

small talk



N.A.M.E. Region N-1 Newsletter Summer 2021 Issue No. 49
Representing: Arizona; New Mexico; So. Nevada; El Paso, Texas; and So. California

From Jan Feldhouse, Our Regional Coordinator

At this time of the year, we are usually at or anticipating going to the NAME convention. We all miss that opportunity this year, but we are happy that everybody is staying safe. I was contemplating all the activities that happen at a convention. I have been in NAME over 20 years and never knew exactly what the Mell Prescott Award was for or the significance of the person for whom it is named. I thought I would share what my researchers found. (Thank you Nancye and Kim.)

In 1986 the children of the talented crafters, the late Mell Prescott, established the Mell Prescott Award for Creativity in Miniatures. This is an annual award that recognizes a member of the Academy of Honor who has contributed substantially to the growth and enjoyment of the miniatures hobby. The recipient is announced each year at the National Convention. The award is an engraved sterling silver medallion. This is the highest award that NAME can bestow on a member.



6 NUTSHELL NEWS, MARCH 1985

Mell was born and raised in the west and attended Utah State College and studied art where she met her future husband, Blake Prescott. He went on completing his education in medicine and psychiatry. They moved to Connecticut in the early 1940s. Mell was a consummate artist and shared her talent with others by teaching and lecturing in many states, with emphasis on illustrating the creative interfaces between art forms such as antiques, flower arrangements, antique reproductions, and fine arts. She eventually started collecting dolls and then miniatures.

Once Mell saw a mini cradle that she wished to purchase but the owner refused. Undaunted she went home and made the piece herself. She acquired a table saw, jig saw, jeweler's lathe, dental drills, and whatever else was necessary to make her beautiful pieces. She purchased old combs to make piano keys, old cloth to upholster, and old jewelry to complete her unique furniture. Mell started doing reproductions of antiques in one-inch and was in her seventies when she delved into half-inch scale. Her pieces

are housed in a variety of museums. Mell mixed art forms and taught others which brought out their abilities. She shared her knowledge.

Mell Prescott died in her early eighties and was an inspiration to all. In the years she was active in miniatures, I reminded myself that she did her work without all the terrific tools we have available to us today like computers, lasers, and Internet. She was a marvel. I hope this quick synopsis enlightens you of the history of the award.



Focus On...
NORMA KESLING



My love for miniatures goes back as far as I can remember. Since we were Chicagoans, as a young child, my mother always took me to Marshall Fields to see their Christmas toy land, the huge 7 story tree, and later Colleen Moore's doll castle. The castle to me was the most magical place in the world. Fields is where I saw my first doll house, a beautiful wooden ranch style which later appeared under our tree on Christmas day. Once it was assembled, the house became the central interest in my life. All allowances and extra helper jobs were squirreled away waiting for a trip to my aunt's house which had a miniature shop nearby. Soon the house was overly populated both inside and up on the full-length patio roof. While that house was destroyed and is only a wonderful memory, the love of minis never left my heart.

Life took over, as with most of us, and family took precedence. Once I received my degree from Wittenberg University, I taught for several years in various places and at one point was raising five children by myself. This is when I became an accountant for the Marathon Oil Co. When I met my wonderful hubby, Charlie, he introduced us to the world of horses and shows. Since his job required him to be on the road a lot, I learned to drive a truck and pull a horse trailer. Since I made all the girls' show outfits, yearning

to do miniatures was again delayed and unsatisfied. Then came retirement, a gift of a dollhouse under the Christmas tree, and moving to Las Vegas.

All this time passed without me knowing that there was any such thing as organized groups of miniature lovers and builders. My new life began when right after we got to Las Vegas. Charlie was reading the paper and saw an article about the Las Vegas Miniature Enthusiasts meeting at the library. He just said, "you are going", and that's how I started this most amazing and challenging journey. Luckily, I didn't walk out of the meeting which was my first thought. The project, taught by Mel Koplín, was making a globe and floor stand using a deodorant ball. Everyone was so friendly, kind, helpful and accepting of this novice. I ended up with a very acceptable project, an avenue to my wildest dreams, and truly faithful, kind, funny, talented friends. Who could ask for more?

