

Mel Camat Joins Assistant Dance Directors Team



*M*el Camat, Rotating Instructor in American Social style

dancing for eighteen years, was appointed Assistant Dance Director by HBDA Dance Director Ben Agbayani this past January.

"I am gratified and honored to assist HBDA in this capacity," he said. "Hopefully I will be able to contribute to this program to the best of my ability. Doing choreography, seeing students perform, and enjoying what they have been taught have become memorable, satisfying ballroom moments for me as an instructor."

He started dancing with Pearl City Chapter back in 1985 and was guided and inspired by Chapter instructors, Gordon and Alice Kushimaejo. In 1988, he progressed to Standing Instructor. In 1990, he became a Rotating Instructor with his wife, Sylvia, who is presently deceased. His present teaching partner is Susan Masumoto.

Mel has taken professional ballroom dance lessons from Al Frantz, Peggy Freeman, Carmelo, Kenji Kotozaki, Doug Kessler, Joanne Yasuko, and Aki Sugino.

Camat's personal life involves around his four children and 11 grandchildren. His life work was in the construction industry as an operating engineer working with heavy equipment, developing subdivisions, H1/H3 freeways/Pali and Likelike tunnels. The crowning industrial moment for him was being a crane operator working independently in a tower high in the sky in a restricted space with spectacular views lifting heavy equipment.

Mel has since been in retirement since 2000 and enjoying every minute of it.

Telemark Ball Program

Master of Ceremony

Jack Legal

Message

Paul Billington

2008 Telemark Queen

Karen Kotake and escort John Kotake

Parade of Telemark

Instructors

Vocalist

Solana Higa

Bernadette Pedro

Queen's Court

2009 Telemark Queen

Eve Duque and escort Maury Duque

Crowning Ceremony

Dance Exhibitions

Romeo and Miriam Quemado

Bolero

Albert Lui and Sheu Weng

International Foxtrot

Mike Agor and Marcia Sorbo

Cha Cha

Mel Camat and Susan Masumoto

Tango

Telemark Group Medley

Waltz, Samba, Swing Hustle, Rumba, Cha Cha

Benny Agbayani

Closing Message