

# small talk

N.A.M.E. Region N-1 Newsletter Winter 2020-21 Quarantine Issue No. 47  
Representing: Arizona; New Mexico; So. Nevada; El Paso, Texas; and So. California



Editor's Note: The last issue sent to you in October was labeled incorrectly. It should have been the Fall issue, not Winter. So, we have no Fall and 2 Winters. I wish I could have made 2020 disappear like that. To try to catch up, we have an extra special Winter Quarantine issue. Sorry for any confusion on your part due to my confusion. —J.G.

## From Jan Feldhouse, Our Regional Coordinator

Happy New Year to all my mini friends. I hope that everybody is staying safe. Looking forward to your photos of projects that you have completed during the past few months.

Please remember to check the [Create.Minatures.org](https://CreateMiniatures.org) site. You can find a tab of it on the NAME home page. They have a wealth of YouTube videos, Zoom meetings you can attend, and many other tips shared. If you haven't checked this out, please do so. You will feel connected since many of us still can't meet in person. We want to extend a **BIG THANK YOU** for those providing this site for us. You are doing a wonderful job.

I was flipping through some TV channels the other day and on some shopping channel I heard this phrase **FIND YOUR JOY**. That stuck with me all day as I cleaned up my craft room (which is always an ongoing project.) I find that joy in my miniature world. I love the kits, projects, house parties, conventions, vendors my club members, and now Zoom meetings. I feel blessed in being able to make and share with my fellow miniaturists.

This newsletter is a terrific vehicle that allows us to stay in contact with other likeminded people.

Most of us can identify with the general public asking us, "how did you think of using an empty creamer for a waste basket?" Miniaturists look at the entire world a little differently than most people. Keep your creative juices flowing and **FIND YOUR JOY** and continue to share with us. Thank you for submitting your articles/photos.

## *Focus On...*

Many of you have had contact with our next N-1 member who I would like you to know better. If you are a new member, Helen Sparks has sent you a NAME N-1 welcome letter along with a small kit. When I stepped into the Regional Coordinator position, I asked Helen (as we were sitting and resting our shopping feet at convention) if she would continue to be our Welcome Coordinator. She heartily agreed. Helen has done an outstanding job for seven years. Along with that, Helen is President of Small World Miniature Club in Phoenix and before that she was the secretary.

How does a person get into miniatures? In Helen's case it was a family affair. She and her mother shared this love. She saw Faith Bradford Dollhouses at the Smithsonian and a collection of miniature room boxes somewhere in South Dakota, as well as the fabulous Mott collection at Knott's Berry Farm when she was a kid. Helen and her mom attended a house party in Seattle and the 1985 National Convention.

Helen's favorite miniature piece is a children's library because that was her profession. This was done back before digital photography so she took photos of actual library books and had to set up her camera so that the covers would come out the right size in the printed photos since computer programs for resizing didn't exist.



Helen shared her best mini idea. It was a Fourth of July vignette using fiber optics for realistic fireworks. Another favorite is a scene where a little boy dressed as a fireman looks in a mirror and sees his grown-up self. (She used a one-way mirror.)

As many of us have unfinished projects, Helen would like to finish some of hers, especially the Maryland State Day 2010 Corner Store that goes with her Baltimore Row House. Helen, I hope you were able to complete this during this past year.

Helen not only shares her talents in our region but also was a Maryland State Rep for 4 years and Region E-1 Regional Coordinator for 4 years. Helen loves NAME and attending house parties and conventions. She has met so many wonderful people who share the love of miniatures. Helen says she's never taken a class where she didn't learn at least one new thing. Hopefully, all of us have learned about our talented and giving Welcome Coordinator.



***DON'T FORGET---***  
***REGION N-1 HAS ITS OWN WEBSITE!***  
***n1.miniatures.org***

*Please notify the website administrator of any upcoming shows or events in your area! Or just send pictures to share.*

*On the website, in addition to our Events Calendar, you will also find our Photo Gallery, which includes photos of recent events in the N-1 region. Our Contact page provides you with contact information for our leadership team, including our state representatives, newsletter editor, and webmaster. A visit to the Places to Go page will provide you with links to shops and museums in our region. Copies of the current and previous regional newsletters are available on our Newsletter page.*

*Send information to Janet Smith, the website administrator (desertminis@gmail.com).*



## ORANGE COUNTY MINIATURE GUILD CLUB NEWS

Judy Meyer, State Rep., California:  
Riverside, Orange, San Bernardino, & LA Counties

No in person meetings yet, but with the very appreciated help of Sarah Westenberg, we had our annual Holiday party online via Zoom on December 4th and our recent meeting on December 8th. It is really nice to see friends and discuss what's been going on in their lives. Not all miniatures, but good to visit especially since real life seems to take over during the holidays. We are fortunate that we are West Coast and can take advantage of the Pacific time zone to have evening meetings. We highly recommend this NAME benefit arranged by Sarah Westenberg via email sawestenberg@msn.com. {J.M.}



*From Vicki Scidmore*

I have had the glass house for a few years. I put it out with unfinished furniture as a hint to get at it! I painted the fireplace and added "stone" on the front and the bottom to raise it up. I painted the corner cabinet and stained/painted the table and chairs. I added Hallmark ornaments and other tiny Christmas things I had to finish it.

