

# small talk

Region N-1's Newsletter

Late Winter Issue No. 3

Representing Arizona, New Mexico, So. Nevada, So. California, and El Paso, Texas



## Regional Coordinator's Report

Welcome to the N1 Regional Newsletter. It's been a busy time in the region since our last newsletter. I'd like to take a minute to highlight some of the activities and thank some of the people who have contributed to our region.

The Regional Coordinator's retreat was held in November at Barbara Thornton-Hill's house in Nevada City, CA. Barbara is the Regional Coordinator Liaison and serves on the NAME board. Sheila Benjamin attended the retreat with me. We completed a very nice project; a room box with a wall of shelves in the back. The project was available in both 1/12 and 1/48 scales and I was able to complete mine before the end of the retreat! I have plans for this project if anyone would like to do this with their clubs or for a state day in their area. Just let me know and I'll send you the instructions and parts list and some photos.

Also in November was the State Day in Phoenix. This was the second State Day I've attended in Phoenix and it came off without a hitch. The project was a closet bed room box. The kits and instructions were well made and easy to follow, and the samples were inspiring. There were a lot of prizes available for the "opportunity drawing". And a small sales room was open during the lunch hour. It was very well done, and my thanks to the Desert Minimakers for all their hard work!

After the usual busy holiday season, we've launched into a whole series of Miniature Shows in the Region. Tom Bishop's Southern California show happened

the last weekend in January. The first weekend of February brought the "Nostalgia in Miniature" Show and Sale in San Diego. There is an article and photos later in this newsletter, but I'll give you a quick hint... around 1500 people attended the show! Congratulations to the San Diego Miniature Crafters! And congratulations on your 35th anniversary as a club!

Valentine's weekend brought the Miniatures West 23rd Annual Miniature Show and Sale in Culver City. There is an article on this later in this issue as well. But congratulations to the Miniatures West club for a successful show.

The weekend of Feb. 21 and 22 is the annual Phoenix show. But details on that will have to wait for our next newsletter! On a personal note, I'd like to thank the folks in San Diego and LA for a very warm welcome. It was truly a pleasure to meet so many of you during my travels! And, for all of you N-1 members, don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or suggestions about our region!

Janet Smith

575-532-5432

[desertminis@gmail.com](mailto:desertminis@gmail.com)

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## Club News

Pat Spear, the new president of **Tucson Miniature Society** sends for following report. We meet the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. We have an ongoing

project at this time, an Italian table with various Italian food. We will make a cook, choice of man or woman. These items will be taught by members of our club. We work on this project following our business meetings. We also will be working on an ongoing project of a castle, or house that everyone contributes to until it is complete, that will be in a silent auction for our Fall show. The proceeds will go to our Charity, Comstock Children's Foundation. We will have a paper clay cottage workshop taught by our vice president, Beth Giachetti. We will hold this workshop at our local miniature shop, Miniature Memories.

Thank you for your interest in our club. Please note my e-mail [address---pmspear@cox.net](mailto:pmspear@cox.net). I am sure we will talk again soon as I have much to learn.  
Pat

**The Las Vegas Miniature Enthusiasts** February meeting will be a class in 1" scale Easter basket and decorating that I will be teaching. All our members are still working on the Flower Gift Shoppe, so will have more on this later. April meeting plans to be a swap and sell of



our minis among our club members. Looking forward to that.

Here are some photos of the Easter Baskets and photo of 1/4" Flower Shoppe under construction.

Till next time, Susan Sheridan, President Las Vegas Miniature Enthusiasts.  
Susan Sheridan, Las Vegas , NV



[susanminispecialteas@earthlink.net](mailto:susanminispecialteas@earthlink.net)  
<http://communitylink.reviewjournal.com/lvrj/lvminiature>

**North Orange County Miniature Enthusiasts** say a fond farewell to their awesome President, Susan “Micro” Nelson and her faithful VP, Donna Jacques. They have lead us through several very creative years. At the next meeting we will share completed projects made during Micro’s administration. We also look forward to the final chapter of the on going saga of “What is Victoria’s Secret?” This project started with a  
Victoria’s Secret



bag over a year ago. Each month we made something to put into a motel room and heard another exciting chapter of Victoria’s mystery. See Noni Axe’s finished project below. Another club member, Joann Haugen, got very inspired at the San Diego Show. The club is now involved in making garden and flower shop related items.

