

# Syllabus *By Michael Yap* The Art of Floor Craft 2

In the last issue of Chassé, I wrote about knowing your steps and increasing or decreasing the difficulty of the steps depending on the number of dancers on the floor.

In the next few articles, I will describe more techniques to help further develop your skill in floor craft.

The first of these techniques involves developing a signal to your partner that there may be contact with other dancers.

I personally find that lowering my left arm while maintaining the rest of a correct hold is an effective signal to use. The key is to maintain the rest of your frame while this is done.

When it is safe to proceed, a proper dance frame may be resumed. Signals when properly used lead to increased safety for all dancers and a sense of security for the follower who can then concentrate on the art of following.

The second technique is the balance acquired when you dance your step within a group of steps, as opposed to

simply “falling” into individual steps. The longer we are exposed to different levels of dancing the better we become at recognizing this concept.

When we “dance” our steps, each step is isolated with weight transfer to each supporting leg, resulting in increased balance and an ability to react faster to obstacles on the dance floor.

The leader is better able to change direction with minimal disruption of the couple’s frame and composure. The more skillful dancers are able to blend this isolated weight transfer so that it appears seamless, musically entertaining and rhythmically correct.

This technique requires a higher level of commitment of energy, time and, for most dancers, different degrees of professional help.

Yes, this translates to making a more serious investment in your dancing. Of course, as always, these commitments and investments are for you and your partner to decide.

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## Stepping Out Highlights of Upcoming Events

**July 1,** Dance Workshop. Rumba with guest professional instructor Carlos Chang. 7:45-9:15 p.m. Registration 7 p.m. Palladium. Members \$3, non-members \$10.

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

**July 22,** Last day for regular registration for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter summer classes.

**September 23,** 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter summer classes end.

**September 30,** Potluck, members and guests only, 6:30-9:15 p.m., Palladium.

**October 7,** Dance Workshop. Details to be announced.

**October 14,** Registration and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter winter classes begin. Beginning Samba, Beginning/Intermediate Waltz, and Intermediate Jive.

**October 31,** Friends of Ala Wai Halloween Dance. Palladium. Details to follow.

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

## Dis and Dat

**Friends’ recognition.** During its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dance on May 23, the Friends of Ala Wai was recognized by both Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann and the Honolulu City Council for its continuing contributions to the Ala Wai Golf Course Multi-Purpose Facility (The Palladium). In his letter and personal remarks, the Mayor enthusiastically applauded the club’s efforts in supporting ballroom dancing in Hawaii and the Palladium .... **Hanging it up.** The most recent of those contributions include clothes racks for the two dressing rooms/ bathrooms on either side of the stage. In the past, performers at the Palladium had to either hang their costumes and street clothes on chair racks or lay them on the floor.... **Registration and classes** for the third quarter will begin on Wednesday, July 8. Students may also pre-register on Wednesday, June 24 at our potluck and July 1 at the rumba workshop. The last day to register after classes start without incurring a \$5 late fee is July 22 (See the Stepping Out calendar on this page).... Friends may register for friends who are out of town during the normal registration period to avoid late charges, but they must pay the regular fees at the time of registration and the absent students must sign the registration/waiver form upon their return and before beginning classes.... **Simply Boo-tiful.** Looking for a great way to celebrate Halloween this year? Friends of Ala Wai will be hosting a Halloween Dance on Saturday, October 31 at the Palladium. Details will be announced soon, so mark your calendar and start looking for that great costume to wear.

## Become a Friend *Membership Information*

To become a member of Friends, contact us at [www.friendsotalawai.com](http://www.friendsotalawai.com) or 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 per dance (That’s only 50 cents per class). Classes are held Wednesdays, 7 to 9:10 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). For more information, log onto our Website at [www.friendsotalawai.com](http://www.friendsotalawai.com)