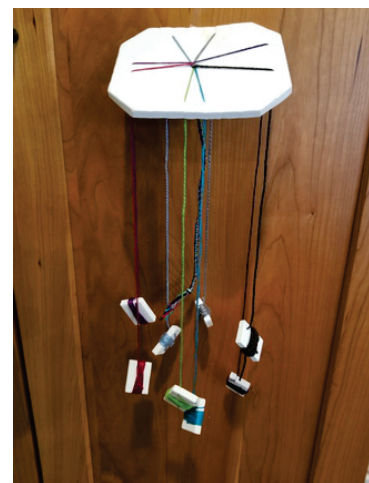


# Holiday Braiding Party

Your \$5 material fee gets you a braiding pad and access to a braiding stand, lots of yarn and ribbon. Some stands will be available to purchase or borrow to take home. More details on the following pages.



## ***Please bring:***

- Sharp Scissors
- Elmer's Glue All or comparable.  
NO washable glue.
- Holiday ribbon/yarn to share
- Large eye tapestry needle
- Small holiday embellishments
- Glasses if you need them

Please let me know if you are coming to the party. Thanks.

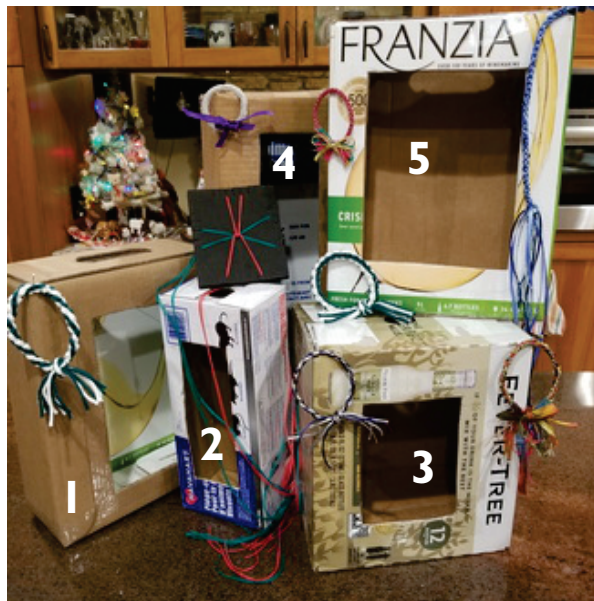
All email should have  
**MWG Kumi** in the subject line  
so I can find it more easily.

Thanks, Pat Bullen



## ***Holiday Party 2025 – Kumihimo Braided Christmas Wreaths*** with Pat Bullen

For our holiday play date on December 15, participants will receive a portable Kumihimo braiding pad (\$5). I will be bringing lots of yarn options for you to use to create 1 or more wreaths or garland segments. We will be using 24-30" lengths of yarn for braiding. Most any yarn will work. Thin and small novelty yarns can be combined with heavier yarns to make braiding more efficient and interesting. Got some Christmassy or other shiny, glitzy yarns, bring 'em on! Any of the braids we will be creating can be done on with the braiding pad. I will also bring several kinds of homemade braiding stands – pictured below – to speed up the process. If you decide to make and bring your own braiding stand – wonderful!! Some of my stands will be available for \$5-\$15. If you want to make/work on a stand, you will need weights and counter-weights. See that section of this handout for more information.



### ***Handmade Braiding Stands***

*Pictured at left: #1&5 are Franzia wine boxes. I prefer to turn them inside out and glue and tape them back together. The most easy is #5. Cut out an opening – Voila! Instant stand #2&4 are long rectangular boxes, also a good choice. #3 is a medium strength box. Avoid flimsy boxes.*

*At right: A Marudai made from a heavy shipping tube with a cut-out made using a band saw. It is glued to a piece of plywood and has 2 discs glued in opposite directions (for strength) and then glued to the top of the tube.*



*The barstool Marudai has a hole in the seat (always a conversation starter).*



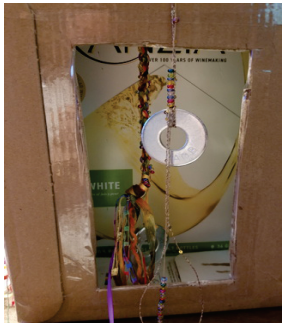
***Marudai (round stand):*** Kumihimo is traditionally done on a round wood stand called a Marudai, such as this one pictured on the back of *“Beginner’s guide to Braiding, The craft of Kumihimo”* by Jacqui Carey. The Woolery has a nice wood Marudai with Tamas (weights) for \$215 + ship. There are more affordable options on the internet but most are very short (less than 12” tall).

***Suitable Beading Stands:*** cardboard boxes, CDs, plastic lids from 3 or 5-gallon buckets, wire frames from lamp shades (preferably straight-sided), disks (from pizza or cakes). The *Vanilla Bean Shop* on Odanna has cardboard and plastic discs from \$1-3 each – most anything you can find or make a stand out of with a smooth hole in the middle large enough for your braid will work just fine for anything you may want to braid. Your braiding stand should have an opening under the top that you can access to adjust your cord/weight as you create your braid. Less than 8” square, tall boxes are some of the best braiding stands. Seal the top and bottom, cut out an access hole top and side, glue a disk with a hole in it to the top.