Incoming Co-Presidents,  
Pat Bigham and Jenifer MacLowry  
[PatBigham@hotmail.com](mailto:PatBigham@hotmail.com)  
[jenifermacl@mindspring.com](mailto:jenifermacl@mindspring.com)

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### Garage Sale

I want to thank all the people who came out to support our “Garage Sale”. Also a big thank you goes to all of you who helped us gather the pieces and price them. All of the money collected went directly to the two individual members, both of whom are in their 90s and to the estate of the third member’s family. The money was very much appreciated. And the most important thing is that all of the merchandise went to someone who wanted it and not to the curb for trash collection. I know many of us wonder and worry that all of our precious “stuff” will end up at the curb after we are gone. This “Garage Sale” was a great success and I recommend that as the need arises we should think about doing this before we are looking down from where ever we are. That way we can group and price things the way we want to and assure ourselves that our “stuff” gets a good home. Thanks again to all that worked, bought, and even just came and looked, Sheila Benjamin.

## Report on San Diego Miniature Crafters Show

San Diego Miniature Crafters 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary “Nostalgia in Miniature” Show and Sale



“Wow!” That was what people were saying as they came downstairs from the seeing the Exhibits at the San Diego Show the first weekend in February. It was a rainy day in San Diego, and thanks to a very good write-up in the local paper as well as a note in the local miniature railroad newsletter, there was never a slow time at the entrance. Attendance for the two day show reached 1500 people! Many of these were non-miniaturists who

were amazed to see the handiwork on display, and some of whom are new converts to the hobby! There was even a television crew



there for two hours hanging out and filming the exhibits.

There were 54 sales tables set up, including some club members who were downsizing their collections, sales people who have or had mortar-and-brick miniature shops, and artisan and craftspeople.

The exhibits were wonderful, including six entries by “Junior” miniaturists (the youngest of whom was seven years old) and a display of the Pirate’s Hideaway boxes made at last September’s State Day. One of the more interesting exhibits was a “works in progress” exhibit...complete with construction zone tape. The idea was that it would be good for new miniaturists to see that our best work doesn’t happen overnight! The exhibit area was ever empty and people, especially those unfamiliar with the miniature hobby, took their time and took in every detail.



In addition to the exhibits and sales tables, a children's project was offered. They decorated and filled a cabinet with various kitchen items and food. Fifty seven children participated in the project...so many that they had to open up an additional section of the children's workshop...and some of the club members were off to the craft store on Saturday night to stock up on more supplies for the Sunday classes.

Congratulations to the San Diego Miniature Crafters for an EXCELLENT show!

### **Report on Miniatures West Annual Show and Sale**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Miniatures West Annual Show and Sale was held in Culver City, CA

on Valentine's Day this year. It was a well attended show and certainly offered many special and unique miniature treasures, both for purchase in the sales room and for viewing in the exhibit room.



There were 33 tables in the sales room, including one table graciously donated as a NAME table, and three tables hosting the prizes for the Benefit Drawings. There were a host of exhibits, mostly contributed by members of the Miniature West club, though with some presented by honorary members of the club. There were exhibits in 1/12, 1/48 and even smaller. There was a host of clever containers for the exhibits including trunks and heart-shaped boxes. There was a houseboat. There were several room boxes



with closets stuffed with clothes or clown costumes. There was a houseboat. There were projects from NAME houseparties and from club projects. Every way you turned offered something else of interest.



The prizes for the drawings were largely donated by generous vendors, though one was the prototype for the club project. Many of the boxes were stuffed with tickets, and all the proceeds went directly to *Angels Attic* and the *Julia Ann Singer Center*.