I haven't been to many state days and national conventions. The ones I was fortunate enough to attend, though, were wonderful and the projects amazing. I am just now finishing my Christmas gift house from so long ago and am loving it. Too many ongoing projects got in the way, so Covid "lock up" helped me. My favorite project is usually what the project of the moment happens to be. Reworking a twelve-room mansion I bought at a garage sale in California was my largest project and a huge lesson in patience, ingenuity, how to accomplish goals, and faithfully staying with a project to completion.

Our entire club participated in the national trailer project. Our goal to commemorate a period of our lives holds a special place in my heart. Naturally, I did a horse trailer to hopefully interest my girls in miniatures. I had forgotten how many things we loaded up each week. The daughter who took the hint had nothing to do with horses. That part failed but she does beautifully imaginative larger scale creations.

The creation, if I had to pick one, that is at the top of my favorites list is the Wizard's Castle we made out of a Hallmark trick or treat box that must not have sold well. The Hallmark store sold them to us for \$5 apiece and now they are on the internet for \$60. We learned to use all sorts of mediums in doing these boxes which took several months. The boxes were stood on end, the cover became a side wall with a fireplace, the candy box houses a winding staircase made by us, the floor of the wizard's room is stone, and the

room holds all his potions, books, and wizardly stuff including a freestanding candelabra. Mine has a resident wizard doing his spells.

Sometimes I want to pinch myself to make sure all these wonderful friends I met through minis are real. Because of their generosity with their amazing skills, I have learned so much such as woodworking, making and dressing porcelain dolls in scale, building to scale, extending my imagination beyond its old stale borders, and too much more to list. Twenty years as a member of NAME has been the best.

I still have a huge bucket list of projects to do or finish but I think that just makes me a true mini trooper. Everything I see is equated to how would it look in mini form. I think it's a disease and thankfully incurable and shared with so many. So instead of complaining we create and meet to do more creating together. Who could top that!

Norma







A note from Janet Smith

It has been my great pleasure to serve our region in the last many years in so many ways, including Regional Coordinator, State Rep for New Mexico, Newsletter Editor, and Website Administrator. When I first took the job of Regional Coordinator way back in 2008, I had no idea what I was getting in for. We didn't have a website and we didn't have a consistent newsletter and I didn't know most of you as I had just moved to the region. I headed to California and Arizona that first year, attending all the shows (great excuse to go to shows, huh?) and getting to know some of the members of N-1, which is, in my unbiased opinion, the very best region of all! At my very first regional meeting, in Nashua, NH, I was so pleasantly surprised when Jenifer MacLowry offered to do our newsletter. Sometime after that, Cynthia Howe offered to do a website for us. All of these positions have transitioned from volunteer to volunteer through these last several years and without these volunteers, we would not be as strong as we are. I was very grateful when Janet Gordon took over the newsletters last year. She has done a fabulous job. And I was equally grateful when Lorilee Stackhouse offered to take over the website and I am looking forward to seeing what she does with it. While I no longer have a formal role with region N-1, my involvement with NAME continues. And I very much look forward to seeing all of you at a future houseparty or convention or show or state day or online!



Please notify the website administrator of any upcoming shows or events in your area.

On our 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 Lorilee Stackhouse, the website administrator (lorilee@cox.net).

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California: Riverside, Orange, LA, and San Bernardino
Counties: Jackie Smith (minijsmith@att.net)

ORANGE COUNTY MINIATURE GUILD

**Jackie Smith, State Rep., California:
Riverside, Orange, San Bernardino, & LA Counties**

We have a new state rep in California. Jackie Smith has volunteered to become the California - Riverside, Orange, San Bernardino & LA County area rep. Jackie's email is minijsmith@att.net (949-294-5385). Thanks for helping NAME and members in your area, Jackie. Welcome aboard!

A big thank you to Judy Meyer for your service to N-1 region. Judy is moving to Tennessee, and we will miss her very much. We are sure Judy will continue to volunteer in E-3 region and continue to promote NAME.

Safe travels and hope we meet up at future house parties or conventions.

SAN DIEGO MINIATURE CRAFTERS

**From Debi Cerone, State Representative, California:
San Diego and Imperial Counties**

The San Diego Miniature Crafters are back in business! We were able to meet in person last May; many in-person members and a few on zoom. We had a brief business meeting and ample time to catch up with everyone before moving on to our annual May Flea Market. Club members brought items to sell and hopefully some will be used in our next club project: a sideboard decorated with whatever each member chooses. We always love when everyone starts with the same piece and imbues it with their own vision and creativity.

