enjoy our hobby together.

Don't forget us if you've been doing any cleaning out of your minis. Our White elephant is always ready for "new" items!

Our kids table needs new things also for our future miniaturists!

We have a new and simpler website address. <https://goodsamshowcase.org>

Contact us for donations and volunteering.

Ruth Heisch Show Chairman

Small Talk

SUMMARY FROM THE BOARD MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MINIATURE ENTHUSIASTS (NAME) HELD ON OCTOBER 22, 2020

Financial Summary: Fiscal Year June 1, 2020–May 31, 2021

Budgeted Income for the year: \$254,243.00

Income YTD (September 30, 2020) \$100,938.50 (39.7% of budgeted income)

Budgeted Expenses for the Year: \$253,045.00

Expenses YTD (September 30, 2020) \$98,479.28 (38.9% of budgeted expenses)

Year to Date Profit: \$2459.22

Fundraising: MaKitz sales are still strong. A Trick or Treat Raffle on the new Create website has already sold 92 tickets. The Online Garage Sale has been as successful as the in-person events.

Convention/Houseparty Liaison: The Board passed a motion to restrict half-table sales to new dealers and past dealers who have not sold at NAME events for five years. The Dealer application form will be modified to reflect this. The application form for Workshops was modified to clarify phot restrictions for clarity of items included in the workshops.

Website: The new create.miniatures.org site is up and running. A workshop is scheduled for November and under discussion for December. Each month will showcase new games, puzzles and content.

Auctions: An additional fifty cent shipping fee will be added to auction sales through December to offset USPS increases.

RC Liaison: A NAME member has suggested a Cookie Exchange by mail event for interested clubs. The information will be sent to RCs for dissemination to State Reps and clubs.

SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MINIATURE ENTHUSIASTS (NAME) HELD ON NOVEMBER 19, 2020

Financial Summary: Fiscal Year June 1, 2020–May 31, 2021

Budgeted Income for the year: \$254,243.00

Income YTD (October 31, 2020) \$120,447.28 (47.4% of budgeted income)

Budgeted Expenses for the Year: \$253,045.00

Expenses YTD (October 31, 2020) \$121,926.24 (48.1% of budgeted expenses)

Year to Date Profit: (\$1478.96)

Website: President Roy Moore reported that Dan Stewart has resigned from the Tech Consulting and Webmaster positions. Eric Moore is managing the site duties temporarily.

Fundraising: The end-of-year giving letter has been printed and stuffed, and will be mailed November 20. President Moore reminded everyone there will be no December Board meeting. The traditional face-to-face January meeting will be replaced with a virtual ZOOM meeting.

Publicity: The NAME newsletter continues to be well-received and the membership is responding well to the Create site activities. The “Trick or Treat” raffle on the Create site brought in \$1190 and all prizes have been mailed to the winners.

Small Talk

NAME Day 2021 The Tiki Bar

Welcome to the 2021 Tiki Bar, the theme of our NAME Day project this year. Perhaps you would want it on a beachfront? Maybe in the backyard by the pool? How about a Tiki Bar ambience at a ball game or County fair? Maybe just a scene on it's own? You can serve cold drinks using the cooler that is a part of the project for storing ice, store your glasses, bottles, whatever on the shelves, put some nice bar stools in front to sit on and relax. You might want to do some landscaping around the bar, include some little tables and chairs around a patio. So many options and this will be a complete project this year. Only for 2021. No further projects to wait a whole year for.

Again, one 1" free kit will be available for groups who register their events with the NAME Day Committee but they will not be shipped out until mid-April, 2021. Cutter lists will be posted in April also.

The official NAME Day for 2021 is October 2nd, first Saturday of October. Some events are scheduled a little after that or a little before because of local conflicts, but October 2nd is the official NAME Day.

Cutters will have accessory kits for sale so you will have to check their websites and offerings.

Contact Barbara Thornton-Hill, bathca@gmail.com, to register your event. Still not meeting in person at facilities? How about a Zoom Event? Several groups found those to be satisfactory in 2020. You can have the fun of sharing with others and also the privacy of assembly in your own workspace.



MiniCals Dates for 2021

Attic Room Workshop

Sat-Sun January 16-17

Shabby Chic Garden Workshop

Saturday, February 20

MiniCals Spring Fling Potluck and Flea Market

Saturday, March 20

All events take place at:

M&L Precision

18665 Madrone Parkway, Morgan Hill, CA

For more info, contact Ruth Heisch; grouchybeartoo@aol.com

Small Talk

State Rep Reports

East Bay/Tri-Valley

Open Position

North Central CA

State Rep Margaret Gordus

Our Little Mini Club: We reconnected via Zoom after two years, as most of us relocated because of the Camp fire. Plans are to continue on Zoom and have projects to work on while we chat.

