

Kaneohe Chapter's Secret for Successful Relationships? . . . Dancing!

by Phyllis Dayao - Photos by Manny Dayao



Ever wonder why there is a first dance at a wedding for the bride and groom? The answer is simple . . . because this dance is one of the couple's first cooperative and joint endeavors. The newlyweds are embarking on their life together and dancing together provides a wonderful medium for a couple to connect with each other.

As the couple dances together, their eyes meet and their bodies are close together. When they dance, they hold and touch one another. Arthur Murray says "Holding, touching, and moving to the music is the most romantic skill any couple can add to their lives."

Taking dance lessons and going out dancing also provides time together for a couple and dancing together requires a couple to work together as a team. When dancing together, a couple has to pay attention to one another and communicate both verbally and non-verbally with one another. Making time to dance together also gives a couple time away from chores, children, their jobs, and the everyday stress in their lives.

Learning to dance is fun, but it's also hard work. It takes commitment to learn, practice, and perfect the moves so that the couple stays together and move as one. One such couple is **Mavis and Rodney Chong**. Mavis' dreams of retirement came a few months earlier than she expected when Rodney accepted a new job in Japan. An engineer with the federal government, Rodney was promoted to a position at Camp Zama, home to the US Army Japan 9th Theater Army Area Command. On June 20, 2008 Mavis and Rodney left Hawaii for Japan where they will live for the next three years. Rodney and Mavis had been dancing with Kaneohe Chapter since

1999. We miss the Chongs, especially as one of the couples in our Anniversary Ball routine, and wish them well as they embark on this new chapter in their lives.



Dancing together as a couple can be challenging. Even more challenging is teaching together. But **Sybil and Les Tawata** and **Theo and Diana Behic**, Kaneohe Chapter's instructors, do it so well, and we would like to thank them for their patience, commitment to learning, and for making our learning fun! They not only have to learn the steps and various aspects of the dances, they also have to learn how to teach a diverse group of students – us! We may not be the best students but we truly have the best instructors in the Tawatats and Behics. They don't get paid and yet they are very supportive and caring. They probably started out like us - to try something new, to enroll in some type of activity that would get them moving around, or to find something that they could do together as a couple. That has since evolved into their dedication for teaching and helping others. Mahalo nui loa to our instructors!

Kaneohe Chapter's newest members are **Eryn and Kevin Yamane** who got married on July 26, 2008. Eryn and Kevin started dancing as an engaged couple to learn how to dance for their wedding, to get into some type of physical activity, and to improve their communication as a couple. Congratulations and best wishes to Eryn and Kevin on their new life together as husband and wife and also as dancers! We hope they will continue as dancers because dancing provides a fun way to develop a successful relationship!