In June, we were able to hold our annual June Luncheon in a nearby restaurant now that indoor dining is back. It was a lovely afternoon of lunch, door prizes, raffles, and installation of officers for the coming year. This month we are returning to our normal meeting place to take care of business and get started on our new project. Can't wait till the projects are finished and we can share them in the newsletter.

Additionally, we have been focused on our show on February 5th and 6th, 2022 at the San Diego Marriott Del Mar, 11966 El Camino Real, San Diego, CA 92130.

Many of our usual vendors are returning, and we are welcoming some new ones as well. Everyone is so anxious to do some SHOPPING, so we can make more minis and support our vendors! More details on our newly updated website: sdminiatureshow.com.

A couple of our members took new exhibits up to the Miniature Engineering and Craftsmanship Museum in Carlsbad (<https://www.craftsmanshipmuseum.com>), where we have been exhibiting our club's creations for a number of years. They have a dedicated room for miniature exhibits and the rest of the museum is fabulous too. Stop by for a visit when you come to San Diego for the show!

Debi Cerone, San Diego Imperial County

TUCSON MINIATURE SOCIETY

**From Kathy Grissom, State Representative,
Arizona South**

The TMS website is: <https://tucsonminiatures.weebly.com>. The Tucson Miniature Society club has not been able to meet in person, due to no space that would allow for distancing being available. The club has been meeting on Zoom, on the usual meeting day, the first Saturday of the month.

The board members and the Show Committee were able to meet in person, as the weather cooperated making an outside meeting at a member's house where distancing was possible. The temperature had not yet climbed to uncomfortable levels, so it was very enjoyable to be able to see each other in person. Club issues were discussed, including conversation on the Tucson Miniature Society Show and Sale. The event is planned for the usual third weekend of October. If you are feeling the need to have some fun, I recommend planning to attend the event. After canceling the event in 2020, club members are very excited to be planning an event for 2021. Discussion included maintaining distancing if it is still required. There is plenty of covered patio space at our usual show location, and with the mild temperatures of October, the outside patio there provides plenty of room to spread out if it is needed.

If you have not been to Tucson in October, it's a wonderful time to visit. In addition to indoor activities, temperatures are great to take in outdoor activities. My personal favorite indoor activity is visiting the Miniature Museum. My favorite outdoor activities are the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and Tohono Chul Park. If you have additional questions about the Show and Sale or would like more information on the Tucson club, give me a call at (360) 582-7748. Please leave a message, as I spend lots of time outdoors and never carry my phone outdoors when I am at home.

Our club members are busy working on their projects for the show so I am including a small peek at two projects that will be totally shared in the display room in October.



CENTRAL COAST MINI MAKERS

**From Betty Hodges, State Representative, California:
San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties**

This has been a season of change for many of our club members! We are a very small club and three of us have moved—one to the East Coast, another 5 hours away, and another 2 hours away from Morro Bay. Our miniature store here in Morro Bay is closing and our Miniature Store Club meetings are no longer. Cherrell and Mike Botkin have owned the Miniature Cottage, for over thirty years! They are planning on moving to Oregon to be near their son. They are still open for business until it is sold. We have been spoiled, having the store just a few miles from where we live. Five of us did get together for lunch. We discussed plans for our meetings that we will start having again this October. We will be helping at the Good Sam Show again in San Jose this October. We have a NAME Day planned for the 23rd of October. Most of us have been working on finishing kits and planning on surprises for NAME Day. Three of us are doing the NAME Day project in 1/2". The reason is everyone is running out of space to display or minis! I wonder how many of us are actually moving to more 1/2" scale?



Made by Julie Johnson, Central Coast Mini Makers

ALBUQUERQUE MINI MAKERS

From Susan Sheridan, NM State Representative
& President, Albuquerque Mini Makers

The Albuquerque Mini Makers have been meeting once a month at Susan Sheridan's home. There are usually about 5 in attendance. There are 3 others that meet regularly at Christiane Starks' home as well. So, our club is meeting but not all together at this time.

We are still working on our Pumpkin cottages as they are in various stages per each member. It gives us an opportunity to help each other with the progress. Otherwise, club members bring something to work on.

