



## First State Mini Club Newsletter December 2021

*New Castle Senior Center, 400 South Street, New Castle, DE 19720*

### PRESIDENTS' COLUMN

Hello Miniaturists!

Well, another year has come and almost gone. Much has happened. We are, sadly, still stuck with a pandemic that has changed our society, I expect, forever. Progress has been made on developing multiple vaccines and the number of people receiving them increases daily. We have been able to resume in person club meetings since September and we had our annual Show and Sale in August. We are going forward with plans for our 2022 Show and Sale at our usual spring timescale.

We have acquired several new members, first joining us online during Zoom meetings and then meeting in person either at the August show or at our resumed meeting at the Senior Center. We are more than glad to welcome them all. We have also said goodbye to some of our oldest and dearest members. We constantly track Marnie's progress with reports from Wanda, who visits her every Friday and we wish for her love and blessings.

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Wanda found this link for us to a site that has several dollhouse articles for viewing that will inspire and encourage us: <https://mailchi.mp/themagazineantiques/we-111221?e=1c06aa6875>

The several articles are mentioned in *The Magazine Antiques*.

First is "The Fisher Dollhouse: A Venetian Palazzo in Miniature" reviewed in The New York Social Diary, found at: <https://www.newyorksocialdiary.com/the-fisher-dollhouse-a-venetian-palazzo-in-miniature/>

"Stuck in bed and unable to move during the height of Covid, **Joanna Fisher** discovered the dollhouse, a replica of a Venetian Palazzo, online. Immediately she knew she just "had to have it" but sadly it was sold. She sought out the designer of the original dollhouse, set designer, Holly Jo Beck, and commissioned a replica of the one made forty years ago. Joanna then proceeded to furnish the house with original artworks by artists and artisans all over the world."





There are a whopping 49 photos in the New York Social Diary's article about the dollhouse, (I counted). It was hard to choose only a few for the newsletter but I want to encourage you all to go to this site and have a look at the rest of them.

There are several other articles about miniatures in this particular website. Next month I will use Wanda's link to track down the Stettheimer Dollhouse and after that, a Palladian Dollhouse with a long history.

Thank you Wanda for these links.

**Co-president Angie Phillips**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanda has been officially accepted as our State Representative by the board of directors of NAME.

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**To recap** for those who attended the November meeting and to inform those who didn't:

It was decided that our December 16 meeting will be our holiday party. It's important that you let me know whether or not you plan to attend.

There will be food! I will be picking up sandwiches; Leslie will bring cookies; Connie will bring the tableware; and Caroline will provide the beverage. New member, Debbie Contravo will lead us in a sing-along. Santa may or may not appear... 🎅

There will be a gift exchange so please bring a wrapped gift valued at around \$15.

It was also suggested if you have a mini holiday decoration or vignette, we could use it for a table centerpiece.

This holiday party will be funded by a donation from Grace's estate sales. She designated it to be used for "fun". Let's honor her wishes by doing just that, have fun!!

Future meeting programs:

January (Zoom) Joan / tile flooring

February (Zoom) Wanda / bathroom rug

March (in-person) Angela / Easter basket

April SHOW!

Merry miniaturizing!

**Program Coordinator Jane Bailey**

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## FSMC again supports a local charity.

The 2021 Festival of Trees, benefiting Delaware Hospice, seemed to be a huge success the weekend before Thanksgiving, and FSMC had a hand in it!

Our club's miniature donations were very much appreciated, and we were told that there was a lot of interest in them, and many people stopped to look, and ooh and aah, if not purchase. Our designated area was set up by Lois Weyer and Wanda Simons, where, thanks to our members' generosity, we were able to



donate about 50 items for the gift shop. Not all of them sold, so, along with a few from at least two previous years, we will have a head start for next year.

Many, mini thanks to all members who had a hand in donating supplies and creating ornaments and decorations. May the end products provide as much joy to their recipients as they do for us makers as we share our talents and skills. That's building upon our national motto: "Only through sharing can we really enjoy our treasures."

**State Representative Wanda Simons**

Wanda has more details about Marnie's progress:

"I visited Marnie yesterday and the previous Friday, and find her settling into her new home, perhaps helped by having her own furnishings around her. By walking down the hall with her, I could tell that she has developed some connections with others in assisted living so it looks like they are a little support system for each other. Her physical condition is still very good.

