

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 – Education and Outreach
- Treasurer
- Guild Liaison
- Recording Secretary

Please visit the [NPCG website](#) for details on the responsibilities for each executive position.

If you are interested in running for election, please contact [Julie Picarello](#) via e-mail.

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 design 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 Member's-Only download area.

Call for Entries

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

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.

Lark Books seeks images to publish in a juried collection on international studio jewelry. Each piece must prominently feature plastic. “We wish to showcase a wide range of techniques – from low tech to inventive repurposing to computer assisted rapid prototyping – and diverse materials, including acrylic, latex, epoxy resin, rubber, nylon, thermoplastics, and photopolymers. All jewelry forms, such as rings, earrings, bracelets, brooches, necklaces, and pendants, will be considered, and all designs styles, from camp to couture, are welcome.”

500 Plastic Jewelry – Juror: Susan Kasson-Sloan; Deadline: July 1, 2008.

For more details and guidelines visit: <http://www.larkbooks.com/submissions/artist-submissions>

Award/Contest Announcements

Awards

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

Events and Happenings

Events

- [Bead & Button Show](#) – June 1-8, 2008, Milwaukee, WI
 - Many [CLAY classes](#) are being offered and some still have seats available.
 - There are many polymer artists and instructors attending and teaching at the show, including: Lisa Pavelka, Barbara McGuire, Marla Frankenberg, Lynne Ann Schwarzenberg, Janet Pitcher, Pam & Heather Wynn, Grant Diffendaffer, Christi Friesen, Diane Villano, Kim O'Neil, and Patti Kimle.
 - Bead Dreams winners will be announced June 7.
 - NPCG will be staffing a booth in the foyer outside the Marketplace on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday and demos will be presented each day. Beth Ackley, founder of the Metro Milwaukee Polymer Clay Guild is organizing the NPCG booth – many thanks to her! Be sure to stop by and say HI!
 - **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

- [Art & Soul Retreat](#) – June 1-8, Pienza, Italy
- [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.
- Spanish Polymer Group – July 5-6, Madrid, Spain
 - Hosting Louise Fischer-Cozzi
- Art of Polymer 4 – July 20-26, Stressa, Lago Maggiore, Italy
 - Louise Fischer-Cozzi and Victoria Hughes workshop.
Contact Louise for more information at: www.louisefischercozzi.com/pages/stressa.htm
- [Clay ConneCTion](#) – July 25-27, New London, Connecticut
- [Euro Clay Carnival](#) – August 1-3, Ilkeston Town FC
 - Donna Kato, Judy Belcher, Leslie Blackford, Sue Kelsey, Carol Blackburn, Alison Gallant, Natalia Garcia de Leaniz, Kim Cavender, and Cathy Johnston will each be teaching a workshop
- [Art Unraveled](#), art retreat – August 3-10, Phoenix, Arizona
- [Fall Foliage Clay Festival](#) – September 2-5, Wassau, Wisconsin
 - POLYinforMER editor Julie Picarello, among many other talented polymer artists will be holding workshops during the festival
- [Art & Soul Retreat](#) – October 1-6, Portland, Oregon
- [Pittsburgh Guild Retreat](#) – October 17-19, Prospect, PA

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.

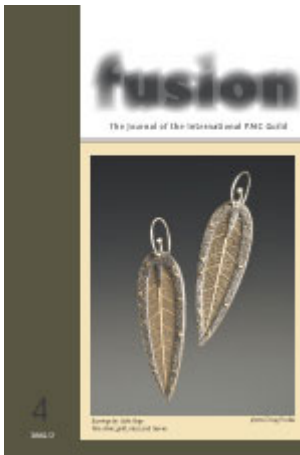
Charitable Efforts

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

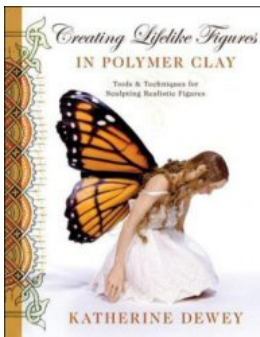
- [A Little Something](#) – helping refugee women achieve self-sufficiency through the beauty of handmade art
- About [Bead of Courage](#) and [how to help](#)
- About [“Heats for Heroes”](#) and [how to help](#)

In the world of Polymer

Update for **Premo** users – Polyform has listened to the many complaints regarding the recent reformulation (too soft, needs lots of leaching) and has committed to working on an improved formulation. They will be sending out new samples as soon as they are available to all those who contacted them with their concerns.



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



Katherine Dewey's book – *Creating Lifelike Figures*, will be rereleased by Watson-Guption, 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 June 22, 2008.

Guild News

- The Holocaust Museum Houston is sponsoring a butterfly project to honor the children who perished in the Holocaust. The **Israeli Guild** is collecting handmade polymer butterflies to be sent to the Holocaust museum. 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](#).
- In **Baton Rouge, LA** there is a group of people who would like to start a guild or clay group. For anyone who would like to join them and exchange ideas on polymer clay, please contact Pam Sherburne at sherburne8@cox.net or Jane Olson-Phillips at janeobeads@cox.net.

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](#) – hosting Master Class online workshops as well as podcasts - hosted by Alison Lee – download artist interviews for use on your iPod

[Polymer Clay TV.com](#)

[That Creative Place](#) – hosting online classes

[Doll Street Dreamers](#) – online sculpting lessons