Carlene Brown is a dealer and has her miniatures for sale on etsy, so look her up! Joanne Schaefer has rebuilt her home in Paradise. She is pleased to have her daughter and grandson living with her. Laurie Smith, whose home did not burn, was just able to move back in this last month. Vegie Maclean sold her home in Chico and lives in Cumecula CA, near her daughter.

Tinker Belles of Fresno has welcomed me to their club, and we are enjoying making quarter and one inch scale miniatures together.

I have been taking Zoom classes from Debbie Laue at Dragonfly Intl., making flowers. It has been fun and interesting.

—Margaret Gordus



Margaret's rose trellis



Margaret's iris arrangement

North Coastal CA

State Rep Sharon Ocheltree

Redwood Small World: The numbers for Covid cases are beginning to decrease here on the North Coast. Hopefully, we will be able to meet safely for a really live, personal meeting SOON. Not seeing each other for hugs and laughter just doesn't cut it!

Our individual members are keeping busy with their own long term projects. Our delightful octogenarian, Jean, who lives by herself over an hour's drive up a mountain road is working on the interior of a half inch scale doll house she had purchased at a Good Sam Show several years ago from Debbie Herd. The house is from the American Craft Products company. It is the Queen Ann Row House, as shown in a Nutshell News article, July 1982. It is very, very well made of 1/4 inch birch plywood. I know because I tore it apart!

The house is two story, two rooms deep. The sides are hinged and the back is open. But you couldn't open the front to gain access to the two front rooms. Jean left the house in my care to "fix." The front had a door/stairway and an extended bay window. And it was well glued and nailed together. It sat here for months, it was so well made I didn't want to damage it. Then one day I walked by it and thought, knock the roof off. So out came my rubber mallet—so simple! Next went the second story, the sides and then the front assembly which was easy to divide in half by the bay window. It all went back together with the front now hinged for easy center access. Jean has now painted the outside an attrac-

tive blue and white and wallpapered the bathroom and living room. When she visits our "city" world she enjoys EBay shopping, finding treasures for her new home.

Susie, our club's top chief and hostess, has been completing a project from an Oregon State Day event. It was four years ago when she was packed to attend the Medford, Oregon state day workshop when that night her home caught on fire. Her 100 year-old family farmhouse was severely gutted. She lost finished mini projects and many tools, including her packed bag. After all these years, she has time to address this little 1/4" scale shop. The "Ye Olde Shop" is heading for a new future as a coffee/ pastry shop. She is very talented making polymer clay foods and has an imagination brimming with goodies. The shop will be electrified with tiny bead lamps. She lit a "China" scale, (that size that is in-between 1/4" and 1" somewhere), oven with a light so you could see the pie baking inside. So cute.

Sorry I ramble so. Maybe next time I'll tell of others and their creations. We all have our own ways of surviving in this life changing situation. Stay busy and happy!

—Sharon Ocheltree

Marin, Napa Valley

Open Position

Fresno

State Rep Barbara Fairbanks

Fresno Tinker Belles: Fresno Tinker Belles are still going and meeting in each other's homes.

Congratulations to Kayanne Yung on her retirement but we are all sad at the loss of Hobby Town and our meeting place. We will all be searching for another place to meet together and make our miniatures.

All of us are finishing minis and not working on a group project at this time. Several of us have bought Betterley's Ricky Raccoon and will be working on this very soon.

We have a new member, Barbara Enci-

Small Talk

nas, but she is a teacher so misses most of our meetings. Looking forward to summer so that she can join in our fun.

We will be having a NAME DAY but not certain of the location yet.

Stay well everyone.

—Barbara Fairbanks

Sacramento, Central Valley, Sierra Foothills

State Rep Laura Seibert

Quarter Persuasion: We are very thankful for our Zoom meetings. For 2020, we met in person for our January and February monthly meetings. Then Covid-19 quarantine began, and we didn't "see" each other for five months. Barbara Thornton-Hill set up a Zoom meeting for us for July, which was wonderful. Our August meeting didn't get to happen. Then, at our September Zoom meeting (we meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month, at 11:00 am), Barbara brought up perhaps meeting on Mondays. It was a Go, and we have been meeting every Monday at 11:00 am ever since. We are getting so many projects done!