The “float” is for the Rose Parade we didn’t have. I am “riding” it of course along with a racer from the fundraiser and a NAME house bank (from a kit). You will have to pretend all the color is really tiny flowers as I haven’t that much patience. The parade theme was to have been “Dream, Believe, Achieve” and this is my dream for a brighter future. As with the real floats, this will be taken apart after a short display time. I believe we will achieve a better future in 2021!

*From Vicki Scidmore*





*From Jenifer MacLowry for Nancy Waters, members of the Mini-Imaginations Club in Torrance, California.*

Nancy Waters: Since March, I have been doing a lot of miniatures in 1:24 scale. One project is French Chantilly Shop with an Art Nouveau Residence above it by Shannon May (Red Cottage Miniatures) on Etsy.

Since I bought a new Cricut Maker this summer, I made some 3-D wall and ceiling graphics using art nouveau shapes as my inspiration. This is my first experience with paper cutting machines; however, I design my projects in Adobe Illustrator (.svg files) and cut out card stock in Cricut Maker. To achieve thicker parts, I cut out several layers of my projects and glue

together. As an example, the balustrade is 4 or 5 layers thick. Pictured is the Chantilly Shop Facade and a portion of the shop with the clocks I created. In the bedroom, I made an Art Nouveau-shaped bas relief wallpaper for the back wall. The furniture is by Half Scale Miniatures, Arjen Spinhoven designer and owner (on Etsy).



Chantilly Shop clocks, 3" tall



Chantilly Shop in 1/4 scale  
is 12" wide



*From Jenifer MacLowry, a member of the Mini-Imaginations Club in Torrance, California.*

The Front Porch kit is designed by Janny Warnaar of Artofmini.com. Made of particle board, it was cut by a laser.

The American Gothic couple was purchased from Carla Gaustad and made in England.

The old lantern with nest and bird family was created by Beth Freeman Kane of South Africa.

The potted plants to left of door were created by Era Pearce of Pearce Miniatures in Arizona.

I fell in love with this kit as I was surfing Art of Mini a few years ago. It took me back to another time and place. I knew that I had to have it. So, I ordered it and several of the furniture kits that Janny used in the display. Upon arrival I carefully labeled each piece and grouped them. Time went by as I stressed over paint issues and real life demands. After seeing Janny do a paint demonstration at a Chicago show, I gained a better understanding of her painting techniques and then went on search for the paints she used. The painting and the distressing were the most time consuming parts as I mixed different kinds of paint and then got to build muscles by sanding, sanding, sanding.





Like all of Janny's kits, everything fit perfectly. I'm not sure it would be completed now if we had not all been sequestered last year. Miniatures are definitely a cure for the Covid blues. I get pleasure each time I look at it. Because the American Gothic couple have been waiting forever to have a place in my collection, I have named the miniature Remember the Sabbath. They fit perfectly in the double rocker, pitchfork and milking pails have been set aside. It is a day of rest.



*From Laura Crain, "Market Stall," from a kit by Robin Betterley to which Laura added her magic touch.*





## **SAN DIEGO MINIATURE CRAFTERS**

**From Debi Cerone**

**State Representative, California:  
San Diego and Imperial Counties**

Current California COVID guidelines are forcing us to cancel our San Diego show scheduled for Feb. 6 & 7, 2021. We've got a new contract underway for 2022 though!

The San Diego Miniature Crafters continue to meet remotely via Zoom on our meeting days. Our annual Holiday Party was not quite the celebration we are used to, but we managed to enjoy our time together anyway. Festive hats were worn and door prizes were won. Club President, Julia Tollafield, had a holiday surprise for all the members. She and husband Chris took a road trip all around San Diego and delivered ornament kits to each club member's

doorstep. The kits were made by Kelly Trichter of Melvin's Miniatures who was a vendor at our show last year. Kelly joined us on Zoom to talk about the kits and her miniature business. We all enjoyed it so much that we are trying to line up other vendors to talk and teach at our meetings. Here is a screenshot of the ornaments from Melvin Miniature's Instagram page:





## **TUCSON MINIATURE SOCIETY**

**From Kathy Grissom**

**State Representative, Arizona South**

The Tucson Miniature Society (TMS) members have tried to stay in touch and have held a few short business meetings via Zoom. In addition, some of the members have met via Zoom on Sundays to chat and share projects they are working on. The Tucson members are staying in contact so they can proceed with work needed for the October Sale and Show. Unfortunately, the normal meeting space for TMS is too small for distancing and alternate meeting space is very difficult to locate, so electronic connection, email, and Zoom are expected to be used to stay in touch for the next few months.