Marilyn Taylor brought boxes and boxes of things for the NAME table, and went home with a much reduced inventory of old magazines and other items contributed to help

raise money for N1. The NAME table was very busy, picking up a couple of new members and sending home new information with some very interested “newbies.”

On either side of the sale day were two days of workshops. Miniaturists who attended the workshops were certainly not disappointed. Workshops included a cottage, a wine and cheese shop and other classes, including two classes taught by first time instructor Laura Crain (that came out beautifully.)



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### Spreading the Word

Did you get this newsletter from a friend? But want your own copy? Or do you want to receive this newsletter at a different address? If you're a member of NAME, and want to get a copy of this newsletter directly, let us know so we can update our records. Just send an e-mail to [desertminis@gmail.com](mailto:desertminis@gmail.com). And if you're not a member of NAME, but are interested in joining or renewing your membership, you can do so on-line at [www.miniatures.org](http://www.miniatures.org).

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## Check Us Out!

Did you know that Region N1 has it's own website?! Check us out at <http://minis-n1region.org>. The calendar is there, and we'll be adding more information and pictures as we receive them. Do you have a favorite miniature link? Send the link and a description of the site! Does your club have it's own website? Send the link and the name of the club! Do you have pictures from a local event that you'd like to share? Send them and a description and date for the event! Please send them to [desertminis@gmail.com](mailto:desertminis@gmail.com)!

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## Regional Calendar

We try to include all the regional events that are open to any members of N1 who are interested in attending them. If you know of other events coming up in your area, please send the date, description, contact information and the associated website address (if there is one) to [desertminis@gmail.com](mailto:desertminis@gmail.com). We will include any activities that are open to ANY interested N-1 Miniaturist. (We've included the Roundup in Texas because it is something that our Arizona clubs are active in, even though it outside of the region.)

February 21-22, 2009

Small World Miniature Club Show and Sale in Phoenix, AZ

[www.phoenixminiatures.com/index.php?inc=3](http://www.phoenixminiatures.com/index.php?inc=3)

April 4-5, 11-12

"Witch House", San Diego, CA

Ms. Peggie's Place, 858-483-2621

April 17-18, 25-26

"Mrs. O'Grady's Shoe House", San Diego, CA

Ms. Peggie's Place, 858-483-2621

May 16, 2009

Workshops on Electrifying your Dollhouse and wallpapering your Dollhouse, San Diego, CA

Ms. Peggie's Place, 858-483-2621

May 30, 2009

"Doll Wiggling, San Diego, CA

Ms. Peggie's Place, 858-483-2621

June 5-7, 2009

Southwest Miniature Roundup, Amarillo, TX

[http://](http://www.southwestminiatureroundup.com/)

[www.southwestminiatureroundup.com/](http://www.southwestminiatureroundup.com/)

June 20, 2009

"Potted Plants", and "Craft Baskets", San Diego, CA

Ms. Peggie's Place, 858-483-2621

July 31-Aug 1, 2009

Tom Bishop Show, Anaheim, CA

<http://www.bishopshow.com/laxsummer.htm>

Aug 15, 2009

Workshops on Electrifying your Dollhouse and wallpapering your Dollhouse, San Diego, CA

Ms. Peggie's Place, 858-483-2621

Sept. 19, 2009

"Potted Plants", and "Craft Baskets", San Diego, CA

Ms. Peggie's Place, 858-483-2621

Sept. 26, 2009

"Outhouse", San Diego, CA

Ms. Peggie's Place, 858-483-2621

November 14, 2009

"Castle Fireplace" State Day in Phoenix, AZ

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## 2009 National Convention News

OUR FAMILY REUNION being held in Indianapolis July 16-19, 2009 needs your castoffs. It is time to clean out your miniature workrooms, closet or other storage areas for kits, houses, furniture, etc. you have never finished, don't have time to finish or if you are downsizing. DONATE these items to our garage sale.

Bargains galore will be had. The more we have the better the sale and more money for the next houseparty. Please, if you can, put in small clear plastic bags and bring them to the houseparty or contact me and I will make arrangements to get your great castoffs.