Two members signed up for Robin Betterley's monthly project for 2020, so they worked on finishing their monthly "books." Three members signed up for Robin's 2021 monthly project, so they are working on the monthly "suitcases." Most of us finished the "Mama Ladybug's Laundry Day" NAME Makitz 1 open book by Robin Betterley. Most of us finished the quarter scale "Let it Snow" NAME Makitz 2 market stall by Suzanne & Andrew's Miniatures.

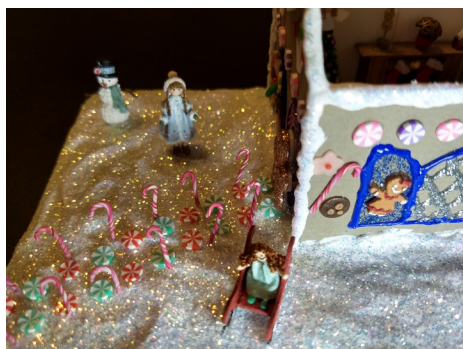
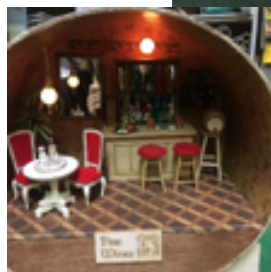
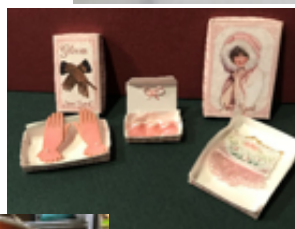
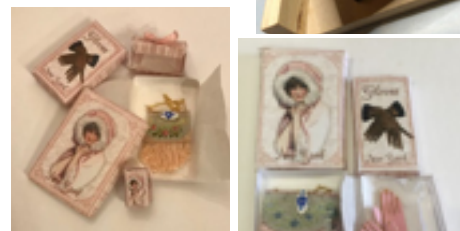
Several of us have finished quite a few more projects, that we could count on our AIM form for 2020 (I have more structures finished in a year than ever before). I'm re-doing two of my finished Valentine projects, and working on a Valentine cottage.

A couple of our club members don't choose to participate in Zoom sessions and we miss them. They are getting lots of minis finished, too. Our first project for 2021 is "The Olde Cottage" NAME Makitz 4 by Kristie Norman.

—Laura Seibert

Itty Bitties: We have been busy finishing up projects that have been sitting on the shelves for some time. It is always exciting to see the finished projects that have been completed by our members. In November, Dr. Debra Taylor taught us how to upholster a tufted stool. We used silk fabric and everyone did a fabulous job! In December, we celebrated Christmas with most of our club members through Zoom. Thanks to Deb Laue for collecting swaps and exchange gifts, sorting them out and mailing them to everyone. We all had a great time, but we missed the food and the hugs! In January, MaryAnn taught us how to make ladies' gloves, a purse, and bath soap.

—Frances Bigler



This project started several years ago, with the Itty Bitties. Thank you, Sandy Dawson, and your friend, who designed it. I was just able to buy Hannah and Frosty from Julie Stevens in October, which encouraged me to finish my Gingerbread House. I've been buying candies for a while, including by Lola's Originals. Lots of furniture and accessories (or kits for them) by Quarter Persuasion members. —Laura Seibert

No. Nevada, Tahoe

State Rep Mary Ann Van Buskirk

Hawaii

State Rep Naomi Losch

San Francisco/ N. Peninsula

Open Position

Small Talk

South Bay & Peninsula

Open Position

Through the Looking Glass: Through the Looking Glass, San Jose, has been keeping in touch with on-line working meetings and shared texts and photos. We meet officially once a month but a day rarely goes by without our being in touch. We are all working on miniatures, some with a mud room kit that we are adapting individually and some with other creative vignettes, kits and projects.

One great aspect of our electronic communication is that we have re-connected with Sharon Maher, one of our original members who moved to Chicago a while back. She is once again part of our meetings and get-togethers!

Sadly, we lost one of our founding members, Louella DeMers, in December. She was a creative miniaturist, paper artist, quilter and cloth doll collector. She will be much missed.

We are looking forward to working together on the 2021 NAME Day and its intriguing Tiki Bar project with its many fun possibilities.

—Barbara Adams

MiniCals: Like so many other mini groups, we've been staying safe but connected. We've had several Zoom meetings together, including a delightful holiday party hosted by Ruth Heisch. Ruth provided and delivered a tasty lunch, snacks, and beverage to add to our holiday cheer and gift sharing. Judy and Beth also helped as Santa's elves to get deliveries to everyone. We also made fairy gardens, and video tapes and groceries at another Zoom meeting. We are looking forward to our annual "Unbirthday" party with members sending gifts to each other in the mail.

