

# Small Talk

National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts

Region N2, Summer 2020

<http://nameregionn2.org>

## From Your Regional Coordinator

I was so excited to attend the NAME Houseparty in Portland in April ... Nope, cancelled. How about Tom Bishop show in Chicago in late April?... cancelled. So, I was looking forward to the parking lot sale at the Elegant Dollhouse in Sacramento ... oops, cancelled. I love my mini club meetings ... Hmmm? Cancelled! FOR 3 MONTHS NOW!!!! OK then, I know I'll get to the National Convention in Indianapolis ... cancelled! I'll for sure want to be at Good Sam in October, yes, yes, yes ... bummer ... cancelled! So, what are we all doing? Staying at home, wearing toilet paper masks because we were so afraid we would run out of TP that we can't afford food now. But we sure do have TP. I did not rush out to buy it because I already had 65 rolls in my house. Seems I was a hoarder before it was a "thing" to be.

Seriously, I know you all are probably tearing your hair out and others are so happy just to be able to stay at home. I hope you are getting lots of mini projects finished and your houses cleaned out. I just wish there was a Thrift Shop open so I could take the garage full of stuff I've cleaned out someplace. Even the dump was closed for a while!!!

As I mentioned above, so many of our mini activities have been cancelled and postponed. Please join some of the online activity, There is the NAME website (miniatures.org), NAME Online group on io, NAME Facebook group, Mini Cyber Club, Quarter Connection and I'm sure so many others. Try it. Many of these groups are trying to have activities to involve people who are getting bored at home. Meet new people and try new techniques. Lots of mini workshops are happening.

I look forward to being able to see you all at some time in the future, but you won't recognize me and I might not recognize you. This business of being socially distanced means I've probably gained 50 pounds, my hair is half way down my back and totally ugly gray dingy in color, I've grown a lawn under my chin, I have no fingernails and my shoes have holes cut in the toes because my toenails have grown so long they don't fit in my shoes. Oh yes, and I don't know how to wear anything but pajamas anymore. How are you looking?

I'll wear a name tag, so you'll know who I am.

**Barbara Thornton-Hill,**

**Temporary Regional Coordinator, Region N2**

## Here & There With Barbara & NAME

As I write this, it is early May. Still, not much happening with NAME and miniatures since we're all staying at home. Did any of you participate in NAME's Roundtable weekend? Several instructors presented roundtable workshops in a variety of ways online. Some had live Zoom sessions, some made videos but then had live question and answer sessions, some used Go To Meeting format (similar to Zoom). This is the future of miniatures and workshops, I think. You can work at home while visiting with others in a "Skype" type setting and ask questions of the instructor, share tips, etc. NAME plans to hold more of this type of event so keep an eye out for information about them.

I also attended a workshop by Carol Kubrican, again, online. It was a lot of fun and I enjoyed the interaction. I miss my clubs being able to get together and this is a way to visit with other miniaturists and make a project together. I'm going to try to get one of my clubs to use this venue for an actual club meeting. We'll see how it goes?

Clearly, I am not doing any travel now and haven't for several months so am not going here and there except online. Of course, there are my daily activities and decisions to be made. Hmmm!!! Shall I travel to the workshop today and use tools? OR shall I travel to the dining room table and work on the 3000 piece puzzle my son and I decided was a valuable activity. Then, of course, there are the three dogs in the house. Social distancing and masks are not working out too well there?

So, I hope you all are staying safe and also making these serious daily decisions and that you are able to travel to various points in your daily routines. We've had some very nice days outside recently so you might want to travel to the mailbox every few days? I understand, it's quite the neighborhood thing to dress up now to do that and see who has the smartest outfit to get there every day. Personally, I think it should be who has the dumpiest outfit because, seriously, do we want to put in that much effort every day? .

**Barbara Thornton-Hill**

## Small Talk

### NAME National Convention in Indianapolis CANCELED

We are in the process of rescheduling the Indianapolis convention to 2022. The COVID 19 virus continues to cause us major concerns about the safety of our members traveling to Indianapolis. The hotel has been uncooperative but finally relented today. We are in negotiations with a different hotel in the Indy area. We hope to secure a location for "Winter Wonderland" during the same time-frame in 2022, NAME's 50th Anniversary year!

