



American Kumihimo Society

Adrienne Gaskell, President

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Shirley Berlin's Class begins August 7, 2017!

Shirley Berlin's AKS Braider's Dozen Class, Thick

and Thin Braids, begins August 7. She will be creating various patterns by using a variety of thicknesses or textures of thread in the same braid. The braids can be created on both the disc and/or the marudai. Some of the threads include knitting cotton, cotton perle, embroidery floss, and ribbon. One project will use different sized beads. Shirley will be teaching several different kumihimo structures, starting with a straw-plaiting pattern, and the increasingly popular Fill-the-Gap braid.

Shirley is passionate about "narrow wares" – all sorts of cords, braids, and bands. She loves to get other people excited about new techniques. Shirley explains, "The very fun advantage of working in a group is being able to compare results, using the threads each of us has on hand or has access to."

Shirley has been braiding since 1984 when Kumihimo arrived in England with Rodrick Owen and Catherine Martin. She is currently the chairperson of The Braid Society and has written several booklets and books including The Red Book, The Green Book and The Flat Braid Book (with Freda Robinson) and 60 Sensational Samples (with Carol Goodwin).

Registration is now open for this class. Log in to the [AKS Website](#), and go to the Thick and Thin info page. This no-cost class is available to AKS

Create your own lanyard for The AKS Gathering!



Are you coming to the AKS Gathering? How about creating your very own and unique lanyard to hold your badge! Examples are all over the web. Make your favorite braid in your favorite colors and show it off. Just google "Kumihimo Lanyard" for lots of ideas. Jane Peterson has a limited number of findings as shown in her lanyard above. You can [email Jane Peterson](#) for information. Her lanyard is Edu-Yatsu.

AKS Members: Want to meet and braid with others in your area? We are working on an AKS Member Directory so you can find other braiders in your area! Please update your member profile on the AKS website. Log in to the [AKS website](#), click on Members Only and then go to My Profile.



Kumihimo Study Groups

Kumihimo Study Groups are popping up everywhere! AKS member Diana Miglionico Shiraishi and her fellow kumistas have started the Northern California Area Kumihimo Study Group. At the first gathering, a diverse group of eleven attended. Many of these braiders met each other for the first time.

members only.



September Braider's Dozen Class - "From Disc to 'Dai'"

Are you on the fence about transitioning from the foam disc to the marudai? This class is for you. Carol Benner, an intermediate kumista, will lead a discussion on the pros and cons of each and why you may choose one method over the other. Carol says "Both tools are great. What you choose depends on what you want to do."

Remember: classes are only open to AKS members. Join AKS now to take this free class.

Kumi TIP *Gluing Clasps*



Finding glue-in clasps that fit the exact diameter of a braid can be difficult. A simple solution is to use 2-part epoxy. It forms a secure bond between the clasp and the braid even when there is a small amount of empty space in the clasp end. Wrap the clasp in blue painter's tape prior to gluing to eliminate any excess space inside the clasp and prevent getting glue on the outside of the clasp. Use gravity and "third-hand tweezers" to hold the end of the braid to eliminate glue from oozing out of the clasp. For more information on Adrienne Gaskell's failsafe technique, click [here](#).

After introductions and organizational planning, braiders showed off their work. Several kumistas brought their marudai. Sherri Hodnefield said "It's going to be exciting to see the joy on the faces of those who use a disk as they learn the marudai!!!" We hope to build a wonderful kumihimo community in northern California!! For information on the Northern CA Group, click [here](#).

We've also heard of an informal braiding group in Truckee, CA led by Karen Huntoon of *What A Braid*. For info on this group, go to [Karen's website](#) and sign up for the newsletter.

If you know of other braiding groups, let us know and we'll help publicize them!



**AKS
Gathering
October
20-22,
2017**

Have you registered yet? It's going to be a blast with lots of kumistas, old friends, new friends, great teachers, fabulous threads and supplies to buy, lots of sharing, all in one place!

Hurry and register before all of the classes are closed! [More information and registration here](#).

Have you joined the American Kumihimo Society yet? What do members say?

"It's a deal! I take classes for free that would normally cost hundreds of dollars! We're having our first ever Kumihimo-Only Gathering! I love the people. It's a real community!"

"The American Kumihimo Society is for everyone whois looking for a sense of community within their interest in kumihimo. That is what it has offered me. The resources and opportunity to learnand have a deeper understanding of this beautiful artisanal handicraft is beingmade possible by a very devoted group of skillful people with a wide range ofexpertise. The range of free on-line courses through the AKS is diverse andteaches so much more than technique. "

"Kumihimo is the hottest new technique! Did you see all those classes at Bead and Button? The AKS brings it all together! There are resources, classes, a newsletter, teachers, study groups and now, a special Gathering! I love it!"

To join the American Kumihimo Society, click [here](#)

AKS Website

Newsletter Editors: [Carol Benner](#) and [Debbie Mutter](#)

Please send contributions and comments to us