Unfortunately, our Attic and garden workshops and Spring Fling have been postponed and it is uncertain when we will be able to reschedule them. Announcements will be made in the NAME N2 newsletter or you may check with Ruth at grouchybeartoo@aol.com.

We are still planning with Through the Looking Glass for a NAME day event in

October and hope everyone will be looking forward to making a Tiki Bar.

—Brenda Hough

Mini Attics: We have been meeting once a week on Zoom, and, while it isn't as satisfying as sitting around a table working together, it is the best way to stay connected for now. Cindy Loman has finished making eight gate-legged tables as swaps for NAME, and Marge and Meg Milani have finished their Christmas projects, a room box made by Marge and a Christmas house made by Meg. Diane Phillips bought a hollow ceramic Easter egg at an auction and has furnished and landscaped it. She is proud of the way it turned out. Diane showed it at our last Zoom meeting, and she received oohs and ahhs from members. Last week Michelle Ortiz showed her finished dwarf house, which has seven little dwarfs as residents. Snow White is not yet an occupant. So, in spite of everything, we are working on and finishing mini projects.

Our next club project will be a flower-making effort. Lynn Miller will teach a Zoom class on making daisies. She is an accomplished flower maker and has taught us how to make several other types of flowers. We chose colors and quantities, and Lynn will mail the materials from her present home in Washington. There was some discussion about containers, but that hasn't been finalized, and members will probably be on their own ordering and arranging shipping for them.

—Gerry Silberstein



Marjorie's Christmas room box



Meg's Christmas house



Upcoming daisy workshop with Lynn

Wee Housers of the Peninsula: In December we had a Zoom Christmas party. We had drawn names and mailed out gifts to each other. It was so exciting to watch each member open her gift!

We are still having a Zoom meeting every month, thanks to Rhona, who sets it up.

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We are all working on different projects. Rhona and Moonyeen are working on their Pat and Noel Thomas potting sheds. They have made so many wonderful accessories!

Denise is working on her Picket Hill. She electrified it and is now landscaping, making lots of 1/4 scale flowers. I attended the online Flower Cart workshop and have been madly making ivy vines, hydrangas, boxwood stems, petunias and more.

—Laura Johnson



Aged wheel barrow filled with miscellaneous garden items by Rhona for the potting shed



New seedlings growing in starter boxes designed by Moonyeen



Scratch built bird house with faux bird poop and worn, dented garbage can made from aluminum foil by Rhona



Name N2 Region Calendar

March 20	MinCals Spring Fling
April 9–11	Portland OR Houseparty, Come Fly with Me
July 22–25	Providence RI National Convention, From Sea to Shining Sea
October 2	NAME DAY
October 9–10	Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures

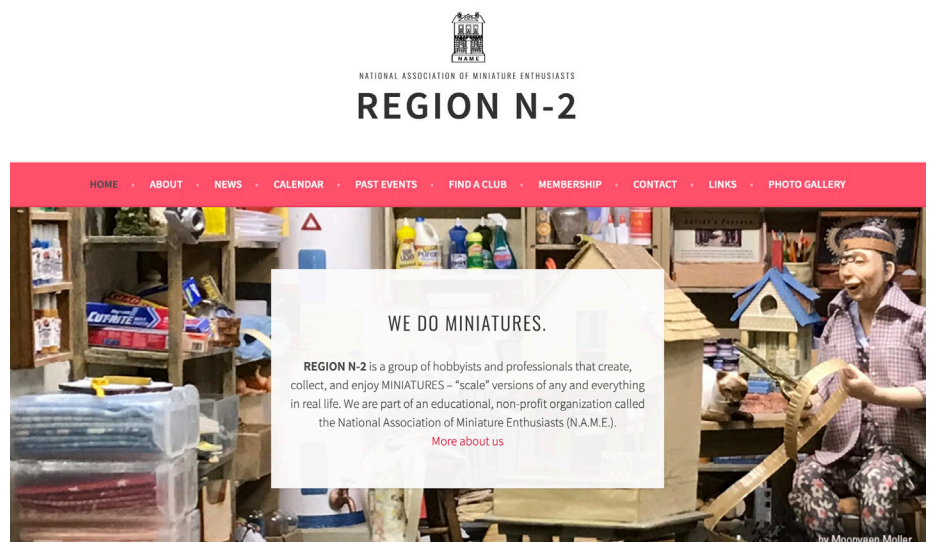
Check Create.Minatures and other online groups for their events

Check the N2 Website

Local mini events may be limited, but there are 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 (na-men2regionwebmaster@gmail.com) to add it to the calendar page of the website.

Thanks, Carol



Small Talk

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Open Position

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Open Position

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