To allow work to continue on the October Show and Sale, an online vote was taken. Sallie Gumka had planned on running for President for a second term, but resigned at the last minute due to personal issues. So that the club business could proceed, the approval of the board was done via email.

The current board now consists of Kathy Grissom, acting President, Pam Young, Vice President, Rebecca Walcutt, Secretary, and Jim Walcutt, Treasurer.

The Tucson club is continuing the planning for the 2021 October Show and Sale. The event is planned for the third weekend in October and will be open to the public on October 16 and 17. Displays are already being worked on and a list of vendors already signed up, so plans for the show are proceeding normally. With the current conditions, please check to confirm that the show is still scheduled before planning any travel. Check the website, or give Kathy Grissom a call at (360) 582-7748 or Marlo Buchmann the show chairman a call at (520) 909-8159 and leave a message if there is no answer. There are still booth spaces available for the show if you are interested.

<https://tucsonminiatures.weebly.com/>

The members of the Saguaro Miniature Club have not been holding club meetings. Most of the members are snowbirds who did not return to Yuma this year.

If you have any questions on the show or the two south Arizona clubs, give me a call at (360) 582-7748. (Please leave a message if I do not answer.)

### **IN MEMORY OF SUSAN SHINN**

The Saguaro Miniature Guild of Yuma and the Missoula Montana Mini Club sadly announced the passing of Susan Shinn in September. She was a "snowbird" spending the winter in Yuma and the summer in Missoula. A NAME member since 1980, she was a teacher and a writer about miniatures. A full tribute to Susan is in the January/February issue of the *Miniature Gazette*.

## **ARIZONA-NORTH — CLUB NEWS**

**From Ginger Anderson**

**State Representative, Arizona North**

The Small World Miniature Club in Phoenix, AZ, has decided to cancel their show and sale scheduled for March 2021. They can not continue preparations until the Covid vaccine is widely available.



## **CENTRAL COAST MINI MAKERS**

**From Betty Hodges, President**

**State Representative, California—San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties**

The central coast NAME club has not been meeting. We have members who have chosen to wait until the Covid restrictions have been lifted. Meanwhile some of us are working on finishing projects we had started. I am encouraging members to participate in the NAME functions that are being held online. Since all the shows have been canceled, we will wait until we meet again to plan club activities. As for me I have been homeschooling my two great-grandchildren who live with me. We are doing lots of projects. Most of the projects involve my supplies that I use in minis. My cousin, Donna Durham, who is a miniature dealer of 30 years, just started doing kits. She ordered a kit online that is a house with balloons attached to the top of a glass bubble. She said it reminded her of the movie *UP*. When the kit arrived, nothing was in English except for the title. Every word was in Chinese. She did put it together without any instructions. This is unique because the first kit she had ever done was only two years ago! This should be in encouragement for every miniaturist.

## **ALBUQUERQUE MINI MAKERS**

**From Susan Sheridan, President and  
State Representative, New Mexico**

The Albuquerque Mini Makers had a gathering of 5 members at Susan Sheridan's home for the December holiday party. Those members that attended for NAME Day worked on their projects. Pictures of completed projects to follow.

I am hoping that this New Year will bring us all back together again for our club meetings each month. Until then we will continue to meet in smaller groups at Susan and Christiane's home. We are working on various projects to complete and just getting together is most important.

The new Create Miniatures website is a lot of fun and we enjoyed the Christmas Calendar countdown. Many thanks to everyone who has been helping NAME with the online projects, Quarter Connection roundtables, projects and online convention, and Mini Online Shows. It is much appreciated for the time and effort to help continue with our miniature projects and activities.

Best wishes to everyone for this New Year. Susan







A Christmas Gift: Quarter scale bedroom set by Christiane Starks



A club project: Quarter scale cottage by Jeri Stephan DeButy

**LAS VEGAS MINIATURE ENTHUSIASTS**  
**From Janet Gordon for Sonia Burke**  
**State Representative, Southern Nevada**

Thanks to Joe and Jan Feldhouse, a number of us were able to meet “literally” at their home and “virtually” by Zoom for several months.



We are disappointed but we agreed to postpone Nevada State Day to 2022, probably in October.

Ginger Landon Siegel, our snowbird, didn't come to Nevada for the first time in 10 years, but she sent us this wonderful piano kit to work on. Janet Dowling's is the blue one, and Jan Feldhouse's is the black one.