Kim will be working to issue FULL REFUNDS to ALL participants. This is coinciding with NAME's fiscal year end and she must prepare for the annual audit so you may not receive a refund until the end of June. United States members will receive the refund in the form of a check and our international members will receive their refund using the method used as the original payment. Please do not call Kim with questions as she will be quite overwhelmed with additional work.

Dealers, Workshop instructors, Theme Luncheon instructors and Roundtable instructors will be contacted by their respective committee member regarding their options. We will tell you more as we move through this process.

If you made a reservation outside of the room block or at the Florence Garden hotel across the parking lot, you will need to contact the hotel to cancel your reservation.

**Rhonda Keef**

**President, National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts**

### Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures CANCELED

Amid the uncertainties in the coming months, the decision has been made to cancel the 2020 Good Sam Show. We will look ahead to bring a great show in 2021. As always, we appreciate your support and understanding.

**Ruth Heisch, Chairman, Showcase of Miniatures**

### Summer at Tahoe CANCELED

The Tahoe Miniacs are sad to announce that we are postponing the Summer at Tahoe workshop this year due to the COVID-19 virus. With the inability to provide adequate social distancing and to protect everyone's health and safety we have decided that this is what is best for everyone. We are tentatively scheduling the workshop for August 7, 2021. More information will be sent out as soon as we have it available. Those who have signed up for this year's event will be receiving information from us soon. We hope that everyone is safe and doing well and we will see you all very soon.

**Linda Van Buskirk**

## NAME DAY EVENTS

Of course, we do not know if groups will be meeting in October. Good Sam was canceled and who knows what will be happening by then. The Sacramento area NAME Day is scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup> but, again, may not really occur.

**Another Alternative:** The Mini Cyber Club will be holding an Online NAME Day event on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> on Zoom. Consider joining this io group to keep informed on what will be going on.

Go to [minicyberclub.com](https://minicyberclub.com) for information about the group and you will find a link to join from there.

*Susan Sharrat's sink and cabinet*



## NAME DAY 2020, October 3

### The Craft Room, Part II



# Small Talk

## New NAME Officers

**1st Vice-President—Alician Pearce**

**2nd Vice-President—Ruth Stewart**

**Secretary—Ellen Yunker**

**Treasurer—Janet Smith**

**The membership elected 3 Members at Large:**

**Nancye Claypool**

**Leanne Kirsch**

**Marnie King**

**Below is a list of your 2020-2021 members of the Board of Trustees:**

**President—Roy Moore**

**1st Vice-President—Alician Pearce**

**2nd Vice-President—Ruth Stewart**

**Treasurer—Janet Smith**

**Secretary—Ellen Yunker**

**Immediately Past-President—Rhonda Keef**

**Members at Large:**

**Leanne Kirsch**

**Nancye Claypool**

**Marnie King**

**Ann Pennypacker**

**Sarah Westenberg**

## NAME DUES INCREASE

Be sure to pay your dues before June 1, 2020 before the rates go up.

### Current dues are:

#### Individual:

1 Year \$45

2 Year \$80

3 Year \$115

Family: No Increase

#### Youth/Student:

1 Year \$22

2 Year \$39

3 Year \$56

#### Individual Outside US

1 Year \$52

2 Year \$87

3 Year \$124

### Dues increases after June 1 will be:

#### Individual:

1 Year \$50

2 Year \$85

3 Year \$125

Family: No Increase

#### Youth/Student:

1 Year \$27

2 Year \$50

3 Year \$66

#### Individual Outside US

1 Year \$57

2 Year \$95

3 Year \$135

## SUMMARY FROM THE BOARD MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MINIATURE ENTHUSIASTS (NAME) HELD ON FEBRUARY 27, 2020

Financial Summary: Fiscal Year June 1, 2019–May 31, 2020

Budgeted Income for the year: \$269,606.00

Income YTD (January 31, 2020) \$241,301.60 (89.5% of budgeted income)

Budgeted Expenses for the Year: \$271,490.21

Expenses YTD (January 31, 2020) \$176,365.68 (65% of budgeted expenses)

Year to Date Profit: \$80,245.51

**Berman Collection.** Much of the Berman Collection of miniatures will be donated the Museum of Miniature Houses after confirming this action is acceptable to both the Museum and the Berman family.

