



AKS Newsletter

What's happening in the World of Braiding

For Additional Information, Visit the AKS Website



AKS Gathering - Early Registration Discount Available for Two More Days - Until Midnight May 8, 2018



Registration for the AKS Gathering has been great and we have surpassed last year's number of participants. Registration is open to the public on May 8th and there are plenty of excellent classes at all skill levels still available. In addition to classes taught by

the best of the best, we have new events this year:

- Vendors Marketplace, great chance to stock up on Kumihimo supplies,
- Meet the Teachers Reception with demonstrations, food, drinks and raffle (last year's grand prize was a marudai!),
- Origami Class and lesson including the story of the significance of the origami crane in Japanese culture,
- Pre-conference Field Trip to the Dali Museum & Lunch on the Beach,
- Lanyard Challenge complete with prizes,
- Time to network, share and socialize with braiding enthusiasts from all over the country.
- Don't miss out! Time is limited! [Click Here to Register](#)

AKS Gathering fee includes: 3 days of classes, lunch on class days, and morning presentations.

- \$550 until midnight May 8th
- All can take advantage of the discounted fee.
- \$625 May 9th
 - \$230 Single Day Pass, (1-day class & lunch) Registration opens September 2nd

Due to Braids 2019 being held next October in Japan, the next AKS Gathering will be in the fall of 2020.

Sami-Inspired Bracelets by Katherine Buenger

What are those bracelets seen on the wrists of Benedict Cumberbatch, Usher, Sheryl Crow, and Dennis Quaid? They are Sami bracelets made by SwedArt. They have become quite popular and are also fun to make.

Katherine Buenger, a first-time teacher at the AKS Gathering, will be teaching three Sami-braiding classes. When it comes to fiber-arts, Katherine is indeed multi-talented. She enjoys weaving, spinning, kumihimo, ply-split braiding, and braiding with Sami tin thread. A well-known and respected teacher in the Midwest, she is looking forward to coming to Florida to share her knowledge and the techniques for Sami-inspired jewelry.

To see or register for Katherine's classes, click [here](#).

To read more about the origin of these bracelets read [Katherine's blog entry](#).



Giovanna Imperia Returns to Teach Compound Braids and Other Techniques at Gathering 2018



Giovanna Imperia taught at AKS Gathering 2017 and will be back to teach at AKS Gathering 2018. She will be reprising her Compound Braid Class, originally presented through the AKS Braiders Dozen series. Compound braids occur when two individual braid structures are constructed on the marudai in a specified order. The result is magic!

Picture: In the left braid, the blue represents eight elements and the Edo Yatsu braid structure. Red represents eight elements and the Maru-Genji braid structure. Each braid is constructed separately, but alternately and around the other. In other words, these are two eight-element braids combined into one.

The right braid is two sequences of Edo Yatsu followed by one sequence of Kusari Kaku Yatsu. Once you get the hang of it, compound braids are not difficult, a lot of fun and have a lot of design possibilities. For example, add beads or use different fiber thicknesses or textures to create complex braids.

Read more about Giovanna and her classes [here](#).
To see or register for Giovanna's classes, click [here](#).

"Kumihimo With Beads" Top Jewelry-Making Technique

Facet, a Kalmbach Media website designed to help jewelry makers create jewelry, conducted a survey to determine the most popular jewelry technique; no surprise to us, Kumihimo With Beads was the first place winner!

To celebrate the win, *Facet* is and will be focusing on Kumihimo projects and articles over the next several months. There are currently several projects available on the website by



[Read more](#)



Request for Help at Bead and Button AKS Booth

We need your help! Please sign up for an hour or two at the AKS Booth at the Bead and Button Show. You are guaranteed to spend some fun time with other AKS members while spreading the word about AKS to all the kumihimo enthusiasts at the show. Contact [Barb Gores](#) AKS Volunteer Coordinator.

AKS Website is Getting a Facelift!

AKS is excited to announce that we are currently working with a professional web designer to bring you a new and improved website. Much is happening behind the scenes and many are working hard to get it up and running by the end of June. The new site will feature a more user friendly platform with creative graphics. The highest priority item for the web team is to make the site easy to navigate; we want you to know where to go to find exactly what you are looking for. We also think it is important that the website is accessible across all platforms; cellphones, tablets, and computers. There is still a lot to do, but we've had a sneak peak and it's looking good!



Braid About #2 with Carolyn Haushalter

As soon as the new site is launched, the much anticipated Braid About #2 with Carolyn Haushalter will start. The Braid About will be free to all current AKS members and it will quickly be followed by other free-to-members classes. All classes will be hosted on the website rather than Facebook.

Have you liked the AKS Facebook Page?



Special thanks to Beth Hardy, AKS Social Media Coordinator, for keeping us up-to-date on all things kumihimo. Visit the [AKS Facebook Page](#) to read Beth's daily postings! There is so much useful and interesting information!

Fun Stuff: Learning from the Master!



Recently, several AKS members traveled to Red Stone Glen in Pennsylvania to study with Rodrick Owen, master of all things braids. The room was filled with Dai -- Marudai, Kakudai, Takadai, Ayatakedai, Core Stands, many sample braids and very happy students. Rodrick, now in his 88th year, was the star and shared his many pearls of wisdom!

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