



Dancing in the Dark

HBDA Celebrates Its Annual Telemark Ball
by June Kadomoto

Telemark is Hawaii Ballroom Dance Association's core group of valued volunteer staff instructors. They donate time, energy, learning, and knowledge of dancing yearlong for HBDA's various chapters scattered throughout Oahu communities and the outer islands of Maui and Hawaii.

For the past 49 years, Telemark has carried out the mission of enriching the lives of Hawaii's people through ballroom dancing as a healthy and affordable form of recreation. Its teachers offer both the American Social style and the International style dancing syllabi.

Proceeds from the Ball cover administrative and educational costs for the total staff of instructors. Gratefully, 400 plus people bought tickets and supported this fundraising event.

For the opening ceremony, Cora Nieto, retiring 2007 Telemark Queen, and her husband, Richard, danced a beautiful rendition



Paul Billington, Charlene In, Escort John Kotake, Queen Karen Kotake, Diane Yoshida, Joyce Nariyoshi and Eric Miller.

of the waltz, "Today," before the 2008 Queen's entrance and presentation.

Attending the queen in royal ceremony procession were Scepter Bearer, Brendyn Agbayani, Jr.; Crown Bearer, Talia Agbayani; and Junior Princess, Toria Agbayani.

Talented Rotating Instructor Karen Kotake had the honor of being 2008 Telemark Queen. Husband, John Kotake, was her comely escort. Both were elegant: she is her white fitted gown with a wide flare flounce near the bottom and he in a smart, black-tailed tuxedo. They highlighted the evening with their performance of "Treasure Waltz," a spirited Viennese waltz selection which they chose and choreographed together. →

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For the over 30 fun crowd



Junior Princess, Toria Agbayani, Cora Nieto, retiring 2007 queen adjusting Karen's crown and Benny Agbayani is in the background

Their charismatic, colorful, and exciting rendition consisting of many pivot spins, several dramatic leaps and lifts, and dancing intermittently in showy tandem position delighted the audience. Their stage presence was evidently visible from the beginning of their entry onto the floor to their final bows around the dance floor at their finale. This couple is well-noted for their stage performances and stage presence with Jack Cione's Mardi Gras Follies.

Dance Director, Benny Agbayani, crowned the queen. Also honoring the queen was a telemark formation group dancing a routine medley of foxtrot, Viennese waltz,



Well Wishers with John and Karen Kotake samba, and bolero. In addition, three solo dance couples performed: Mike Agor and Marcia Sorbo (mambo); Richard and Lynne Nakamura (waltz-quickstep medley); and Mel Camat and Susan Matsumoto (Rumba-Bolero). Jack Legal supported the Telemark as the well-honed Emcee.

Dance West Oahu

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