

# Welcome to the monthly **National Polymer Clay News** from the **National Polymer Clay Guild**

This listing of information is geared to help spread the word on all things polymer.

Each letter highlights updates of the NPCG, all of which can also be found on the [National Guild's website](#). We'll then hit the ground running with hot deadlines, info. on things we think you'll be interested in hearing about in the arts community as well as member news and other tidbits.

**In order for us to cover things you want to know about as well as ensure we help your message be heard – we need your support!** Please let us know what kind of information you think would be helpful to you as polymer artists so we can consider adding the category to the next issue, and be sure to let us know if you have a polymer-related event, announcement, or message you'd like shared with the members.

*Please note: Some of the sections are listing only a sampling of opportunities out there. Be sure to check each issue to see who is being featured and let us hear from you on who you want to see listed next time.*

To reach us, you can contact anyone on the board or e-mail me, Tammy, at [execdir@npcg.org](mailto:execdir@npcg.org). We will do all we can to post all of the messages we receive but do reserve the right not to list them all.

## National Guild Updates

### **SYNERGY February 21 – 23, 2008**

The Synergy conference is getting close and is a hot topic in our "offices!"

**On-line Registration is closing February 6, 2008 – SIGN UP NOW! – Don't miss out.**

Haven't seen what's being offered during Synergy – check out the catalog for all the info you need: [Synergy Catalog](#).

**Here are a few Synergy highlights:**

#### **Seminars on topics spanning:**

- Craftsmanship
- Business
- Design

#### **Guest Speakers:**

- Kathleen Dustin – The Earliest Devlpmnt. of Polymer Clay Art in the USA
- Carol Duvall – Television, Polymer Clay and Me
- Jo Lauria – Craft in America

#### **Panel Discussions:**

- Hallmarks of Craftsmanship
- Inspiration, Originality, Infringement

#### **Interactive Presentation:**

Design Strategies

#### **Banquet Keynote:**

Cynthia Tinapple

## **Teacher Fair – Thursday, February 21, 2008: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m**

*Have a class to offer and want to promote it to all the attendees? Sign up for the Teacher Fair. Looking for a class to offer at your next Guild Meeting? Be sure to attend the Teacher Fair to see what classes might be available to you.*

## **Vendor Fair – Friday, February 22, 2008: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m**

A select group of merchants and their wares will be set up conveniently for you, so you can shop and learn at your convenience.

## **Synergy Gallery**

A showcase of artworks by Synergy presenters and attendees at the Baltimore Convention Center

An exciting array of artists will display and offer their works for sale. The Gallery is open to Synergy attendees and presenters and special invitations are being extended to the Baltimore polymer clay community, ACC members, and local art-gallery representatives for limited viewing and shopping times.

**Everyone** attending the Synergy Conference is invited to put work in the Gallery. A percentage of all sales will go to help cover National Guild expenses.

*More information about the Gallery will be provided to all Synergy registered attendees.*

## **Special Art Exhibit**

Hollie Mion has been collecting polymer art for many, many years and we are honored to have the chance to showcase her amazing collection of historic pieces – they will be on display in the Gallery throughout the conference.

## **Auction**

There will be two auctions going on during the conference. Everyone is invited to donate a piece to be auctioned off. A percentage of monies earned will go to [Craft Emergency Relief Fund \(CERF\)](#) as well as to the NPCG for future scholarship programs. Details of the auction will be provided to all registered Synergy attendees.

## **Interactive “Looking Back” Exhibit**

Synergy Attendees – Help us build a memoir of the past.

As part of the Looking Back component of the Synergy Conference, there will be an “Interactive NPCG Archive Wall.” The wall will be comprised of panels that attendees can post written memories, photographs and memorabilia from NPCG events from the past. And, just like the conference itself, the archive is going to be created by attendees. Please bring pictures, programs, tickets, letters, old copies of the *PolyInformer*, etc. If you simply can't part with your pictures or other memorabilia, a high quality photocopy would also work. There will be cards available at the conference for attendees to add written memories.

After Synergy, we will take all the additions to the wall and start the NPCG Archive, dedicated to the preservation of the history of the use of polymer clay as an art and fine craft medium. We are looking forward to looking back with you at Synergy. **See you in Baltimore.**

Are you not able to get to Synergy but want to contribute a picture or memory? Please send your material(s) to:

NPCG  
1350 Beverly Road  
Suite 115-345  
McClean, VA 22101

All contributions to the exhibit will **not** be returned and will be considered a donation to the NPCG.

