

## Syllabus *By Michael Yap* *The Dance Director's Corner*

## The art of floor craft

One of the most difficult aspects of being a leader on the dance floor has to be floor craft. Because of its high degree of difficulty, most leaders put off learning and developing this important skill until other basics have been mastered.

In observing many developing dancers over the years, it appears that this is both logical and natural in learning the art of ballroom dancing.

Floor craft is an art within the art of ballroom dancing. It not only involves maneuvering in and around other dancers, it also includes maintaining musicality while avoiding significant contact with those with whom we are sharing the dance floor.

While no one has all of the answers, there are some basic concepts that will help in developing our skills at floor craft. Because of space limitations, I

will address these concepts in a series of articles over the next issues of *Chassé*.

The first concept is: "Know your dance figures." This may sound a bit simplistic, but think about it. The more you know your dance figures, the less you have to think about them. Consequently, more attention can be given to those around you and where they are going, which in turn dictates your next movements.

Knowledge of your dance figures is related to another basic concept: "The complexity of your dance figures decreases in proportion to the number and density of dancers."

In other words, as the floor gets crowded, your dance figures should become less complicated. When the dance floor is empty, feel free to light it up.

## Dis and Dat

*Late registration fees: Last quarter, Friends of Ala Wai stopped registering students after the third week of classes, as a way to minimize disrupting the flow of instruction caused by helping late registering students catch up. Since then the Board of Directors have been asked if it would consider making exceptions on a case-by-base basis. As a compromise and to avoid making such arbitrary exceptions, the Board decided to keep registration open, but to implement a "late fee" of \$5 per student, if individuals register after the third week of classes. It is hoped the late fee will encourage timely registration by all, but still allow those who want to register for classes to do so. Needless to say, the Board encourages all interested students to register or have a friend register for them during the first three weeks of class... With that in mind, Registration and classes for the second quarter of 2009 begin on Wednesday, April 8. The last day to register without the new late fee is April 22 (See Stepping Out calendar on this page)... Performing at a fund raiser for the Waikiki Community Center last February were Friends' instructors **Kim Suenaga** and **Keoki Galas**, who did a hot cha cha cha... Also, performing at IBDI's Inaugural Ball at the PacificBeach Hotel were Friends' board members **Charlotte** and **Edwin Bugarin**, who danced a lively jive... Sadly, since the last issue of *Chassé*, we lost a dear friend in one of our longest and most dedicated members, **Gwen Au**. Regulars at the Palladium all knew Gwen for her enthusiastic love of dancing and cheerful willingness to help others.*

## Stepping Out

### *Highlights of Upcoming Events*

**April 1, '09**, Dance Workshop, Swing Hustle (Begin/Inter.), Debby Borges-Barboza, 7:45-9:15 p.m., Palladium, \$3 members, \$10 nonmembers. Registration 7 p.m.

**April 8**, Registration and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter spring classes begin.\* Beginning Cha Cha, 7-7:40 pm; Begin./Inter. Quick Step, 7:45-8:25 p.m.; Intermediate Rumba, 8:30-9:10 p.m.; Wednesdays, Palladium.

**April 22**, Last day to register without late fee.

**May 13**, Class Social, 7-9:10 p.m., Palladium. Free for members.

**May 23**, *License to Dance*, Fifth Anniversary Ball, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Palladium, \$10 presale, \$15 at the door.

**June 17**, Last day of spring classes.

**June 24**, Potluck, members and guests only, 6:30-9:25 p.m., Palladium.

**July 1**, Dance Workshop.

**July 8**, Registration and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter summer classes begin.\* Beginning Jive, 7-7:40 pm; Begin./Inter. Foxtrot, 7:45-8:25 p.m.; Intermediate Cha Cha, 8:30-9:10 p.m.; Wednesdays, Palladium.

\*Instructors: Michael Yap & Cece Paulmino; Keoki Galas & Kim Suenaga

## Become a Friend *Membership Information*

To become a member of Friends, contact Michael Yap at 286-0328 or Warren Mitsunaga at 754-3980. Annual membership fee is \$5. Members may enroll in our 10-week dance sessions for \$5 (That's only 50 cents per class!). Classes are held Wednesdays, 7 to 9:25 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Ala Wai Golf Course Multi-Purpose Facility (Palladium). Members can also attend quarterly workshops with guest professional instructors for \$3 (\$10, non-members). Friends-sponsored dances at the Palladium are free for members (except for themed or ticketed functions).