**To create a Braiding Stand (dai):** Basically you need a box or stand with a smooth top that has a ~1" hole in the center, and a slot or open space under the hole. The dai should be wide and sturdy enough to hold a pound or so of suspended weight. It can be round, square or a smallish rectangle. You will also need access to the cord under the platform as it is braided to check your progress and adjust the counter-weight if needed. The smoother and nicer you can make the openings, the more you will enjoy and use your stand. We made holes with a circular cutter designed for punching holes in leather. You can live with a square or octagonal opening as long as it is smooth. Packing tape goes a long way to making rough edges smooth.



### ***To create a simple Wine Box Braiding Stand:***

**Many wine boxes have smooth, rounded openings in the top and are easy to convert into a dai. Refer to diagrams at the bottom. All dimensions are approximate. For all gluing use real glue (not school glue or hot glue).**

**For the simplest box:** Drink the wine or pour it into another container. Carefully cut out an opening on the wide side of the box with a sharp box knife. Remove the wine bag. Cover the spigot opening with packing tape inside and out. Glue the bottom flaps. Make sure it sits level. Use cans until glue is set (about an hour). Cover the cut and outer edges with packing tape. Done!!

**For a studier box:** Open the wine box at both ends by sliding a butter knife between the outer cardboard layers. Remove the wine bag. If you prefer to have the brown side out, run the butter knife along the join on the side of the box so it opens flat. Place the box on a cutting board to avoid cutting the surface underneath the box. You can also place a scrap of cardboard or another cutting board inside if needed. While the box is flat, score the access window on the outside section with a box cutter (don't cut all the way through). Cut through the cardboard on the diagonal to create flaps.

Fold the window flaps to the inside and crease them with the handle end of the butter knife. Run a generous bead of glue (1/16-1/8" wide) near (1/4 to 1/2") all edges of the cardboard flaps. Glue flaps in place. Clamp the flaps and allow them to dry 1 hour or more. Use packing tape to seal the flaps to the inner box side. Align the long, skinny, flap down on the inside and then flatten the seam where it is joined. Glue and tape it into position. Allow to dry. Put heavy weight on the seam (canned goods make good weights). Use the scrap piece of cardboard and glue the spigot opening shut from the inside to firm up the side wall. After drying, reassemble and close/glue the end flaps using more glue and packing tape to keep the seams square and in place. Use weights again until glue is set. Voila!! A much sturdier braiding stand. You can always make a sturdier version after you fall in love with Kumihimo.

*SCRAP can be used to cover the spigot hole. You can make these same cuts without flattening the box but it is more difficult.*



## Now that you have your braiding stand you need weights

I mentioned you need a stand that will hold ~ a pound of weight. You may wonder why? It's because when you braid on a stand you need weights to keep the strands taut with even tension. You also need a counter weight on the braided cord so the braid will advance and get longer. This frees up your hands for controlling the braid. You will need ~20-30 gr per thread unit with finer warp; ~30-40 or more for heavier warp/beads; and 50gr or more for really heavy/bead warps.

**Weights/Bobbins for your 8 strands:** I like heavy duty zinc washers you can find at most hardware stores. They are 1.75" across with a 5/8" inner hole and is about 1/8" thick. It weighs 29 grams. At Home Depot it is their AOB washer. You can get 25 for less than \$10. You can get plastic Kumihimo spools/bobbins from Beadalon (and others) for about \$3/spool. They are great for bead braiding and long cords. They are really nice to work with. You can also use scraps of cardboard with rubber bands to hold a quantity of yarn. I used to use plastic film canisters. You can still find them on-line. B&H Photo had 25 for less than \$10. Diabetic testing sticks come in flip top containers that are a good substitute for the film canisters. Pill bottles and little cloth gift bags also work. You can add coins, metal nuts, gravel, glass flower arrangement beads, marbles, etc. to get the weight you need. If you have a lovely handmade wood Kumihimo stand, you may want Tama weights \$6-\$12 each.

**Counterbalance weight that hangs on your finished braid:** It needs to be about half the combined weight of the warp bobbins. Zinc washers weigh  $29\text{gr} \times 8 = 232\text{gr}/2 = 115\text{gr}$ . If you don't have a pretty drawstring bag to put your weight in, a sock works just fine. What's great about the washers, I just need 3 or 4 for my counter weight. I can tie them together and hang it off my braid with a Lark Knot or Slip Knot – no bag needed. You can also use the washers directly on your strands.

## Please let me know if you are coming to the meeting.

Now that you have an idea of what we are going to do, let me know if you are coming to the meeting to braid so I can plan accordingly. Also let me know if you are bringing a stand to work with. I want everyone to have a stand and a pad. Pads are great to do at a meeting, when you are riding in a car, during intermission at a movie, etc. Think of braiding with the pad like weaving on a table loom. Using a braiding stand is like weaving on a floor loom. Give me a holler if you have questions about making a stand.

Thanks,

**Pat Bullen, [SpinningWitch24@gmail.com](mailto:SpinningWitch24@gmail.com)**

740-625-5554 text or voice (don't leave a msg).

