



## ALMOT MINI NEWS

**ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, OKLAHOMA, TEXAS**

## **NAME REGION E-2 NEWSLETTER**

**VOLUME # 107**

## **ISSUE # 001**

JANUARY 2026

## Regional Coordinator News

Happy New Year from your co-RCs, Amy and Suzie. We hope you have many mini adventures this year. Why not join us in La Quinta CA this summer for the National Convention.

We are currently looking for a State Rep for Texas. If you live in Texas and are interested, please contact Suzie, [suzie.aquilar@yahoo.com](mailto:suzie.aquilar@yahoo.com).

I am assisting Amy in her duties as she goes through cancer treatment. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank you, Suzie Aguilar-RC Liaison

## Region E-2 NAME Clubs

**Austin, TX area:**

Houston, TX area:

N.U.T.S. Mandy Hebert 713-303-5568

**San Antonio, TX area:**

### Oklahoma City, OK area:

Shrunken Treasures Sandy Davis 405-623-4780

## Quarter Nuts

Denise DeCo

405-623-4780

Tulsa, OK area:

## Mini Fun Fact

What famous actress has a collection of both oversized objects and miniatures?

*Clue: Think the movie “Ghost” or husband Bruce Willis.*

Answer at the end of this issue of ALMOT Mini News

## Member Spotlight!

This is your opportunity to meet Lynette Barker, an awesome potter who not only makes and sells her wares but teaches classes in making miniature pottery on a mini wheel. She will be at the Dallas Show in May and at the NAME Convention in July. Here is a brief overview of one of her classes:

### **Sculpting on a Mini Wheel 101**

Since we cannot use a kiln in the hotels where we teach the miniatures classes, I use air-dry clay for classes. It has similar characteristics to my typical sculpting clay.

With a small lump of clay on the mini-wheel, I center the clay mound. Centering is very important! Then I shape the clay into a column, which is an easy shape to make into many other shapes. It gives a good base for vases, bowls, pots, teapots and pitchers. I have collected many useful tools for sculpting, and my favorites are a wire loop tool and a curved, sharp carving tool. With these, I hollow out the center of the column and begin to expand the sides. This movement is called "bellying", because it reminds one of a pot-bellied stove. A touch of water from a paintbrush will help moisten the clay, if it becomes difficult to manage. At this point, it can become anything! I can draw the sides up to make it a tall vase, or I can expand the sides and make it a fully round rose bowl vase, or even smooth the sides and create a lovely free-form bowl! My imagination is the only limitation! Sometimes the clay has ideas of its own and becomes something totally different than what I had planned! :-) This is called a "Happy Accident"!

Some of my most unique pieces and most popular art forms have been Happy Accidents! My first fancy pitcher was a result of a failed vase! I had a beautiful, flared lip on an elegant, smooth tall vase, and I was just about to take it off the wheel, when one side flopped. It just dropped out of shape! I was so upset; I almost smashed it. But I looked at it again, and it looked a bit like a spout - so I shaped it into a spout! It became my first pitcher! And now I use every vase that doesn't hold an edge, or if I happen to bump a lip with a tool, that part is now transformed into a spout! A bowl that is not even can become a platter (just flatten the whole out until it is your new idea.) Almost anything can become something better. If the top of a vase becomes too thin from over-tooling, take it off, and the result is a lovely bowl! Most anything can be used.

I often tell my students that they are all capable of creating something beautiful. And they do! They just have to try. No student has ever left my class without something that they can be proud of. You all have a special something that makes you unique. And that comes out in your creativity. I am astonished at some of the pieces my students have created in class! Some who have never tried clay before! Most have not sculpted on a mini wheel before. And the treasures they have accomplished are marvelous!

Air-dry clay will dry in about 2 hours, so some have "glazed" their pieces in class. We use nail polish! Yes, just plain, Dollar Store nail polish. It gives them a nice, shiny surface, and seals the clay so it is durable. We had a great time. I'm not too strict about what you make, just that you try. We all have fun and learn some things - yes, I learn, too. I am learning every day. Life is so much more interesting when you are growing. And there is so much to learn! :-)

I sell and teach at all the shows that I go to and when I teach, I bring mini wheels for all the students to use or buy. Most students work in 1:12 scale, and that is how I teach it, as it is easiest to start that "large." But you can easily translate that into 1:24 scale. I have made things as tiny as 1:144 scale on the wheel. :-) I always have smaller scale items for sale, too. My next classes will be given in Chicago at the Tom Bishop Miniatures Show in April. Then, at Maysville, Kentucky at the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center, also in April. I will be teaching, giving a Theme Luncheon, and selling at the NAME Convention in La Quinta in July! I am so excited - this will be my first NAME Convention! I hope to meet you all there! Please come by and introduce yourselves and sign up for my classes - I love to teach, and you will not go away disappointed. And come and shop my table! I have new, never before seen, pieces at every show. I will also be teaching and selling at the Philly Show for the first time this year in November.

Looking forward to meeting many of you. See you in Chicago, Kentucky, Dallas, California or Philly!



## NAME Region E-2 Calendar of Events

### **May 29-31, 2026. Texas Miniature Showcase, Dallas, TX**

Texas Miniature Showcase is an annual show of dollhouse scaled furniture and accessories with classes, sales, NAME Open House and exhibits. Silent and Live Auctions on Saturday!

Contact: [info@texasminiatureshowcase.us](mailto:info@texasminiatureshowcase.us)

### **Jul 23-26, 2026. NAME National Convention, LaQuinta, CA**

Contact: <https://miniatures.org/26Cal>

### **Aug 12-15, 2027, NAME National Convention, Louisville, KY**

## Mini Joke!

### **What's the difference between a stepping stool and a miniature 3D printer?**

The former is a little ladder and the latter is a little former.