I have been working on various market stalls: one was with Bird Houses and the other was 4th of July Fireworks stand.

We are having fun planning for the NAME Day. The Albuquerque Mini Makers will be hosting a NAME Day scheduled for Saturday, October 9th. We will be meeting at Susan Sheridan's home and Christiane Stark's home. We will once again offer all scales cost will be ordering your kits. We are planning this to be from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm with gift exchange, and raffle drawings along with lunch and snacks.

We are enjoying the summer months and planning for our NAME Day activities.

Susan





SMALL WORLD MINIATURE CLUB OF PHOENIX, AZ

Submitted by Helen Sparks, Club President

SWMC is happy to report that we held our first in-person meeting last Saturday, July 10. We had been meeting via Zoom since May of 2020 and we are continuing to offer a Zoom option for our members who are not yet ready to venture out. It was wonderful to see everyone, including many who had not been with us on Zoom for a variety of reasons.

During the past months, we continued to offer kits to our members, which they could pick up at Auntie Em's Miniatures. We are so fortunate to have the shop and to have owner Tish Ballengee as a member of our club!

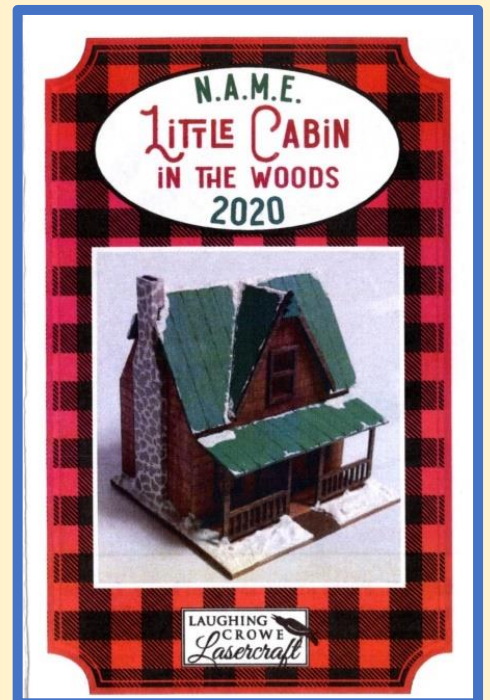
Here are some of the projects we have done:

In October we learned to re-upholster a commercially made sofa and chair. In November we made a chess board and table to set it on.

In December we made glitter houses.

In January we assembled one of two NAME round table kits, either the Little Cabin in the Woods or the Chalet.

In February we embarked on a more ambitious project, purchasing



chipboard kits for a Market Stall from AlphaStamps. The club meeting went over construction, but each member will be personalizing their stall. We hope to have a large display at our Show next March, as 40 members took kits to





complete. Here are pictures of the unfinished stall along with a couple of finished versions:



In March we made baskets. In April, our newest member Lisa Lambert (she joined while we were Zoom only!) made each of us a cash register and a basket for our Market Stalls using her 3D printer and taught us techniques for finishing those items. In May, Dick and Marcie Cambigue taught us how to make an antique pistol box

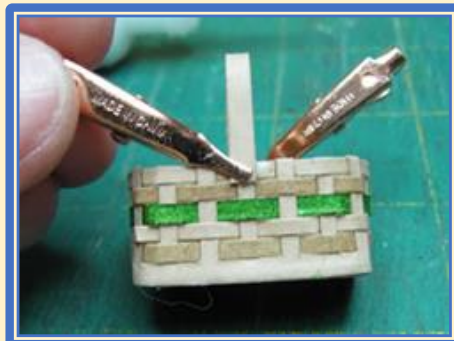
complete with pistols and ammunition.

We took a break in June, but this month we made classic board games to arrange on a table.



Nancy Starkey, who had taught us to make a 3D picture back at the beginning of our journey, shared the wonderful collage

she has made to commemorate her trip to Italy. The pictures do not do it justice.



Whew!! We are so glad that we have stuck it out and look forward to more mini fun in the future.





Visit create.miniatures.org

Join NAME every Wednesday

(4 Pacific Time) for virtual
"A Round Tuit" Zoom workshops.

Craft the same project as other members, or work
on your own and chat.