She is now planning to be in Delaware celebrating Thanksgiving with a family who she has had longstanding ties with, and then hopes to spend time around Christmas with her family in St Louis with one of them flying with her each way. Her sister and husband were here a couple weeks ago for about 5 days. Her family seems very involved in being sure that she is being cared for properly and is as well-adjusted as she can be. The only treatment she is receiving now is periodic injections that possibly will help keep her ability to communicate functioning longer.

She does not speak well on the phone, at least at 10:30 a.m., but by 11, was able to carry on a normal conversation with me during the visit yesterday, especially talking about things from some years ago. She is aware when she is unable to express herself and is frustrated by that. "It comes and goes..". she said, and told me she knows that too.

If anyone is sending USPS mail to her home address it is being forwarded to St Louis to be dealt with by one of her nieces.

Her address is:

Marilyn "Marnie" King

Foulk Manor North, Apt. 1108

1212 Foulk Road, Wilmington, DE 19803

Her cellphone: 302-438-2967

Wanda has been visiting Marnie on Friday mornings and hopes to see her one more time before Christmas on the day after our December meeting. As of this writing, one of her St. Louis nieces will be coming to fly Marnie out there before Christmas to be with her sister and the other niece and their families for about 10 days. She speaks pretty fluently and softly, but sometimes misuses words. Let's all hope that they enjoy lots of quality family time together.



## MEETING MINUTES

**November 18, 2021 7-9pm**

**Attending members:** Co-Pres: Angie Phillips; Past Pres: Wanda Simons; Secretary: Joan Hoyt; Caroline Schwartz; Bonnie Kincaid; Leslie Schaffner; Mary Ellen Raun; Pat Deverell; Connie Gorman; Jane Bailey; Diana DeWalt; Marion Hogan; Sara Chrisanthon; Deborah Contravo.

### **Business meeting**

Angie opened the meeting, and took a count of who wanted the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pin.

Jane offered her 2-sided doll house puzzle to anyone who wanted to borrow it, Joan took her up on the offer.

Wanda offered an update on Marnie King who is settled in Foulk Manor North in the Assisted Living section. Marnie will be staying in Delaware for Thanksgiving, celebration with the friends that she has previously celebrated with in the area. She will be heading to St. Louis for Christmas to see her family. Marnie is now getting injections every two weeks that will help with her ability to communicate.

Wanda set up for the Festival of Trees today, and even with the usual glitches, she got the job done.

### **New Business**

We reviewed several of the questions on our Questionnaire, deciding that the best way to approach reviewing the questionnaire was to take several areas each meeting.

One thing that came out was to bring in more show and tell items. This means we all need to look at our displays and collections and pick something to bring in. Additionally, Jane as the Program Coordinator, lined up the demo/make-and-take projects for the next several months.

December meeting – party

January Zoom – making a marble floor or wall

February Zoom – Wanda showing various rug options for the bathrooms

March meeting – Angelia showing how to make paper Easter baskets

As stated above, the December meeting will be our Holiday party. Nine people at the meeting will be attending. Joan suggested to Angie that she email/call members to confirm attendance. Jane will order Marino's Italian Restaurant and have a selection of sandwiches made with an assortment of sides made up. Jane will pick-up and bring the food. Caroline will bring in beverages. Leslie will make cookies. There will be a gift exchange for those members who wish to participate. Gift amount is around \$15. Leslie suggested that we bring in any small holiday themed mini's which we can use as centerpieces on the tables.

### **Project**

Wanda demonstrated how to make mini bows during the meeting and gave each person a bag of ribbons with which to practice.

**Secretary Joan Hoyt**



**BIRTHDAYS** for December:

What? No one has a birthday in December?



# AGENDA

- A. Party
- B. Party
- C. Party

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I just wanted to include the Questionnaire Results again in case anyone didn't keep their copy from the last issue, since we will be discussing the results again in future. (Not at the Party)

## 2021 FSMC Questionnaire Results Tabulated by Joan Hoyt 11/5/21

Forms received: 15 signed, 3 unsigned = 18 total

### How long have you been a member?

- Less than a year – 4
- 2-10 years – 8
- 10-20 years - \*
- Less than 20 years – 5

### Why did you join?

- To learn more – 9
- To get back into minis – 5
- For friendship and to share with other mini people – 3

### Is membership in the club what you expect?

- Yes – 10
- No – 2
- Blank – 4
- I do not come – 1
- Not sure – 2

### Why?

I want more, I want more make and take, I want more demos,  
I want to be more involved in charity projects.

