



# American Kumihimo Society

Adrienne Gaskell, President

Vol 1, No. 3, June 2017



## *Rebecca Combs's Creative Closures Class begins July 11!*

Do you create beautiful braids but need some

creative tips on how to end them? Rebecca Ann Combs, author of two best-selling kumihimo books, "Kumihimo Basics & Beyond," and "Kumihimo Jewelry Simplified" will be teaching this month's Braider's Dozen on-line class. Rebecca is a well-respected instructor who has over 20 years of teaching experience. Creative Closures will explore a variety of methods to expand your kumihimo finishing techniques beyond just "glue and go" end caps. The course is divided into three weekly modules, wirewrapped ends, transitioning to a clasp or tassel using a decorative knot, and button and loop closures. There will be live video demonstrations, as well as a private facebookpage to share your work and to get your questions answered.

Watch the AKS Website for registration! This no-cost class is available to AKS members only.

[Sign up quickly!](#)



## *"KUMISTA OF THE MONTH"*

**Susan  
Basch**

Many of us came to kumihimo through an exploration of beads and jewelry making. Susan Basch, a retired school teacher living in the Hudson Valley of New York State, began her kumi passion through the world of fiber and a love of color and texture. She was a dyer, spinner and feltmaker who loved creating for her small business of Handknit and Felt Designs. In the 90's, she belonged to a women's artist group where she met a braider. She was reluctant, but in 1996 she couldn't resist and took a class with Rodrick Owen and was enamored. She studied Catherine Martin's book on Japanese Silk Braiding and has been an avid kumista (braider) ever since!

What followed was an exploration of metals, gems and other media to combine with braids to create one-of-a-kind works of art and jewelry. Always on the move and always working with new fibers including silk, cotton and bamboo and colors (Susan has a dye garden and finds joy in dyeing her own threads!), she is recently obsessed with the square plate and has created more than 50 zigzags that are just waiting to be transformed! She finds kumihimo fun and therapeutic. Although she does

**AKS Gathering October 19-22, 2017  
Projects! Technique! Theory!  
Marudai! Square Plate! Foam Disk!**



Only three more months before the AKS Gathering opens its doors! The AKS Gathering, October 19-22, in Tampa FL, will feature four "headliner" teachers – Makiko Tado, Jacqui Carey, Giovanna Imperia and Adrienne Gaskell. Other well-known teachers will also be teaching new and innovative kumihimo projects and techniques. (Click [here](#) for full program).

Classes are varied and geared towards all levels of braiders -- beginners, intermediate and advanced kumistas. If you are a marudai or disc user and you want to learn the square plate, sign up for Makiko Tado's Square Plate Class or Bob Gallivan's class on Andean Braiding. If you are new to the marudai or just want to try it, Rosalie Nielson and Carol Franklin are both teaching introductory marudai courses (brand new marudai users can rent equipment on a first-come, first-served basis). Or, if you primarily use the foam disk, many classes will teach on both the marudai and the disk: Giovanna Imperia's "Thick and Thin Necklace" and Diane Miglionico-Shiraishi's "Aubergine with Lentil" necklace will be taught on both tools. There will also be Flat Braids, Round Braids, Zig Zag Braids, Andean Braids and Continuous Beaded Braids! There is something for everyone!

There will be morning lectures and evening marathons for braiding together and sharing experiences and knowledge. And last, but not least, will be a not-to-be missed evening devoted to meeting all of the teachers to see their latest designs and techniques for inspiration. Teachers will have kits, cords, threads, clasps and other goodies available for purchase. ***It will be a Braider's Blast!***

sell some of her work and it is regularly displayed in a local gallery, Susan finds the journey and the joy of experimentation and play satisfying.

Susan will be teaching how to dye fibers and threads with natural dyes for the AKS Braiders Dozen series at the end of 2017.

You can find Susan's website [here](#).

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### **Kumihimo "Tip" - Add a "donut" to your Marudai!**



For continuous beaded braid (CBB) makers, warps often slip on the mirror and it can be easy to "lose your place."

In Adrienne Gaskell's CBB class, braiders learned to make a donut-shaped mat from a rug gripper mat (available in hardware and other home goods stores) to fit on the mirror of the marudai. The donut-shaped mat will grip the warps so that they don't slip while braiding. This can also be done with strips of grip pad that is slightly sticky on one side.

This ingenious idea came from one of the amazing Jacqui Carey's books and is also featured in this month's Bead and Button Magazine. So go ahead and enjoy this donut - no guilt - no calories!

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***WELCOME to our new Newsletter  
Readers! Glad to have you on board!***

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***Shout Out: Braiders coming to the AKS Gathering. start planning your lanyard (braided we hope!) to attach your name badge! More info in the next newsletter!***

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## ***Kumihimo Storms Bead and Button!***

Clockwise: 1) Carol and Bobbie Benner showoff five completed kumihimo projects - "Rings in Vogue", "Haute Couture" and "Walk on the Wildsid" taught by Adrienne Gaskell, "7-Strand Braided Flower Royale" by Stephanie Eddy and "Mermaid Necklac"e by Yin Guang. 2) Jane Peterson and Bob Galivan at the AKS Booth. 3) A sparkly new clasp debuted at the show and was available for purchase by several teachers. 4) Adrienne Gaskell and her "newbie madurai-student" in a Fundamentals Class.



**Many thanks to all who stopped by the AKS Booth at the Bead and Button Show! It was the first year for our display and it was amazing to see the interest and growing enthusiasm for kumihimo! We sold AKS chopsticks (braid stabilizer for braids on the marudai) and AKS pins and collected several new memberships as well as interested folks to receive the newsletter.**

**We had a marudai set up and many newbies tried it out with great success! Special thanks to all the AKS volunteers who donated their time, energy and passion!**

**The Kumihimo classes were all well-attended and students were happy with completed – or almost completed - projects. Master Class students wowed the crowd wearing their “Walk on the Wild Side” necklaces. And, a major hit was a new sparkly endcap clasp that was sold by several teachers. These are available on the kumi teachers' websites.**

[AKS Website](#)

To join the American Kumihimo Society, please go the website!

Newsletter Editors: [Carol Benner](#) and [Debbie Mutter](#)  
Please send contributions and comments to us!