

Welcoming in a new year, new friends

By Warren Mitsunaga
President

Well another year has come to an end, and a new one is just beginning. This past year was a very exciting year for Friends of Ala Wai. We celebrated our fifth anniversary and look forward to continuing to bring you instructive dance classes and workshops and exciting themed dances in the coming year.

We also know that 2009 was a tough year for many of us, as the prolonged recession continues to hit families hard, especially those on fixed incomes.

That's why for 2010, the Board of Directors has decided to hold our membership and other fees right where

they are. It was tempting to raise prices given the increase in costs and other expenses that we face, but we also understand that our members also face those very same challenges. Holding fees down until we see better times is our way of saying thank you for supporting Friends.

In spite of all of that, this past year we were still able to donate two clothes racks to the Palladium dressing rooms, which has been a big hit with all the performers from the different dance organizations.

Again, that was thanks to your continued support and aloha. You're the best! Looking forward to a great 2010,

Warren

Stepping Out Highlights of Upcoming Events

January 6, Cha Cha Dance Workshop with guest professional instructor Carlos Chang, 7 p.m. registration, 7:45-9:10 p.m. workshop. Members \$3. Non-members \$10. Palladium.

January 13, Registration and first-quarter spring classes begin. Beginning Rumba, 7-7:40 pm; Beginning/Intermediate Tango, 7:45-8:25 p.m.; and Intermediate Samba, 8:30-9:10 p.m. Classes held Wednesdays, Palladium.*

January 27, Last day to register for first-quarter classes without late fee.

February 17, Class Social. Open dancing, 6:30-9:10 p.m. Members free. Non-members \$3. Palladium.

March 24, End first-quarter classes.

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, Dance workshop. Details to be announced.

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. Details to be announced.

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

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***Over the shoulder.** Before we say "aloha" to 2009, a mahalo to all of our members and volunteers for supporting our two major functions of the year: Our 5th Anniversary Dance and Halloween Ball. Both were a tremendous success because of your enthusiastic support and participation... **Plenty mahalos** also to member **Ki Wun** who put in a lot of time and energy in helping us transition smoothly to our new Web site. The upkeep of the site involves a lot of work and Ki has been quietly providing this help to Friends for many years now... **Looking ahead.** Latin Professional and instructor **Carlos Chang** returns to conduct another of his popular dance workshops on Wednesday, January 6, featuring the cha cha (See calendar on this page). Carlos performed in the Hawaii State Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* where he was cast in the roles of the Snow King and Cavalier ... **Slow Quick Quick.** Classes for the first quarter of 2010 start on Wednesday, January 13, and will include beginning rumba, beginning/intermediate tango and intermediate samba. Registration starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Palladium (See calendar on this page). Students can also pre-register on Wednesdays, December 30 and January 6, 2010... Just a friendly reminder that a late registration fee will be imposed for those registering after the three-week open registration period (after January 27)... Here's looking toward the New Year and a new decade with great anticipation and expectations. Thanks to all of our members for being a Friend.*

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