

Friends 'Bond' at Chang showcase



—Derek Kam photo

By Warren Mitsunaga President

On March 20, Carlos Chang, Honolulu professional dancer/instructor and a contestant in this year's "So You Think You Can Dance" reality television series, presented his annual student showcase at the Sheraton Waikiki. The Friends' Board was asked to perform its "James Bond" Latin formation, a group dance that the Board performed during our 2009 Anniversary Ball. With some initial

hesitation, the Board agreed to do the showcase as a way to promote the club and saw the event as a good venue to advertise its classes to a broad audience. As it turned out, the showcase and the Board's performance were both very well received, and I would like to thank the Board members for the time and effort it took to prepare for the showcase.

They did the club proud and I believe elevated its stature in the local dance community. Outstanding!

Stepping Out Highlights of Upcoming Events

March 31, Potluck, 6:30 p.m., Palladium. Members and guests only. Free for members who bring a dish. \$3 each for members and guests without a dish.

April 7, Rumba workshop with guest professional instructor Carlos Chang, 7 p.m. registration, 7:45-9:15 p.m. workshop. Members \$3, non-members \$10. Palladium.

April 14, Start of second-quarter classes. Beginning cha cha, 7-7:40 p.m.; Beginning/Intermediate Quickstep, 7:45-8:25 p.m.; and Intermediate Rumba, 8:30-9:10 p.m. Classes held Wednesdays, Palladium.*

May 29, Friends of Ala Wai Anniversary Ball, "Happy Days!" 5:15-9:15 p.m., Palladium, \$10 presale, includes bento.

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

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*How time flies! It seems that we just put away the decorations for the Friends' 5th Anniversary Ball, and here we are already talking about the 6th Anniversary. But it's never too early to mark your calendars for this colorful annual event, which takes place on Saturday, May 29, at the Palladium. The theme this year will be a '50s style "Happy Days." Where'd you put those bobby socks and poodle skirts? ... Got rumba? Professional Latin dance instructor **Carlos Chang** returns to conduct an international rumba workshop on Wednesday, April 7... Speaking of Carlos, in addition to the Friends' Board of Directors, Board members **Kim Suenaga and Keoki Galas and Charlotte and Edwin Bugarin**, Friends members **Terie Nakayama and Janet Liu** performed solo dances at Carlos Chang's showcase, "Emotions the Power of Dance" (See adjacent article on this page). Kim and Keoki entertained the audience with a sassy samba and Charlotte and Edwin sizzled with a hot cha cha. Congrats to all for a great job... **When they say the gates will close at 10:30 p.m., they literally mean it. For those who are not aware, for security reasons, the Palladium parking lot will be chained and closed after 10:30 p.m. So if you're talking story in the parking lot after Wednesday's classes be forewarned that you will be locked in until the next morning if you aren't mindful of the time.***

Become a Friend Membership Information

To become a member of Friends, contact us at 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., 2nd 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