

Welcome to the January 2008 *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. 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!"

Registration is hitting a new high and Seminars are filling fast – 10 have **SOLD OUT!** If you haven't done so already, register NOW for the seminars you want to attend.

Here is the list of those nearing capacity:

- A Teacher's Quandary
- Natural Wonders
- Beyond the Blend
- Creative Sparks
- The Mystery of Pricing
- Unconventional Polymer
- Establishing your own Polymer Clay Business

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

There is more to Synergy than just the seminars...

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a TV Craft Diva? Find out first hand from the Queen of Crafts herself, Miss Carol Duvall. The Synergy Conference will host Miss Duvall On Friday February, 22 2008, when she delivers her address "Television, Polymer and Me."

Keeping with Synergy's theme of 'Moving Forward/ Looking Back,' Carol will update us on what she is working on now and what the future holds. Questions from the audience will be welcomed at the end of Carol's presentation. And the best part of all is admission to Carol Duvall's presentation is free to all Synergy attendees.

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 for you, so you can shop and learn at your convenience.

Synergy Gallery

The Synergy Gallery is a wonderful opportunity for conference attendees to show their work and earn some money! *We have a hunch this will also be a great place to SHOP!*

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.

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 through 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 the auction proceeds will go to a worthwhile charitable organization as well as to the NPCG. Details will be provided to all Synergy registered attendees.

Interactive “Looking Back” Exhibit

Have a memory or picture from a Local or National Guild function? Is there a date that sticks out in your mind when something amazing happened in the world of polymer? Bring your mementos and/or memories with you and add them to the “Synergy Looking Back Interactive Exhibit.”

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
McClellan, VA 22101

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

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!

ELECTIONS

The polls are closed ~THANKS to everyone who took the time to vote.

Here are the results of the NPCG Biennial Election:

- Vice President, Membership ~ **Gayle Thompson**
- Corresponding Secretary ~ **Wandy Dilan**
- Webmaster ~ **Barbara Forbes-Lyons**
- PolyInformer Editor ~ **Julie Picarello**
- Member At Large from Virginia ~ **Cindy Silas**

Many thanks to these individuals for their commitment to the polymer community, and their willingness to devote time and effort in support of the National Polymer Clay Guild. Please join us in welcoming these new & returning members of the board!

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 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

Bottles of Hope Designer Challenge – The deadline for submitting an application to receive a bottle kit has passed, entries are still being accepted as long as you follow the guidelines outlined in the [entry form](#).

[Polymer Clay Mask Book call for entries](#) – entries due January 15, 2008

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 January 23, 2008. Submit all information to: 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 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 – 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

Events and Happenings

Events

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

[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.

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

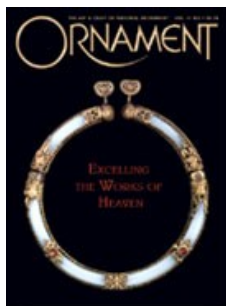
You can help to make a difference! Check out the organizations/efforts listed below and consider sharing some of your talent and creativity.

- [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](#)

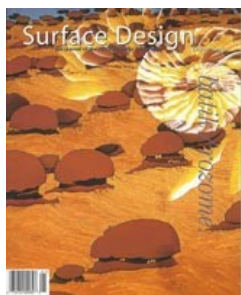
Publishing

Help bring awareness to great polymer art – contribute a project or article to a magazine – today!

A sampling of magazines with online submission guidelines



Magazines 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 January 23, 2008.

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

Local 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

[Polymeri Online](#)

[Kathleen Dustin](#)

[Grant Diffendaffer](#)

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

[Imagine Uncommon Things](#)

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.