## Welcome New & Returning Region E-2 Members

Harva Basinger

Virginia Meyer

Jane Dillard

Patricia Lates

Margaret Etchison

Lyn Latimer

### Mini Fun!

Miniaturists see things with a different eye than others. We see a button and it looks like a dish; we see a single earring and it looks like a wall decoration; we see a metal lantern and it looks like a gazebo to us. And so it goes, on and on.



Here is my latest find. My husband purchased touch-up paint for our car. What an unusually shaped dispenser! My first thought was that a skilled 1:48 scale miniaturist would put a band around the top, attach chains and sling seats to make a Rocket Ride at the State Fair! It is approximately 6 inches tall. What do you see when you look at it? Email and let me know what your eye sees!

## NAME's Business Members

### From Region E-2

Making Miniatures in Community, Watauga, TX [miniatures-n-community@gmail.com](mailto:miniatures-n-community@gmail.com)

Miniature Dollhouse Furniture Biz, Greenville, TX  
[Janet@MiniatureDollhouseFurniture.biz](mailto:Janet@MiniatureDollhouseFurniture.biz)

Samantha Creations, Dallas, TX [SamanthaCreations@sbcglobal.net](mailto:SamanthaCreations@sbcglobal.net)

Texas Miniature Showcase LLC, Red Oak, TX [Info@TexasMiniatureShowcase.us](mailto:Info@TexasMiniatureShowcase.us)

## NAME News & Updates



### CALIFORNIA DREAMING

#### Getting Registered ...

This year February 14 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 July 23-26. Mark your calendars and keep your January/February issue of the *Minature Gazette* close by since it suggests the reasons you'll want to register (*pages 14&15*) and Dates to Remember (*page 16*). 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 has not yet been released about the Wednesday Night Project, Workshop artisans, Theme Luncheons, nor Salesroom Dealers, but rest assured, the Planning Committee is hard at work making our dreams come true.

#### Convention Setting

Thirteen airlines fly into Palm Springs International Airport. It is about a 35-minute drive to La Quinta Resort and Club. Members from the Regions and across NAME Nation are involved in planning so we invite you to come.

The La Quinta Resort and Club, is a marvelous setting for our convention, offering 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 are required.

#### For More Information ...

Questions may be sent to Carol Hodgson, Publicity Chair, [cadreaming2026@yahoo.com](mailto:cadreaming2026@yahoo.com) or Kim Ash at the NAME Office, [kim@miniatures.org](mailto:kim@miniatures.org) or visit [2026 California Dreaming National Convention | National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts](https://www.miniatures.org/2026-California-Dreaming-National-Convention).

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*Always remember to check out the NAME websites*  
[miniatures.org](http://miniatures.org) and [create.miniatures.org](http://create.miniatures.org)

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**Are you downsizing?** Are you ready to gift some of your loved minis to another devoted miniaturist while benefiting NAME? We are looking for donations for our auctions. If you have miniatures that you would like to re-home, please contact Rhonda Keef at [minicollector.com](http://minicollector.com).

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Please remember to keep NAME updated if you change your mailing address, telephone number or email address. Don't miss out on all the mini fun your NAME membership brings to you!

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## Mini Knowledge

### Famous and Valuable Dollhouses

- **Queen Mary's Dolls' House**

: Built between 1921 and 1924, it is perhaps the most famous in the world. It features working elevators, running water, and a library with tiny, original books by authors like Arthur Conan Doyle.

- **Astolat Dollhouse Castle**

: This 800-pound structure is one of the most valuable miniatures ever created, featuring thousands of high-quality items, including real gold and sterling silver fixtures.

- **Petronella Oortman's House**

: A famous 17th-century Dutch cabinet house that cost as much as a real house of its time to furnish.

## NAME Region E-2 Representatives

**RC Liaison**, Suzie Aguilar. 832-922-0498. [suzie.aguilar@yahoo.com](mailto:suzie.aguilar@yahoo.com)

**Regional Coordinator**, Amy Burgess. [mordana394@gmail.com](mailto:mordana394@gmail.com)

**Arkansas**, Maci Edwards. 479-200-5484. [edwards.maci@gmail.com](mailto:edwards.maci@gmail.com)

**Louisiana/Editor**, Martha Bates. 318-658-2867. [marthabates@comcast.net](mailto:marthabates@comcast.net)

**Mississippi**, Seeking Volunteer. Please contact RC Liaison!

**Oklahoma**, Sandy Davis. 405-623-4780. [spdavis1@gmail.com](mailto:spdavis1@gmail.com)

**Texas**, Seeking Volunteer. Please contact RC Liaison!

## Terry's Turkeys Fundraiser

How many of you E-2 peeps participated in this fun project over the holidays? By simply logging into [create.miniatures.org](http://create.miniatures.org), I ordered a 1:24 scale turkey which arrived a few weeks later. It was a plain grey, 3-D little turkey. I was sure I would not be able to make an edible looking turkey! However, by simply following the written instructions (*online instructions were available*) and using 5 paint colors, I am pleased with the results! Here it is on a white plate, decorated with rosemary sprigs and cranberries. And you can see the stuffing! What do you think?

*By Martha Bates*



## From the Editor

*Please help me make this **YOUR** newsletter. I welcome your submission of articles, pictures, helpful hints and tips, events or any miniature related items within NAME Region E-2. Our Newsletter is a quarterly edition; so cutoff for submissions to our next Newsletter is April 1, 2026.*

*The answer to the question in Mini Fun Fact is Demi Moore! Google her interests to find more details.*