## Already scheduled to attend Synergy?

Check-in times for the conference are:

- Wed. 2/20: 2:00 -5:30 pm
- Thurs. 2/21: 7:30 - 8:30 am

## Synergy Discussion Group

- Looking to connect with someone attending Synergy? Want to find a ride or carpool from the airport? Are you flying in and already have a car with a seat or two extra? Make these connections and more by joining the [Synergy Discussion Group](#) on yahoo.

## 2008!

The board is working on a [to-do list for 2008](#) – we're striving to make the Guild all you want it to be. Please feel free to [contact any board member](#) with your suggestions – we look forward to hearing from you!

## Attending Synergy?

Plan to present your suggestions in person during the Brown-Bag Lunch: Friday, Feb. 22, 12:00-1:00.

## WEBSITE

Just over 9 months ago, the NPCG premiered a new website with increased functionality and new features for our members. By moving to a dynamic content model, we are now able to publish more news, more frequently. Additionally, we have now given the power to publish to you, our members. If you have something you'd like to publish, log into the [NPCG](#) website with your user name and password. Once you are logged in, you'll notice several options on your "User Menu," including:

- Submit News
- Submit to POLYinforMER
- Submit Event Announcements
- Submit Weblinks

While logged on, you can also add classes, guild meetings, gallery openings and other events directly to the [Event Calendar](#).

## Other features that you can use to keep up with the latest news include:

- "The Latest News" section ~ An area set aside to highlight articles that have been added to the site recently, but are not published on the front page. You can find this section on the left-hand side, above the menu.
- "RSS feed" ~ Use your web browser, e-mail program or RSS feed aggregator to pull in the latest articles published to the front page of our site. It's a great way to get automatic updates from the NPCG. Look for the RSS Feed Subscription module on the left side of the site, near the bottom of the page.

We will continue to work on the website, streamlining its functionality and making it a place where you can find all you need to know about the NPCG and its members. If you have any questions or comments on the site, please feel free to contact our webmaster, [Barbara Forbes-Lyons](#).

## MEMBERSHIP

The [Membership Roster](#) has been updated and is maintained on-line for your convenience. Log in to download it now!

## Approaching Deadlines

### Call for Submissions:

#### **Deadline February 15, 2008 – “Neoteric Matter: New Studio Jewelry”**

Neoteric means new and is the perfect name for an exhibition of Studio Jewelry that highlights new materials. The exhibit will focus on jewelry that is primarily comprised of 21<sup>st</sup> century or late 20<sup>th</sup> century materials that have significantly influenced the field of jewelry; a few examples include: polymers, metal clay, rapid prototyping materials and new metal alloys.

The exhibit will be on display at the Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts & Sciences, Long Beach Island, NJ and is scheduled to run from August 1 to September 15, 2008.

For more information visit the [NPCG website](#).

#### **Deadline February 19, 2008 – Clay Jewelry Book**

[Shirley Rufener](#) is working on a polymer clay jewelry book for [Krause Publications](#) and is looking for images of your work for consideration in the gallery section – the book has an emphasis on mixed media and combining polymer clay with low-fire metal clays.

For more information visit the [NPCG website](#).

#### **March 1, 2008 – [Metal Clay Connections Newsletter](#)**

**National Polymer Clay News** – please submit any news or information you’d like to be considered for use in the next NPCN e-mail by February 24, 2008. Submit all information to: [execdir@npcg.org](mailto:execdir@npcg.org).

## Award/Contest Announcements

**2008 Niche Award** Professional Finalists Announced – **Winners** to be announced February 17, 2008

- [2008 Niche Award Professional Finalists: Beads](#)
- [2008 Niche Award Professional Finalists: Polymer Clay](#)
- [2008 Niche Award Student Finalists](#)
- Winners to be announced February 17, 2008 during the Buyer’s Market of American Craft Show, Philadelphia, PA

Be sure to check out each *NPCN* for info on 2009 Niche Award guidelines; applications will be available Spring 2008

**Bottles of Hope Designer Challenge** winners announced at CHA Anaheim 2008, February 11, 2008 in the Amaco Booth

**Bead Dreams 2008** - sponsored by *Bead & Button* magazine – deadline April 4, 2008 – winners announced during the Bead & Button show, June 4-8, 2008

**[Fire Mountain Gems & Beads](#)** – Beading Contest – deadline April 15, 2008

## Events and Happenings

### Events

[Catalog in Motion](#) – February 8-11, 2008 – hosted by Rio Grande during the Tucson

[Buyer’s Market of American Craft](#) – February 15-18, 2008

[American Craft Council Baltimore](#) – February 22-24, 2008

[Bead Expo - Portland](#) – March 27-30, 2008 – class registration is happening NOW!

