

## **The Imperial Court of New York**

*In 1965, José Sarria, the country's first openly gay political candidate (for San Francisco Supervisor) founded the Imperial Court System and set the Court standard of humor, heart and humanitarianism that today governs over 50 royal courts in the United States, Canada and Mexico.*

*The Imperial Court of New York is part of this proud tradition. The Court is a social, fund raising organization, and has raised over a hundred thousand dollars at community events, most notably the Night Of A Thousand Gowns.*

*Many community organizations have benefitted from the proceeds of this annual Ball, including The Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center, Gay Men's Health Crisis, The People with AIDS Coalition, National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, The Human Rights Campaign Fund, The Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, Body Positive, People with AIDS Health Group, and Gay Games IV.*

*The Court is also a favorite attraction as a part of many community fund raising events. We have participated in GMHC's AIDS Walk, Dance-A-Thon and Fire Island Morning Party; the Empire State Pride Agenda's White Party also on Fire Island; The New Festival; The Center's Joan Rivers Show at Town Hall and annual Garden Party; HRCF's Inaugural Party at the Supper Club; PWA Coalitions' Heart & Soul; In-the-Life Auction, and many others. We also produce annual Tag Sales on Fire Island, and co-host the Halloween Ball at The Center. Of course, the Court's fabulous float is always a crowd pleaser during the Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade. In short, we are everywhere -- get used to us!*

*The Imperial Court of New York, is, above all, the members: The Emperors and Empresses, Princes and Princesses, Dukes and Duchesses and the leagues of uncommon courtiers who have chosen to make a commitment, get involved, and make a difference. They are men and women who are proud of being who they are and challenge others to be the same. The Imperial Court of New York is a group of active, concerned, and vital members of our community.*