

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. **We need to hear from YOU! 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!** To reach us, you can contact anyone on the board or e-mail me, Tammy, at 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.

Also, 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.

National Guild Updates

SYNERGY

Thank you to everyone who participated in Synergy – it was an amazing time, for all.

In the coming weeks look for a recap of Synergy on the NPCG website, presenter notes in the member's only section of the NPCG website and a survey that will be sent to you to reflect on your Synergy experience.

NPCG Membership Benefits

Have you asked yourself, "Now that there is no paper version of the *POLYinforMER*, what am I getting for my \$30?" I believe that this is the most frequently asked question that I receive from our members. I would like to give you just a few of the benefits of NPCG membership.

When you Sign On to the NPCG website (www.npcg.org) you will then see a USER MENU on the left sidebar of the Home Page. From this menu, you can:

- **Update Profile** – Want to change your user name or password? Has your email address changed? This is the place to make these changes!
- **Submit News** - We love to hear from our members! Is something exciting going on in your guild? Have you attended an event that you want to tell us about? This is only a few of the many possibilities.
- **Submit to POLYinforMER** - Is there a new product you've tried that you would like to give a review on? Have you come up with a new technique that you want to do a tutorial on? How about an Artist Profile? There are so many options!
- **Submit Event Announcements** - Advertise your guilds events! Let the polymer clay community know about your classes and workshops!
- **Edit my Weblinks** – Have a change to your URL? This is the place to edit your information.
- **Submit Weblink** – Have a new polymer clay related website? Add it to the Weblinks Directory! YOU decide what SEARCH category or categories you want to place it in.

In addition to the Menu items above, you also have access to:

- **Our Membership Directory.** You will be listed in the Directory (or not) depending on the listing option chosen on your Membership Application. Your membership expiration date is also listed in the Directory. No need to email and ask. You will be able to print out the PDF version for your own use only. NOTE: *This Directory is not to be used for solicitation.*

- **Special Members Only Articles and Information** - An example of this is the notes and slide presentations from our Synergy Presenters!
- **Add events to the Calendar** – We would love to see our Calendar filled with guild meetings and workshops!
- **NPCG Newsletter** – Receive the **National Polymer Clay News** every month! This newsletter is filled with articles, announcements, new product information, and lots more!

There are lots of ways available that you can use to promote yourself or your guild. Please use them!

We are constantly adding new membership benefits. If you have something that you would like us to consider, please email me at membership@npcg.org. I look forward to hearing from you!

Gayle Thompson – VP-Membership

Approaching Deadlines

Call for Submissions:

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 March 22, 2008. Submit all information to: execdir@npcg.org.

Award/Contest Announcements

2008 Niche Award Winners [2008 Niche Award Winners](#) – Congratulations to all, but especially Meisha Barbee and Loretta Lam for their winning designs.

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

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

[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

[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.

The Tucson Polymer Clay Guild hosted their 3rd Annual dinner for polymer clay artists during the Tucson Gem & Mineral shows – be sure to join them for their 4th Annual if you're in Tucson in 2009!

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



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 March 22, 2008.

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 22nd 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

[Art and Tea](#)

[Donna's pictures from Synergy 2008](#)

[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.