

The Court Circular

“Everyone likes flattery; and when you come to Royalty you should lay it on with a trowel.”

Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield
1804–1881

C N Y

Greetings from H.M.I.S.M. Empress Philomena
Empress of Faith, Hope & Cartier

Dear Subjects:

It is with great pride that I congratulate Brian, Bruce, Richard and all the other staff on this, our very first issue of “The Court Circular.” It has been a dream of theirs — and ours — for a long time, and it is very gratifying to see it come to fruition. As time goes on, I hope that more and more members will become active in submitting articles and offering help where needed. The New York Court is truly a diverse group of men and women in a truly diverse community, and it would be expected that our newsletter reflects what, and whom, we are.

To our new members, and to our returning members, I say “Welcome,” and “Welcome Back.” Being a member of the Court means whatever you make it mean. Please know that we are glad you are here, but, if you want to become more involved in the Court, please do not sit home and wait for the phone to ring — meet us halfway. Even if you have signed up to work on a committee, you know best what you are good at, and where your interests lie. Let us know!

Let us always remember that the mission of the Imperial Court is to raise money to give away to others, and to help others to raise money, and do it with style, dignity and a sense of humor. We have a wonderful new Board (all right, most of them have been around a while — but they are wonderful!) and we are all looking forward with great expectations to this next year. With your help, we can make our Tenth Anniversary year a memorable and successful one!

Best Imperial Regards to All,
Philomena Regina

The Court Circular

The Official Newsletter
of the Imperial Court of New York



61 East 8th Street,
New York, NY 10003
212 • 924-4766

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Contributors

The Executive Board of the Imperial Court of New York meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The General Membership meets on the first Wednesday of each month at The Center, 208 West 13th St. at 8:00pm.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 21
Coronation – Portland, OR
Coronation – Honolulu, HI
Monday, October 23
NYC Gay Men's Chorus at Symphony Space
Saturday, October 28
Halloween Dance at The Center
Sunday, October 29
Halloween Party at MCC

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 4
Coronation – Colorado Springs, CO
Coronation – Tacoma, WA
Sunday, November 5
Brunch at 5 Oaks
Saturday, November 11
Coronation – Modesto, CA
Saturday, November 18
Coronation South Ogden, UT
Monday, November 20
Imperial Command Opera Gala at 5 Oaks
Saturday, November 25
Coronation – Los Angeles, CA

DECEMBER

Friday, December 1
Philomena's Cabaret Show at TriAd (to benefit Tijuana AIDS Project)

COME ONE, COME ALL

"An Imperial Command Gala"

An evening of some of the world's most beautiful music – from Gilbert and Sullivan to Verdi – featuring established voices from the Metropolitan and City Operas, as well as up and coming stars.

This is an evening to support and celebrate the reign of Empress Philomena and the Court of New York.

Monday, November 20, 1995
8pm at the 5 Oaks
49 Grove Street, NYC
\$10. with 2 drink minimum.

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome, H.M.I.S.M. Philomena, President/Princess Panzi, and courtiers all, to the inaugural issue of the Court Circular. By the time the signup sheet reached us at the far end of the Knights'

room last meeting, there was barely enough space left for a fly speck, urged on as we all were by our newly minted president to participate in such a noble project. We nonetheless found a bit of unscrawled-upon margin, and entered our name along with the suggestion "editorial work". We were thrilled to receive a call the next day from the Countess Trompe L'oeil who informed us that we were assigned the dubious distinction of wielding the notorious blue pencil. It is with gratitude that we dedicate ourselves to your service, not to mention your torrents of unreadable prose.

We shall not carry on unduly in this month's historic space; rather, we shall simply ask for your breathless contributions to the Circular. And please, dear hearts, confine yourselves to matters germane to the Imperial Court of New York, its dominion and members only.

We shall exercise editorial privilege by choosing each month one or another lucky courtier for interview in this column, a feature that will doubtless prove of value to blue blood and new blood alike. So, when the editor's blue pencil points to you, bring out the tea service and prepare to at least appear candid. We show no mercy.

We take our leave giving personal thanks to the Imperial Court of New York – especially to Coco, Ron and Billie Ann; to Philomena, and Panzi (with a special nod to Infanta Shonda Lear) – for making us welcome in a situation that not long ago fairly terrified us by its beauty, power and audacity (but more of this anon).

Your Humble Servant
Kay Sera

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Dear ICNY Members,

As we look forward with overwhelming pride and anticipation to celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Imperial Court of New York, it's time to examine the most important element of our organization; you, the members! It is you, the dedicated members, who have made the New York Court the most prestigious philanthropic organization in the City of New York and one of the most honored and respected Courts in the International Court System. While always sophisticated, elegant and glamorous, we are hard workers, committed to the Mission of the Court and

always united. It is as one united organization that we can set goals and reach them, or better yet, exceed them! Our goals can only be achieved by increasing Court membership as well as community awareness. Sponsor a friend and bring them to the next general meeting (November 1st). Enrollment for membership is open until the end of November. The Court and our Community need you. We welcome new members at all levels of participation.

