

# Chassé

The Newsletter of Friends of Ala Wai Ballroom Dance Academy

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## Furlough Fridays

### Providing a pause for reflection

By Warren Mitsunaga, President

With so much talk about Furlough Fridays and the impact the City's budget will have on ballroom dancers using the Palladium, my first reaction was to question whether there was some other place the City could cut to balance the budget.

After all, the Palladium does serve seniors, one of the fastest growing demographic segments of our population, by providing them with a place to socialize and to keep healthy and fit. In addition, many of the ballroom dance clubs actively support the operation of the Palladium by making regular donations toward its upkeep and maintenance.

In fact, supporting the Palladium is part of our club's mission statement and one of the primary reasons why it was founded.

But the unfortunate fact is that there is not much we can do to influence the financial condition of the City. And in light of more pressing needs, it is tough to argue for redirecting funds from other departments that are responsible for our safety and for providing emergency and other first responder services.

If there is a silver lining in this

temporary schedule reduction, it is a growing appreciation for what we often take for granted. For many ballroom dancers, the Palladium has become a second home, a place to meet friends and to share our passion for dance—a place that's always there.

It is unique in many ways: in the private-public partnership that created it, in its shared use among many different community groups, and in its sheer size and versatility.

Many of us who have traveled and sought out a place to ballroom dance on the Mainland know just how unique the Palladium really is. Many from the Mainland have responded in similar fashion.

The Palladium is a gem and a wonderful resource not to be taken for granted. So on the coming Furlough Fridays, among the things that I will be doing to fill in the void will be to give thanks for the Palladium and everyone who has had a hand in ensuring that the facility continues to serve our dance community. At the same time, the Friends of Ala Wai will do our part in supporting the Palladium in any way that we can.



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#### Summer Classes start July 14

Third-quarter classes will begin on Wednesday, July 14, 2010. The classes will include Beginning Jive, from 7-7:40 p.m. Beginning/Intermediate Foxtrot follows from 7:45-8:25 p.m., and Intermediate Cha Cha, from 8:30-9:10 p.m. Classes are held every Wednesday at the Palladium (2<sup>nd</sup> floor Ala Wai Golf Course Multi-Purpose Facility).