My email is [cindymcdaniel@hotmail.com](mailto:cindymcdaniel@hotmail.com) and please put "Garage Sale" in the subject.

You do not want to miss this houseparty though. We have a newly remodeled hotel (and very reasonable hotel rates) and no parking fees along with a great city to see. Bring the family!

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## Miniature Museum Coming to Arizona

A new miniature museum is currently being built in Tucson, Arizona. It is called the Mini-Time Machine and is scheduled to open in late Spring 2009. The Museum has not for profit status and will house the extensive collection belonging to Pat Arnell. She has been an avid collector and crafter since 1979. Three main galleries will showcase three categories of miniatures : Antique, Worldwide Artisans and Fantasy. The Museum will feature modern display applications including inter-active displays that invite the visitor to participate. Many of you have visited her collection when it was housed in a building on her property. You are invited to visit again. More information about the opening date will be available after the first of the year.

Best wishes,  
Pat

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## N-1 Representatives

*Ginger Anderson* ([ginnymini@aol.com](mailto:ginnymini@aol.com)):

State Rep., Arizona

*Lori Lehman* ([bigalandlori@aol.com](mailto:bigalandlori@aol.com)): State Rep., San Diego and Imperial Counties

*Betty Hodges* ([beachbetty@aol.com](mailto:beachbetty@aol.com)): State Rep., San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties

*Marilyn Taylor* ([mmstu@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmstu@sbcglobal.net)):

State Rep., Ventura, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and Orange Counties

*Valerie Greenberg*

([valeriembishop@yahoo.com](mailto:valeriembishop@yahoo.com)): State Rep.,

Ventura, Santa Barbara, Los

Angeles and Orange Counties

*Susan Sheridan*

([susanminispecialteas@earthlink.net](mailto:susanminispecialteas@earthlink.net)):

State Rep., Nevada

*Sheila Benjamin*

([sheilabenjamin@aol.com](mailto:sheilabenjamin@aol.com)): Welcoming

Committee Chair

*Jenifer MacLowry*

([jenifermacl@mindspring.com](mailto:jenifermacl@mindspring.com)):

Newsletter editor

*Janet Smith* ([desertminis@gmail.com](mailto:desertminis@gmail.com)):

Regional Coordinator, State Rep., New Mexico

**If you want to be a part of our leadership team, please contact Janet Smith. There are plenty of opportunities to use your talents in our region!**

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### Get Your Own Copy or Not.

How to get added to the e-mail list (or subtracted from it). If you've gotten this message and don't want to receive regional updates or newsletters, drop me an e-mail. If you got this from a friend and want to be added to our N-1 e-mail distribution list for newsletters and other NAME-related communication, let me know. If you haven't figured it out yet, you can reach me at [desertminis@gmail.com](mailto:desertminis@gmail.com). Janet

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## N1 Awards / Nominations Sought

In July, many of us will gather in Indianapolis for the National Houseparty. At our regional meeting, we'll have an opportunity to recognize members who are reaching significant milestones in their NAME membership with pins for 5-year, 10-year, etc., members. In addition, one member will be selected to receive the Ambassador Award. The recipient of the Ambassador Award will be someone who has contributed to miniatures in our region, and to the miniature hobby overall. If you know of someone who is deserving of this award, please contact Janet Smith by either e-mail or phone. In addition, we would like to recognize other members who have contributed in an "above and beyond" fashion to our region, either through work done on a state day or club activity or show. Sort of our own N1 Hall of Fame. Please feel free to let me know who is worthy of induction into our own Hall of Fame by dropping me an e-mail ([desertminis@gmail.com](mailto:desertminis@gmail.com)) or giving me a call (575-532-5432).

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Note from the editor:

I'm very pleased to be able to send out this email newsletter. If you wish to submit an article or share a photo of some special project please email it to me and it will be included in the next edition. Jenifer MacLowry ([jenifermac@mindspring.com](mailto:jenifermac@mindspring.com))