Member Sandy Leal (from VegasAIRS) demonstrated using TYVEK which is best known as a weatherproof house wrap. It's that white, papery stuff you've probably seen on the sides of unfinished houses. And it is used for the crinkly, white envelopes from USPS and for PPE coverings for frontline health workers. Each uses a single layer with metallic paint. A heat gun will shrink them.





Joy O'Brion has been busy.



## Region N1 Leadership Team

Regional Coordinator, N1: Jan Feldhouse (feldhouse.jan@gmail.com)  
Welcoming Committee Chair: Helen Sparks (minihelen2002@yahoo.com)  
Newsletter Editor: Janet Gordon (jg89084@gmail.com)  
Website Administrator: Janet Smith (desertminis@gmail.com)

### State Representatives

New Mexico and El Paso, TX: Susan Sheridan (ss5380@cableone.net)  
Northern Arizona: Ginger Anderson (ginmini@gmail.com)  
Southern Arizona: Kathy Grissom (kcraftero2@gmail.com)  
Southern Nevada: Sonia Burke (Seburke67@yahoo.com)  
California: San Diego and Imperial Counties:  
Debra Cerone (d.cerone@me.com)  
California: San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties:  
Betty Hodges (beachbetty@aol.com)  
California: Riverside, Orange, and San Bernardino Counties:  
Judy Meyer (judmeyer@verizon.net)  
California: Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles Counties:  
Grace Mlynowski (mlynowskigrace@yahoo.com)

Visit [create.miniatures.org](http://create.miniatures.org).

**Join NAME every  
Wednesday evening  
(4 Pacific Time) for  
“A Round Tuit”  
Zoom roundtable.  
Craft the same  
project or work on  
your own and chat.**



**Investigate the  
website for monthly  
challenges, virtual  
workshops,  
connections  
to other members,  
and updated NAME  
information.**





## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION INFORMATION

The N-1 Newsletter is published quarterly.

All members of N.A.M.E. are welcome to submit contributions.

**Submissions for the Spring Issue are due by April 15th.**  
**Submissions for the Summer Issue are due by July 15th.**  
**Submissions for the Fall Issue are due by October 15th.**  
**Submissions for the Winter Issue are due by January 15th.**

The editor welcomes articles containing news about club activities, events, displays, etc.

*The editor needs to occasionally change font size, crop photos, and move things around to make things fit.*

***Please submit text in .doc or .txt format (text in email is fine).***

***Photos can be in .jpg, .bmp (bitmap), or .png format. Be sure that the pictures can be identified easily for captions.***

*If you submit flyers in .pdf format, please assure they are one page flyers only.*

Events, updates, other timely information, and past volumes of the newsletter may also be found on the Regional Web Site: <https://n1.miniatures.org/>. Remember that your region relies solely upon volunteers and has no budget for mailings. You are encouraged to share this newsletter with your mini friends who do not have access to the internet.

Information and opinions contained in the N-1 Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the view of the National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts or its regions. The facts as presented in each article are verified insofar as possible, but any opinions are strictly those of the individual authors. If notified of errors, the editor will make corrections in the following issue.

Newsletter Editor: Janet Gordon (jg89084@gmail.com)



## Announcements and Upcoming Events NAME & Region N-1 Events, Dates, and Locations

*Most NAME events have been cancelled or postponed for 2021 so check the website (miniatures.org) for the latest information!*

\***The San Diego Miniatures Show and Sale** originally scheduled for February 6-7, 2021, has been cancelled. Plans are already underway to reschedule for 2022. For more information, check the website <https://sdminiatureshow.com>.

\***The Annual Phoenix Doll House and Miniature Show and Sale**, originally scheduled for March 27-28, 2021, has been cancelled. For more information check the website <http://phoenixminiatures.com>.

\***Tucson Club Show and Sale** is still scheduled for October 16 & 17, 2021. Details to follow. <http://www.phoenixminiatures.com>.

\***Nevada State Day** has been postponed to 2022. For more information check the website <https://www.lvminiatures.org>.

\*The postponed **2020 National Convention, "Winter Wonderland,"** in Indianapolis has been rescheduled for 2022.

\*The **2021 National Convention, "From Sea to Shining Sea,"** in Providence has been postponed to 2023.

\*The **2020 Portland Regional Houseparty, "Come Fly with Me,"** has been postponed to May 6-8, 2022.

\*The **Online Houseparty, "Splintered Fairytales,"** is scheduled for Feb. 17-20, 2022.

*Don't forget to notify your website administrator of any upcoming shows or events in your area! That way, they can go on the website between newsletters. Send submissions to Janet Smith at [desertminis@gmail.com](mailto:desertminis@gmail.com).*