### If new, would you like a buddy?

- Yes – 7
- No – 2
- Blank or NA – 10

### What is your skill level?

- Beginner – 12
- Intermediate – 11
- Advanced – 4

### What is your preferred scale?

- 1" – 12
- ½ - 1/144" – 11
- Several – 4
- Blank – 1

### Are you willing to try other scales?

- Yes – 10
- No – 5
- Blank – 3

### Any reasons for "No"?

Eyesight and hand dexterity

### What skills would you like to brush-up on?

- Blank – 7
- Everything – 1

- Woodwork – 1
- Electrical – 2
- Not sure – 1
- All things – 3
- Clay – 2
- Glues and their different uses – 1
- Detail paint – 1
- Hand crafting – 1
- Wallpapering – 1

### What project are you most proud of?

- All – 1
- Blank – 5
- NA – 1
- Hygiene before indoor plumbing
- Renovation of Fantasy Island house
- Copy of an historical brick hotel
- A dollhouse for a daughter from an empty shell
- WWII Cotswold house
- Mary Tylor Moore apartment from scratch
- German Christmas Market from scratch
- 1920's English Castle
- 1950's house renovation from a shell
- Trash Talk Tea Party
- Built a dollhouse from scratch

### Enrichment Extras

- Field trips – 8
- Outside teachers – 5
- Purchased kits – 8
- Saturday workshops – 5
- Service projects – 4
- A handbook with club history – 1
- Member bios – 1
- All the above – 3
- Blank – 3

Ideas: work with groups to discuss how therapeutic it is to work with minis

How minis are a "safe" environment for many, especially kids  
Display minis in senior living establishments

Work with Habitat For Humanity to provide dollhouses for families with kids

Skills you can share

- Blank – 7
- NA – 3
- Clay – 1
- Baskets – 2
- Electric & light strips – 1
- Glass bowls – 1
- Inlaid floors – 1
- Any easy project – 1
- Rugmaking – 1

Connect more with NAME

- Yes – 3
- No – 4
- NA/blank – 3

Plan to exhibit?

- Yes – 12
- No – 4
- Not sure – 3

Doing a bathroom project?

- Yes – 10
- No – 2
- Not sure – 7

Do you want a Holiday Party?

- Yes – 12
- No – 4

Gifts?

- Yes – 8

Food?

- No – 5
- Yes – 12
- No – 1
- Blank – 4
- Depends on weather and Covid

How about Catered?

Ideas to grow membership:

- Share with assisted living groups
- Start a group downstate, a satellite group
- Talk to NAME re people in national but not local
- Expand social media presence
- Advertise at shows for local club
- Try to attract older kids
- Reconnect with former members, maybe meet during a day group
- Put notices on bulletin boards at craft stores like Joanne’s

Are you willing to hold office or an appointed position?

- Yes – 7
- No – 3
- Blank – 2
- Not now - 4
- Not available for long term position
- Maybe - 4
- Cannot hold a position but would love to help

As a sidebar to our questionnaire results, Joan has compiled a list of skills people have offered to share:

- clay Caroline Schwartz
- baskets Angela Hunt
- electric & light strips Joan Hoyt
- glass bowls Joanne Conway can do it via Zoom
- inlaid floors Angie Phillips
- any easy project Diane Alice Scheuer, Jane Bailey

OUR PROJECTS

I have started working on my Nativity Scene again this Christmas. I did an article last year about this project that has taken over my fireplace mantle and grown over the years. Thank goodness I did because I had to use those photos to help me remember how I had assembled some of the elements. I have one last section of background to create and then I can call it finished.



BUY/SELL/SWAP/GIVEAWAY

DON'T FORGET: Anyone who has supplies, kits or projects to get rid of or is looking for something, please contact:



Lois, 610-368-4038, [lweyer2@verizon.net](mailto:lweyer2@verizon.net)

Angie, 707 290-2786, [aephllps@atlanticbb.net](mailto:aephllps@atlanticbb.net)

or Joan, 302-379-1094, [joanhoyt@verizon.net](mailto:joanhoyt@verizon.net)

before the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month to get it put in the newsletter. Include your email and phone number with a picture or description.

Thanks everyone,

Angie

Remember: "Only Through Sharing Can We Really Enjoy Our Treasures"

**Happy Miniaturing!**