Our first Membership Social for the new year is set for Sunday, November 5, 1995 at Five Oaks (Grove Street) at 1:00 P.M. for brunch. Please join us! I also encourage you to join us and assist the Board of Directors in planning one of the most elegant and outrageous *Night of a Thousand Gowns* in the history of the ICNY as we honor H.M.I.S.M. Philomena on her successful and dignified year. Save the date – April 20, 1996.

With sincerest appreciation,
Johnny Cella
Princess Royale Gianna
Vice President and
Membership Chairman

the evening before the Ball (and the Raffle that night), will be given to POWARS – Pet Owners With AIDS/ARC Resource Services, Inc.

The beneficiaries were selected from a list of non-profit organizations compiled by the membership over the past several months. From this list, the Board narrowed it down to a few, then interviewing the Executive Directors from these organizations. The difficult decision was then made.

Information on all three groups was available at the Meeting, to ensure that all ICNY members might know exactly who and what these organizations are.

OCTOBER'S NEW MEMBERS

We welcome to the Imperial Court of New York the following new members:
Lady Demonica, Lady Elario, Lord Greene, Lady Javid, Lord Killingsworth, Lady Luisa, Lord Matthias, Lord Michael, Lady Tammie Recine, Lady Ta Rah de Boom-de-aye, and Lady Gefil Tefisa

Also in attendance from NYC were Empress VII Coco La Chine, who served as one of the Conference Moderators, and Duchess Swana Swarovski, NYC Board Member and Minister of Protocol.

The conference was quite successful. Representatives from these diverse courts met and actually agreed on many issues. Unity within the International Court System can only enhance our goals of fund raising and national recognition. Throughout the year, we will update you with progress reports. The next Meeting is scheduled during the Rhode Island Coronation on May 18th. While each Court only has two votes, all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

LET'S ASK PHILOMENA

"Advice for the Lovelorn and Others from Empress Philomena"

Dear Philomena: A friend is setting me up on a blind date. Any advice for making a good first impression? Any suggestions? Signed, Eager to Please

Dear Eager: I have had many, many first dates. I will give you the advice that my mother gave me. She said, when you meet a man for the first time, put your best foot forward. That is, if your foot is your best feature. If not, put something else forward.

Dear Philomena: I'm so angry, I can hardly see. Phil, why do men cheat sexually? Isn't there a single, solitary man somewhere in the world, anywhere, who is capable of sexual fidelity? Signed, Doing a Slow Burn.

Dear Slow: No, there isn't. Darling, I believe that men are promiscuous by nature. That doesn't have as much to do with being gay, as it does with just being a man. Sometimes for a man, having sex is just like washing your hands. It doesn't mean any more than that. Weren't you paying attention when you saw "The Women?" It was good advice then, dear, and it's good advice now.

You can write to Philomena with your questions regarding love and romance, or general questions about life in the '90's c/o ICNY, Box 149, 61 East 8th St., NYC 10011.

TIJUANA AIDS PROJECT

On or about World AIDS Day, December 1st, all of the Courts that participated in the East Coast Conference will sponsor local benefits. Proceeds from all of these events will be contributed to the Tijuana AIDS Project. The Health Crisis in this third world region is unimaginable. Our unified efforts will make a difference.

Empress Philomena is producing the New York City event. More information will be forthcoming, but be sure to pen in Friday, December 1st at 10:30 P.M. on your calendar. The benefit will be held at The Triad (formerly Steve McGraw's) on West 72nd Street. Admission will be \$10.00 per person, plus a \$10.00 minimum, which can be used for either food or drink.

NOTIG BENEFICIARIES SELECTED

President Thom Hansen (Panzi) announced last week at the General Membership Meeting that the beneficiaries of *Night of a Thousand Gowns* on April 20, 1996, at the Sheraton Centre have been selected. Proceeds will be equally divided between Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and In The Life, a regularly scheduled, nationally broadcast public television series which introduces the experience of the gay community to the American population. In addition, the funds raised from the Out-Of-Town show

EAST COAST COURT CONFERENCE

On September 23rd, the first East Coast Court Conference of the Imperial Courts (from Kentucky to the Mid-Atlantic States) and the Eastern Regions of Canada, all convened in Buffalo. Empress I Mimi of Buffalo hosted the conference during her court's Founders' Ball weekend. The conference was called by command of our beloved founder, HMIM The Absolute Empress I Jose - The Widow Norton. Two delegates were requested from each Court, with Empress Philomena and Princess Panzi representing NYC.