**National Auction Chair.** NAME is in need of an auction chair for National Conventions after Indianapolis.

# Small Talk

## **Houseparties and Conventions.**

**Portland.** The Portland houseparty remains full.

**Indianapolis.** Registration is still open for Indianapolis.

**Providence.** Contracts will be issued for two more souvenirs.

**NAME House.** Work continues at the NAME house to assure it is ready for tours during the National Convention in Indianapolis. Many thanks to Nancye Claypool and the team working with her on this significant project.

**Fundraising.** The Makitz program continues to be successful to the makers, to NAME and most importantly to the members who support the program and enjoy assembling and decorating the projects.

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## **SUMMARY FROM THE BOARD MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MINIATURE ENTHUSIASTS (NAME) HELD ON MARCH 26, 2020**

Financial Summary: Fiscal Year June 1, 2019–May 31, 2020

Budgeted Income for the year: \$243,933.00

Income YTD (February 29, 2020) \$256,109.22 (105% of budgeted income)

Budgeted Expenses for the Year: \$271,490.21

Expenses YTD (February 29, 2020) \$189,468.19 (70% of budgeted expenses)

Year to Date Profit: \$66,641.03

**Portland Houseparty.** Many members have chosen to remain registered for the Portland Houseparty. The new contract with the hotel for the rescheduled dates has been received.

**NAME Auctions.** The recent NAME auctions have continued to be successful and to provide needed income for NAME.

**Membership Report.** The welcome letter for new members is being revised to reflect current programs including the PODs available on Facebook.

## **Houseparties and Conventions.**

**Portland.** The Portland Houseparty has been rescheduled for April 7-11, 2021 due to the Covid-19 virus.

**Indianapolis.** Registration is still open for Indianapolis.

**Online Houseparty.** The next online houseparty had originally been scheduled for Spring of 2021, but will be rescheduled due to the new dates for the Portland Houseparty.

**Fundraising.** The Makitz program continues to be successful.

**Club Liaison Report.** The Club Renewal Packets has been updated and mailed to those Club Presidents who require a hard copy. Other Club Presidents have been contacted by email.

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## **SUMMARY FROM THE BOARD MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MINIATURE ENTHUSIASTS (NAME) HELD ON APRIL 30, 2020**

Financial Summary: Fiscal Year June 1, 2019–May 31, 2020

Budgeted Income for the year: \$243,933.00

Income YTD (March 31, 2020) \$272,934.97 (112% of budgeted income)

Budgeted Expenses for the Year: \$263,833.00

Expenses YTD (March 31, 2020) \$208,960.00 (79.2% of budgeted expenses)

Year to Date Profit: \$63,974.97

**NAME Auctions.** The recent NAME auctions have continued to be successful and to provide needed income for NAME.

**Treasurer's Report.** Work on the 2020-2021 budget is proceeding.

**Membership Report.** The welcome letter for new members has been revised.

## **Houseparties and Conventions.**

**Portland.** 239 registrants have remained registered for the postponed houseparty.



## Small Talk

**Indianapolis.** Registration is still open for Indianapolis. The board continues to look at options for July given the Covid-19 outbreak.

**Online Houseparty.** The next online houseparty committee has proposed February 2022 as the new date for this event.

**RC Liaison Report.** Nominations have been received from many regions for the Regional Ambassador Awards.

**Club Liaison Report.** Blue Ribbon Club forms are coming in. The board approved offering “bonus points” to clubs this year as many club activities have been impacted by Covid-19.

**Fundraising.** The Makitz program continues to be successful, generating over \$10,000 in profit since its inception.

**Roundtable Mini Weekend.** Feedback from the participants of the recent Roundtable Weekend was discussed with an eye towards deciding what changes should be made for future weekends.

## State Rep Reports

### North Central CA

#### State Rep Margaret Gordus

**Our Little Mini Club:** One year our club project was to build a Gypsy Wagon. Melba Wellsfry gave me hers to finish, so during this quarantine I completed the inside, and will complete the outside when I can get out to get a few items.

