

## Syllabus *By Michael Yap* Avoiding collisions

In the previous article on floor craft, I wrote about giving a signal to your partner by lowering your left hand while maintaining your dance frame.

On the other side of the coin, the lady can give a signal to her partner by using the same method.

This would not occur as often because of the lady's head position and limited range of vision. In other words, the gentleman with his greater field of vision will certainly have more opportunities to minimize contact with other dancers.

However, despite the gentleman's primary responsibility of leading, both partners are equally responsible for protecting each other within their field of vision.

Another technique that I like to employ, especially in the standard dances, is leading my partner to a specific spot, which may be occupied at the time.

In most cases, I can lead my partner to that space because the other couple is moving and, more often than not, by



the time you get there, will have moved on. Keep in mind that this is not an absolute rule.

The key words are "in most cases."

There will be situations when the other couple, stops to perform a stationary or line figure. Their dance stride may also be shorter than yours, or they may dance directly into your current path.

Whatever techniques you use, practice them often. It may be as simple as adjusting the size of your dance stride or just stopping to avoid contact. Sometimes, contact is unavoidable and will happen. Your goal is to minimize that contact and protect your partner.

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### Stepping Out *Highlights of Upcoming Events*

**October 7**, Class Social. Open dancing, 6:30-9:10 p.m. Members free. Non-members, \$3. Palladium.

**October 14**, Registration and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter winter classes begin. Beginning Samba, 7-7:40 pm; Beginning/Intermediate Waltz, 7:45-8:25pm; and Intermediate Jive, 8:30-9:10 pm. Wednesdays, Palladium.\*

**October 31**, Friends of Ala Wai Halloween Dance, Palladium, 6:30-9:30 p.m., admission is \$3 at the door. Costume contest with cash prizes.

**November 18**, Class Social. Open dancing, 6:30-9:10 p.m. Members free. Non-members, \$3. Palladium.

**December 30**, potluck, 6:30 p.m., Palladium. Members and guests only. Free for members who bring a dish. \$3 for members and guests without a dish.

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

## Dis and Dat

**Getting social.** With the Star Ball taking place during the first full week of October, many instructors will be busy getting themselves and their students ready for competition. Consequently, the dance workshop scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, has been canceled. A club social will be held in its place with open dancing for students to practice their latest steps. Admission is free to members (\$3 for non-members)....

**Señor Samba.** Looking sharp at the Palladium during Gardenia Circle's Grand Ball were Friends' board members **Charlotte** and **Edwin Bugarin** who performed a sassy samba during the mock competition's break.... **Begin the Beguine.** Classes for the fourth quarter start on Wednesday, October 14, and will include beginning samba, beginning/intermediate waltz and intermediate jive. Registration starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Palladium (See calendar). Students can also pre-register on Wednesday, September 30, during the third-quarter potluck (Starts 6:30 p.m.). Just a friendly reminder that a late registration fee will be imposed for those registering after the three-week open registration period (after October 28)... **Rocky Horror?** No, it's just Halloween, and that means Friends' Halloween Dance at the Palladium on Saturday, Oct. 31. Ghouls, goblins, costume contest and cash prizes. Come prepared... **Parting mahalos.** With this the last newsletter of the year, the Friends of Ala Wai Board of Directors would like to say thank you to all of our students and members who enthusiastically supported Friends in 2009.

## Become a Friend *Membership Information*

To become a member of Friends, contact us at [www.friendsofalawai.com](http://www.friendsofalawai.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.friendsofalawai.com](http://www.friendsofalawai.com)