H.M.I.S.M. Empress Philomena
and
the Imperial Court of New York
cordially invite you to the 10th Annual

NIGHT OF A THOUSAND GOWNS

Saturday, April 20, 1996
Sheraton New York Hotel

Seventh Ave at 52nd St., NYC

For more information call:

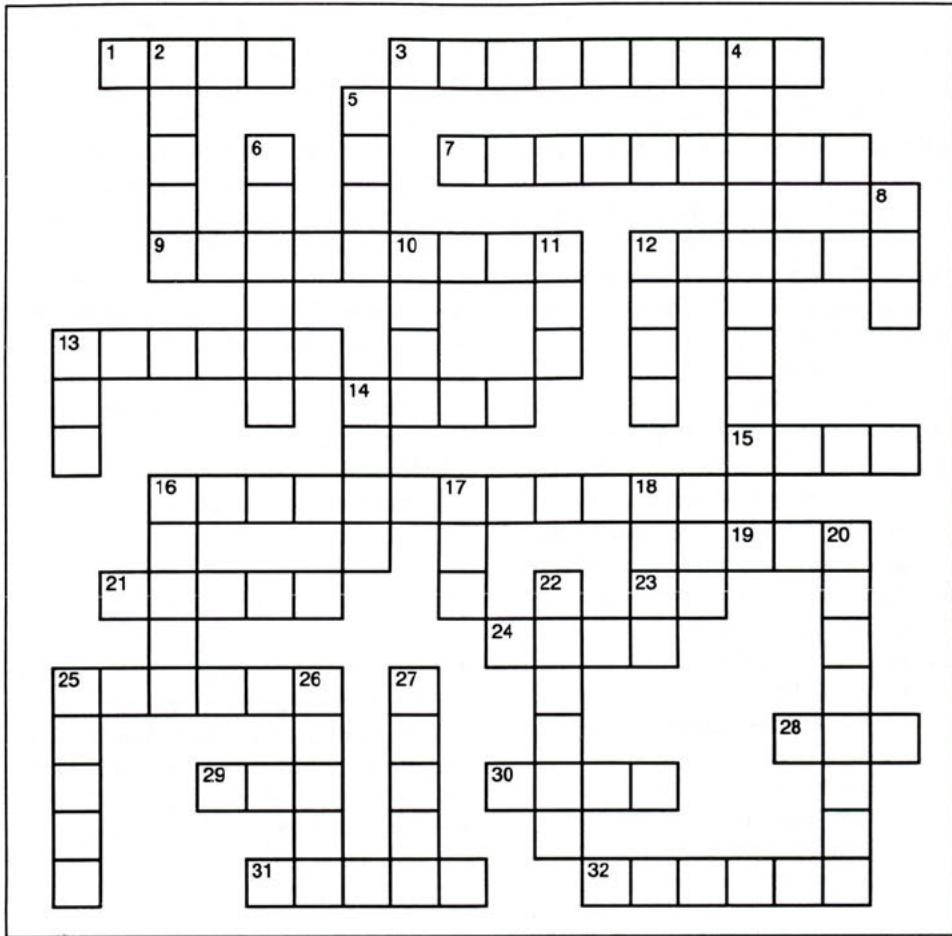
H.M.I.S.M. Empress Philomena
[REDACTED]

Thom Hansen, President
[REDACTED]

Empress VII Coco
[REDACTED]

Imperial Crown Prince Royale Steven
[REDACTED]

Imperial Crown Princess Royale Ran-Dee
[REDACTED]



Across

1 Night of 1000 Gowns
3 Make-up
7 Empress of Faith, Hope, & Cartier
9 The jewelry diva (2 words)
12 Imperial Crown Princess Royale of NY
13 Summoned electronical-ly
14 Operatic Ethiopian
15 Sicilian volcano
16 ICNY's favorite singing boys (3 words)
19 Sweet gal of song
21 "We're off ____ the wizard..." (2 words)
23 Maine (Abrev)
24 NY Pride month
25 Imperial Crown Prince Royale of NY
28 Buffalo's Cara or Farrow
29 Behive, flip, etc
30 Away from the wind
31 Empress I of NY
32 Late April sign

Down

2 Night of 1000 Gowns
5 20, 1996
4 Godliness's neighbor?
5 Lorna's mom
6 Slimming aid
8 Barbie's beau

10 Billie Ann Miller,
Empress

11 Tack on
12 Stone or Rimms

13 Not good
14 Pub drinks

16 Cherry, Fire Island
17 Operate a Singer

18 When in, do ...
20 Buttons or hoops

22 Red, orange, yellow, green, blue and

25 NY Minister of Protocol

26 Unduly curious
27 ICNY president

Answers next issue

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTICLES

The Journal Committee for 'Night of a Thousand Gowns' is collecting photographs of events from this year. If you have any photographs, please submit them to either Bruce Monroe or Brian Crede.

Deadline for articles and photographs for the Court Circular is the first Friday of the month. Materials should be submitted to Richard Eagan, editor, either at the membership meeting, by FAX (REDACTED) or by mail to: Richard Eagan, (REDACTED), Brooklyn, N.Y. (REDACTED)