At the time we were making each member a gift for Christmas. Joanne Schaefer made the Chicken coop with the chicken



*Margaret finished the interior of the gypsy wagon given to her by Melba Wellsfry.*

and I made the bed mattress using duck down and the pillow. Great memories!!

—Margaret Gordus



*The exterior of Margaret's gypsy wagon*

### North Coastal CA

#### State Rep Sharon Ocheltree

**Redwood Small World:** Well, I have had to take ‘shelter in place’ to the nth degree. The end of February I lost my balance and fell—hard! I messed up my right shoulder, fractured my arm, one rib and my pelvis. I was in the hospital and rehab for six weeks. I escaped early because of the virus and am home walking slowly and using the potty all by myself! (That’s the greatest news!!!)

Our little group lost our last charter member on March 7, 2020. Kay Tirsbeck was an original member of Redwood Small World Miniatures beginning some 40 years ago. A life-time member of NAME, she participated in donating items to many state day events. Kay was very creative and talented

when it came to minis and was always willing to share. She was a quiet person, but when she said something, it was a treasure. She always had a twinkle in her eye and we loved to see it come out in her common sense humor. I can easily see her as a little imp as a child, as she was as an adult too. She was dearly loved by us all.

We haven’t met as a group for three months now. May 28th will be a joyous day for us as we are planning a future meeting. The ladies haven’t been lazy though. Christa Stressenger has been busy working on her Montgomery Hall Dollhouse and Basement from the Dollhouse Emporium in England. In one-inch scale, her workmanship is magnificent and a grand house to behold. Sue Kuhnhausen was almost finished her travel trailer kit from China. It’s somewhere around 3/4 inch scale and is darling. With a red and white color theme, she has worked hours on all the smallest details. It even has a light in the oven, showing a baking apple pie. My recovery project has been another China kit. It’s a squirrel tree house in a forest; about 1/4 inch scale, very tiny, very cute.

At the beginning of this ‘stay at home’ situation I sent everyone a list of 40 items. The challenge was to create something mini from 10 items on the list. At our first meeting we are to share the creations. I am curious to see what has developed.

Blessing to all. Things are beginning to return to ‘normal’ here on the north coast, what ever that may be.

—Sharon Ocheltree

# Small Talk

## State Rep Reports



Christa's English dollhouse exterior



Christa's English dollhouse interior



Sue's travel trailer



Sue's travel trailer

### Sacramento, Central Valley, Sierra Foothills

#### State Rep Laura Seibert

**Quarter Persuasion:** At the Quarter Persuasion club we have been working on the Ladybug project. We haven't been able to meet together for a couple of months because of the Coronavirus. We have been keeping in touch by e-mail, phone, etc. We are looking forward to seeing each other soon. We have plans to work on the Snowman project next. I hope everyone is well and doing good.

—Pattie Hong

**Itty Bitties:** The Itty Bitties Miniature Club has not met as a group since February. We had to cancel our March meeting and we were hoping to meet in April. We had to cancel our April meeting again. However, we were able to hold a virtual meeting through Zoom. We were very excited to see and talk to our mini friends, although there were a few that were not able to join us yet. We will continue with Zoom meetings and we are looking forward to having the others join in.

We have been working on our mini projects (unfinished projects and kits that we had in our stash). We have also been working on converting our hatboxes, generously provided by Deb Laue, into a roombox or a shop of some sort. Everyone came up with some great ideas. It will be exciting to see everyone's finished project.

Deb Laue taught a hat making workshop on January 25th at Frances Bigler's house. Several members of our club and non-members attended the workshop. We

were hoping to offer more workshops in the future but that had to be put on hold until the Shelter in Place orders are lifted.

Some of us had planned to attend the Portland Houseparty and we were very disappointed that it had to be postponed! We are looking forward to attending in 2021. Other mini events, including the Parking Lot Sale at the Elegant Dollhouse have had to be canceled or postponed. We miss all our mini friends and are anxious to see everyone soon.

—Frances Bigler



Frances Bigler's teddy bear party



Laura Seibert's teddy bear party

### East Bay/Tri-Valley

Open Position

Fresno

State Rep Barbara Fairbanks



# Small Talk

## South Bay & Peninsula

### Open Position

**Through the Looking Glass:** As we shelter in place, Through the Looking Glass members are finding pleasure, comfort and reassurance in working with our miniatures.

