

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

A newsletter dedicated to spreading the word on all things polymer.

We need **YOU!** Please send us information on any polymer-related event, announcement, or message you'd like shared with the members. To send us your news, 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.

National Guild Updates

ELECTION NEWS

Have you been wanting to help support the National Guild but weren't sure how to offer your talents – here is the perfect opportunity to put your talents to work!

The following offices will be opening up for election at the close of 2008:

- President
- Vice President – Outreach
- Treasurer
- Guild Liaison
- Recording Secretary

If you are interested in running for election, please contact Julie Picarello via e-mail for information on becoming an executive officer of the Guild as well as to send her your resume or a synopsis of personal information to support your interest.

SYNERGY

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

Thank you also to everyone who donated a piece of work to the NPCG auction and/or to those of you who bid and won donated items. The auction was a great success (and a lot of fun!). The Guild raised over \$6,000 and has since donated \$1,000 to Craft Emergency Relief (CERF), an organization dedicated to helping the professional artisan. For more on this, see the NPCG website [CERF article](#).

Other monies raised will go toward supporting NPCG programs. Thank you again, to all who participated.

Synergy Presentations

As a benefit to all members, there are Synergy presentations available in the member's-only download area of the [NPCG site](#). We greatly appreciate the generosity of all presenters who shared their time and experience at Synergy and thank those presenters who shared their presentations.

ACREs of Opportunity 2008

Meisha, Sandra and Lindly are fresh from the ACRE show floor and headed home. They are already at work on compiling notes and information on their experience at ACRE to share with all of us, soon. Keep your eyes peeled to the website for an update soon!

Here is a snippet from a thank you from Meisha to Judy Dunn (this gives us all a sense of how much work there was to be done and how well it all came together):

"I haven't worked so hard in a very long time, but it was finding out that I could overcome any hurdles or fears that was the most rewarding part of this experience. I am amazed at all I accomplished in a short time. That is all thanks to you [Judy Dunn].

I gained so many skills, and a lot more confidence. What seemed like overwhelming jobs just months ago, now are surprisingly simple task, like downloading images and ordering post cards. I can even send my catalog via the Internet now. Finally, I've joined the 21st Century. I just needed a little push, and to simply say "I CAN DO IT"."

And a snippet from a note from Judy Dunn:

"I just laid out a few guideposts, and it was up to you all to do the work. And you all did an amazingly wonderful job. I could not be happier to see you all reach for the stars, and see that they truly are within reach. :-) It is hard work, but the biggest challenge was that you were nearly going from zero to sixty in no time at all. And once you do it, it gets easier."

ACREs of Opportunity 2009

The Guild is proud to announce it will continue the ACREs of Opportunity program for 2009. Check the NPCG website and future NPCN for more information.

PROGRESS & POSSIBILITIES 2008

An International Exhibit

Progress & Possibilities 2008, the fourth NPCG polymer clay design competition, will begin 8/01/08. If you have a piece you'd like to submit, be sure and get it photographed soon!

Here are a few highlights:

Categories and Jurors for 2008

- **Art Jewelry**
 - Sarah Shriver
 - Robert Liu
- **Sculptural Objects**
 - Marlaine Verhelst
 - Richard and Jodi Creager
- **Functional Objects**
 - Victoria Hughes
 - Jill Heppenheimer
- **Best of Show**
 - Cynthia Tinapple

Timeline

- **08/01/08** – Online submissions open
- **09/01/08** – Submission deadline
- **11/01/08** – Finalists Announced
- **11/15/08** – Winners Announced

Each artist may submit up to 3 different entries. Entry fee is \$25 ~ **for any current member of the NPCG**. Work must be at least 1/2 Polymer Clay and made between 09/01/07 and 09/01/08.

Top 10 finalists in each category will be included in the *Progress and Possibilities '08* catalog. Best of Show, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be selected from the chosen finalists.

A formal announcement, as well as clear submission guidelines will be posted to www.npcg.org soon.

GUILD BUSINESS

In an effort to improve communication between the board and the members, the annual Profit and Loss statement as well as the annual balance sheet is available in the Members-Only download area.

Approaching Deadlines

National Polymer Clay News – please submit any news, polymer tips or information you'd like to be considered for use in the next NPCN e-mail by May 22, 2008. Submit all information to: execdir@npcg.org.

Step by Step Beads is interested in publishing your work! Contact [Leslie Rogalski](#), Editor, for submission guidelines.

Polymer Clay Productions is hosting classes and they're looking for teachers who are willing to "cast" from their own homes. For teaching, attending classes and the general scoop, visit Craftedonline.com.

Art Clay Society publishes a quarterly newsletter and hosts a contest for "cover artist." Contact [Katie Baum](#), Director, for more information.

Metal Clay Connections publishes a quarterly newsletter dedicated to PMC related information. Deadline for the July newsletter is June 1, 2008. Contact [Linda Bernstein](#) for submission guidelines and information.