[WOW 2008](#); May 13-19, 2008 – a show for cloth and polymer doll artists

## Happenings

[2008 BUCKEYE CLAY BASH](#) – February 14-17, 2008; held at the Hope Hotel in Fairborn, Ohio.

[Cabin Fever Clay Festival 2008](#) – February 17-20, 2008; held in Laurel, Maryland

[Orlando Clay Fandango retreat](#) – March 13-17, 2008; held at Lake Yale Baptist Center, Lake Yale in Leesburg, Florida

[Handweaver's Guild of America's Convergence International Fiber Arts Conference](#) – June 22-28, 2008, Tampa, Florida.

## Heading to Tucson?

Be sure to attend the Tucson Polymer Clay Guild's Third Annual Mexican Dinner! February 7, 2008 – 6:30; Karichimaka Restaurant 5252 S. Mission Road, 520.883.0311.

**Does your local guild have an upcoming workshop or class – or are you hosting a workshop or class?** Log into the [NPCG website](#) to post your information and to be included in the [events calendar](#).

**Not sure if there is a local guild near you?** Visit the NPCG website to find a [local guild](#) – and to see the [events and classes](#) posted.

## Charitable Efforts

**You can help to make a difference! Check out the organizations/efforts listed below and consider sharing some of your talent and creativity.**

- [Bottles of Hope](#) – The next B.O.H. Designer's Challenge is officially open. The challenge is open to everyone and it's a great way to have your work seen by industry media and most importantly to raise awareness for cancer treatment and cures. This year's CHA-Anaheim 2008 "Bottles of Hope" designer challenge is called "Hope-on-a-Rope" honoring Susan Clement, an artist who has made and gifted hundreds of bottles for others. As Clement says, "I am a warrior [having fought recurrent cancer]. The creating and sharing of 'Bottles of Hope' has extended my life."
- About [Bead of Courage](#) and [how to help](#)
- About ["Heats for Heroes"](#) and [how to help](#)

## Publishing

**Connie Donaldson is the new editor of Polymer Café!**



The Spring 2008 issue of *Polymer Café!* contains many great articles by NPCG members – [check it out!](#) Drop [Connie](#) a note about what YOU would like to share in upcoming publications.

Magazine with great and pertinent content regarding arts and business



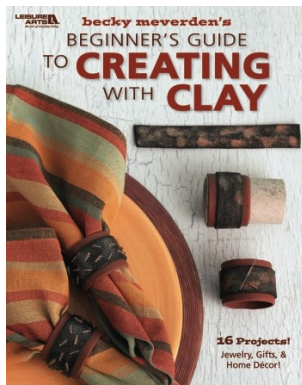
### Attending Synergy?

Be sure to check out the ACC show to learn more about the [American Craft Council](#) and membership.

### In the world of Polymer

This is the space for you! Be sure to drop us a note for consideration in the next NPCN letter; deadline February 24, 2008.

[Becky Meverden's – Beginner's Guide to Creating with Clay is available now!](#)



Elise Winters launches [Polymerartarchive.com](#), a site dedicated to the preservation of polymer history as well as...well, I'll let her tell you in her own words:

“My goal is for this site to become an essential reference, the go-to site for the serious study of polymer art, a resource for museum curators, publication editors and art historians. It would give me delight to know that PolymerArtArchive.com can be found on thousands of “Favorites” lists of those desiring to discover not just the FACTS about ART made from POLYMER, but also to achieve a greater understanding about the origins and relationships that have generated wonderful polymer art in our time.”

~ *Elise Winters*

### Guild News

In the future we'd like this section to be sorted into regions so you can see, at a glance, what's going on in your neighborhood. Please send us information so we can share what you're doing with the entire membership! Submit your notes by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of each month to be included in the upcoming NPCN.

## Ongoing Multi-Media Happenings

[Craft Cast](#) – podcasts hosted by Alison Lee – download artist interviews for use on your iPod  
[Polymer Clay TV.com](#)

## FIVE Online Places of Interest

[Got Clay Can Play](#)

[Noadi's Art Blog](#)

[Polymeri Online](#)

[Celie Fago](#)

[Artrepreneur, the Collision of Art and Business](#)

## Galleries to visit

We'd love to feature a few galleries that host any of our members, please send us information on where to find your work across the country and beyond!

**Please note:** The *NPCN* will be distributed to all active NPCG members. If you wish to be removed from the list for this distribution, please let us know by e-mailing: [execdir@npcg.org](mailto:execdir@npcg.org).