Lots of unfinished projects and all those kits are getting finished. Old projects are getting tidied up, refurbished and refinished.

Some of us have been working on a miniature personal work space, an extended project from last year. Each one is different and reflects the personality and favorite interests of the maker.

This year's Club Project is a beverage buffet. The buffets range from modified unfinished bureaus to prior NAME Day projects. Some of them feature chocolate, others coffee, tea and cold drinks. Even wine! All of them have lots and lots of yummy things to eat.

Our Club met in April via a video hook-up arranged by Lynne Hoffman, our Club president. She and her family, along with Lori Rodriguez, dropped off Easter egg kits on our doorsteps ahead of time so we all could work and talk about them during the meeting. The paper mache eggs were large enough that they could hold a "surprise," a miniature scene or tiny object. The results have been amazing, if we do say so ourselves!

Thanks to miniatures and the joy and sense of sharing that they bring us we are all staying safe and well.

—Barbara Adams

**Mini Attics:** The Mini Attics have been busy while sheltering in place. It's not the same as meeting as a group and getting feedback on projects, but we are coping. Carol Walls is completing table exchanges for Come Fly With Me. She has painted pots and pans (1/4 in.) Carol is also bidding on NAME auction items, so there goes her stimulus money. She is also working on getting fimo parts for Winter Wonderland tote favors.

Meg Milani is cleaning and sorting things with plans to redo her mini work area and create a sewing area as well. She has also taken advantage of the nicer weather and done some yard work.

Laura Johnson has been working on a Petworth miniature room, and Brenda

Hough, our traveler, has done some shops with windows she purchased in York.

Hong McKinsey sent a free pattern for a 1/4" rug available at Quarter Connection.

Our new member, Cindy Loman, has been working on face masks for health care workers (thank you, Cindy) as well as working on tote favors for National.

I have been working on what seems like a never ending project, a Petworth southwest house from the Tucson National. I have now finished making all the furniture and accessories, and I am ready for some finishing touches and then moving in.

—Gerry Silberstein



*Laura's Petworth Philadelphia drawing room*

**MiniCals:** Like everyone else, the MiniCals have had to make many changes in the last few months. We have had to cancel our popular Spring Fling event and our Attic Room Workshop. We hope to schedule these in 2021 and you should have been contacted if you had signed up for any of our workshops.

We have not been able to hold our monthly club meetings, but we are looking forward to resuming them. Meanwhile, some of our members have been



*Brenda's Sous la Table (Under the Table version of the Sur la Table store chain)*

sharing pictures of projects completed at home.

In the past we have hosted a NAME day workshop with the Through the Looking Glass club, and as the summer progresses, we hope to propose an activity in the fall to celebrate our NAME connection.

—Brenda Hough



*Miniature of Beth Newick's 90 year old mother sitting in her apartment, watching the birds out her balcony and knitting.*



*Ruth Heisch's kitchen shop interior*



*Ruth Heisch's kitchen shop exterior*



## Small Talk



*A replica of the craft area in Judy's house. Her partner is working on her painted Christmas light bulbs. Judy is working on electrifying a light bulb.*

**Mini Friends:** My name is Carol Vasil. I am president of the Mini Friends club. April was the 39th anniversary of our club and we do an anniversary project each year. This year was a garden scene in a book box from Michaels and a little arbor kit from EBay. Last year we had 4 members and now we are down to 2. Cathy Payne and I have been doing FaceTime meetings. Of course, it is not the same as our usual meetings but we are still having a great time. We FaceTime once or twice a week to work on our projects.