Award/Contest Announcements

Awards

Kathleen Dustin is the recipient of the Smithsonian Craft Show's "New Direction – Excellence in Design of the Future" award. For more on the award and the show, please see the article on the NPCG website, "[Smithsonian Craft Show Honors Kathleen Dustin](#)." Congratulations Kathleen

Fire Mountain Gems and Beads announced the winners of their 2007 Annual Beading Contest. In the Kato Polyclay category, Susan Bailey won first place, Colleen Devore won second place and Julie Anstaett, NPCG member, won 3rd place – congratulations Julie.

Rings & Things Design Contest winners were announced and images posted to their [on-line gallery](#). Congratulations to Lynn Ann Schwarzenberg (NPCG member), Eugena Topina (NPCG member) and Ann Inman. For complete details visit the article posted on [NPCG website](#).

[2008 Saul Bell award finalists](#) – winners being announced at the JCK show in Las Vegas, May 31, 2008.

Events and Happenings

Events

- Art in the Park – May 2-4, 2008, Montclair, NJ
- [Bead Expo Phoenix](#) – May 2-4, 2008, Phoenix Convention Center
- [WOW 2008](#) – May 13-19, 2008 – a show for cloth and polymer doll artists
- [Paradise City](#) – May 23-25, 2008, Northampton, MA
- [Bead & Button Show](#) – June 1-8, 2008, Milwaukee, WI
 - Many [CLAY classes](#) are being offered and some still have seats available.
 - New class just added: **Robert Dancik** will be teaching his faux bone class – [sign up today!](#)
- [American Concern for Artistry and Craftsmanship](#) – Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, New York City, NY; June 14-15, 2008 and June 21-21, 2008
 - Louise Fischer Cozzi, NPCG member, will be exhibiting at the show during the second weekend
- [PMC Conference 2008](#) – July 17-20, 2008, West Lafayette, Indiana
 - Registration has begun for seminars

Happenings

- [Polydelphia! 2008](#) – May 3-4, 2008, Philadelphia, PA
- Western PA Chapter of the PMC Guild – extends an invite to all NPCG members to attend their first meeting at 6:30 p.m. on 5/13/08, Wilkins School Community Center.
 - [directions](#)
 - For other questions, contact wpapmc@gmail.com
- [The Creative Place](#) – hosting many clay and clay-related classes – ongoing
- [Handweaver's Guild of America's Convergence International Fiber Arts Conference](#) – June 22-28, 2008, Tampa, Florida
 - Ellen Marshall will be teaching a 3-day workshop and 1-day studio classes and seminars to introduce polymer to the weaving and fiber community.
- [Art Unraveled](#), art retreat – August 3-10, 2008, Phoenix, Arizona

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](#).

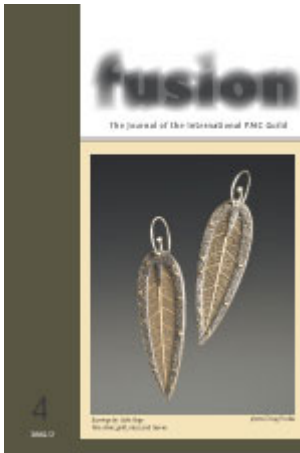
Not sure if there is a local guild near you? Visit the NPCG website to find a [local guild](#) – and to see the [events and classes](#) posted.

Charitable Efforts

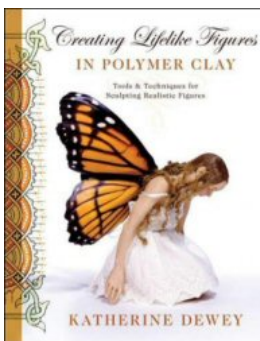
You can help to make a difference! Check out the organizations/efforts listed below and consider sharing some of your talent and creativity.

- About [Bead of Courage](#) and [how to help](#)
- About ["Heats for Heroes"](#) and [how to help](#)

In the world of Polymer



Cindy Silas – profiled in *Fusion*, The Journal of the International PMC Guild



Katherine Dewey's book – *Creating Lifelike Figures*, will be rereleased by Watson-Guptill, soon!



Meredith Arnold was interviewed for the Indie Arts DVD Magazine. For more information visit the article posted on the [NPCG website](#).

This is the space for you! Be sure to drop us a note for consideration in the next NPCN letter; deadline May 22, 2008.

Guild News

The **Israeli Guild** is working on a project, collecting handmade polymer butterflies to be sent to the Holocaust museum in Houston. All butterflies will be featured on the Israeli Guild website as the butterflies begin arriving. You can read more about the butterfly project on the [Holocaust Museum's website](#).

The Orlando Area Polymer Clay Guild hosted its annual Clay Fandango. Barbara Forbes-Lyons shared a bit of what went on during that wild weekend – you can read more about it on the [NPCG website](#).

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](http://PolymerClayTV.com)