ARIZONA NORTH Club News

From Ginger Anderson, State Representative

Small World Miniature Club, Desert Minimakers and More or Less Clubs have been meeting via Zoom meetings. These meetings have provided a way for the members to keep in touch and share their miniature projects. It has been much more helpful than anticipated.

Small World Miniature Club has planned their first in person meeting at a new location in July. The usual meeting place has not opened for groups to meet as yet, so it was necessary to find a temporary location. Monthly miniature projects have been conducted via the Zoom meetings since April of 2020.

A few people have participated in the projects provided by the NAME create website. These have been very enjoyable. Also, the "Round Tuit" sessions provided by Debbie Young have been well attended and provide some social contact while working on a project of your own choosing. A good time to finish up your projects while chatting with other miniaturists.

LAS VEGAS MINIATURE ENTHUSIASTS

By Janet Gordon

Sonia Burke, State Representative, Southern Nevada

Thank you to the Feldhouses for their hospitality for real and virtual meetings all these months. We were finally able to return to the The Holy Spirit Lutheran Church for our July meeting.

We held our elections for 2021-2022. The current officers were voted in again by acclamation for 2021-2022: Janet Downing, President; John Stackhouse, Vice President; Lorrilee Stackhouse, Treasurer; Janet Gordon, Secretary.

Plans for Nevada State Day, October 2022, are continuing. Here's hoping!

We have been working hard (indoors) and below are some of our projects. President Janet Downing demonstrated the crackle paint technique.



Michaels has been featuring miniature items. Their basic house has been the basis for some creativity. This idea is from Janet Downing.



Preparing for Nevada State Day,
Joy O'Grady



By Jan
Feldhouse



From Sandy
Leal



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION INFORMATION

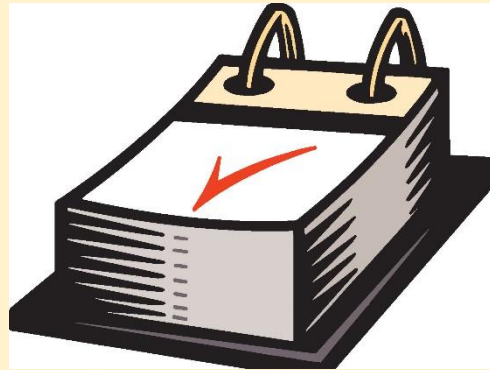
The N-1 Newsletter is published quarterly. All members of N.A.M.E. are welcome to submit contributions.

Submissions for the Fall Issue are due by October 15th.

Submissions for the Winter Issue are due by **January 15th.**

Submissions for the Spring issue are due by **April 15th.**

Submissions for the Summer Issue are due by **July 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

Check the website (miniatures.org) for the latest information!

- ***NAME DAY "Tiki Bar"** is scheduled for **October 2, 2021**.
- ***The Tucson Club Show and Sale** is still scheduled for **October 16 & 17, 2021**. <http://www.phoenixminiatures.com>.
- *The **Dallas Miniature Showcase** is scheduled for **October 20-23, 2021**
www.dallasminiatureshowcase.com.
- ***The Miniatures West** 35th Annual Miniature Fantasy Show and Sale in Culver City, CA is scheduled for Saturday, **January 29th, 2022**
(<http://www.miniatureswest.com/2022-fantasy-show-and-sale.html>)
- ***The San Diego Miniatures Show and Sale** is scheduled for **February 5 & 6, 2022**. For more information, check the website <https://sdminiatureshow.com>.
- ***The Online Houseparty, "Splintered Fairytales,"** is scheduled for **Feb. 17-20, 2022**. Online registration begins September 3, 2021.
- ***The Annual Phoenix Doll House and Miniature Show and Sale** is scheduled for **March 26 & 27, 2022**. For more information, check the website <http://phoenixminiatures.com>.
- *The **2020 Portland Regional Houseparty, "Come Fly with Me,"** has been postponed to **May 6-8, 2022**.
- ***Nevada State Day** has been postponed to **2022**. For more information check the website <https://www.lvminiatures.org>.
- ***The 2020 National Convention, "Winter Wonderland,"** in Indianapolis has been rescheduled for **September 1-4, 2022**. You can begin to register in February.
- *The **2021 National Convention, "From Sea to Shining Sea,"** in Providence has been postponed to **2023**.



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 Lorrilee Stackhouse (lorrilee@cox.net).