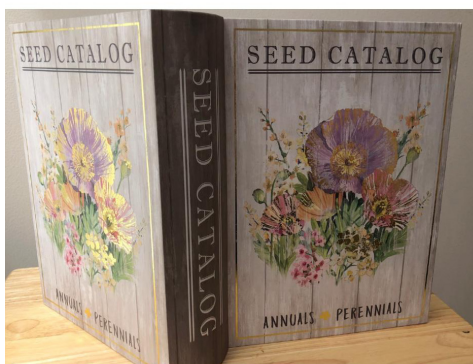
—Carol Vasil



*Cathy's Garden book box*



*Carol's Garden book box*



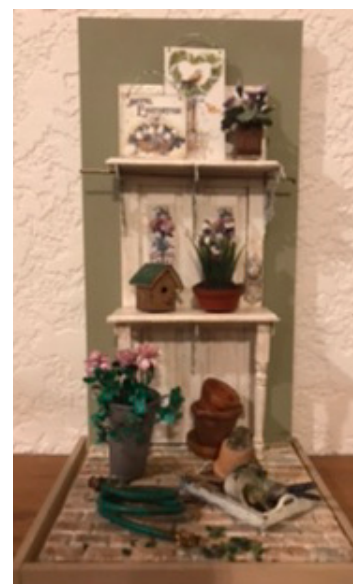
*Mini Friends Garden book box*

**Wee Housers of the Peninsula:** The Wee Housers have been staying at home like everyone else. We have been visiting and sharing pictures of some of our finished projects online.

Moonyeen is working on books, a 1/4 scale book shop and several other things. Rhona has finished a 2016 Minicals workshop and a table from a 2016 workshop. Laura has finished a 1/4 scale Petworth Pennsylvania drawing room from a 2019 houseparty and a 1/4 scale greenhouse from the 2019 convention. She also worked on tote bag favors for the now 2022 national convention. Other members are working on their own projects.

Happy Spring and Happy Miniaturizing!

—Laura Johnson



*Rhona's Shabby Chic Shelf/Door from Minical's February 2016 Workshop*



*Rhona's George III tea caddy from a 2019 IGMA Guild Show workshop taught by Geoff Wonnacott*

### Marin, Napa Valley

Open Position

### No. Nevada, Tahoe

State Rep Mary Ann Van Buskirk

### San Francisco/ N. Peninsula

Open Position

### Hawaii

State Rep Naomi Losch



## Small Talk

### Name N2 Region Calendar

September 5

Miniatures in the Wine Country

October 3

NAME Day

September 3, 4, 5 & 6

Debbie Heard's Preview Miniature Sale

### Miniatures in the Wine Country

September 5, 2020

9 am to 3 pm

**American Legion Hall & Eagles Hall**

**320 N. American Street, Lodi, CA 95240**

**VENUES ARE ACROSS THE STREET FROM EACH OTHER**

**FREE TO VENDORS**

**HOTEL INFORMATION IS LOCATED UNDER THE AREA  
HOTELS/AIRPORTS TAB ON THE WEBSITE**

**For more information and to pre-register as a vendor e-mail  
Leslie Flint [miniatureswaterfront@aol.com](mailto:miniatureswaterfront@aol.com)  
[www.miniaturesonthewaterfront.com](http://www.miniaturesonthewaterfront.com)**

### Debbie Heard's Preview Miniature Sale

September 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th

Thursday–Sunday

**1024 Industrial Way, Suite A, Lodi, CA 95241**

**This year we have planned a bigger and better miniature event! In addition to our 2 fabulous shows on Saturday September 5th, we will be hosting a preview SALE that will be open for 4 days.**

**THIS SALE IS SEPARATE FROM THE 2 SALES THAT WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 5TH.**

This 3rd SALE (THE PREVIEW SALE) will be by reservation only. There is limited space in the building so we will be limiting the number of people attending to 30 customers per time slot and/or day. It is simple to attend! To register for any of the 4 days OF THE PREVIEW SALE, all you need to do is send an email to Debbie with the requested day and time you would like to attend...that's it!! We will keep a list of the people who have signed up and when a day and time slot fills up, we will post that on the website.

**YOU ONLY NEED TO REGISTER FOR THIS SALE.**

*We will Restock the show after every preview day so don't worry if you don't come the first day. The show will be fully stocked with new treasures every day!*

**Contact Debbie at [fjdebbie@aol.com](mailto:fjdebbie@aol.com) to sign up for available spaces.**

# Small Talk

## Region N2 Team Contacts

### NAME

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### East Bay/Tri-Valley

Open Position

### Marin, Napa Valley

Open Position

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### San Francisco/N. Peninsula

Open Position

### South Bay/Peninsula

Open Position

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