

Imperial Court Circular

"It was a lovely Ball, so gay, so nice."

Queen Victoria

C N Y

BENEFICIARIES '96

The Executive Board of The Imperial Court of New York is pleased to announce the selection of three hard-working, far-reaching community service resources as beneficiaries of this year's Night of 1000 Gowns charity ball, Saturday, April 20, 1996, at the Sheraton New York Hotel.

Proceeds from the ball itself will be shared by Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, the theater industry's AIDS/HIV fund-raising agency, and PBS's unique gay community television series, *In the Life*. Proceeds from the Court's Out-of-Town Show and Raffle will benefit Pet Owners With AIDS/ARC Resource Service, Inc. (POWARS).

Over the past years, The Imperial Court of New York has raised many thousands of dollars to benefit organizations serving the lesbian and gay community as well as providing much needed money for AIDS/HIV support groups.

Come to the Ball on April 20 – support the Imperial Court of New York! Herewith, a few words about our 1996 beneficiaries:

BROADWAY CARES/EQUITY FIGHTS AIDS is the entertainment industry's most vital organization addressing the challenges faced by people with AIDS/HIV. Since 1987, BC/EFA has been a national, not-for-profit organization providing desperately needed financial services to men, women, and children affected by AIDS throughout the entertainment industry. Their funding grants to The Actors' Fund of America's AIDS Initiative and hundreds of AIDS service providers across the country help provide assistance for life's essentials such as rent, medicine, living expenses, food, and clothing. The continuing mission of BC/EFA is to mobilize the unique theatrical expertise of the entertainment business and persevere with its fundraising efforts in the fight against this devastating pandemic.

IN THE LIFE is the only regularly scheduled series broadcast on public television which introduces the experience of the gay community to the American population. Although IN THE LIFE advances the PBS television mandate of providing a forum for diverse voices and visions to foster a humane society, it receives no public television funding, and relies entirely on private contributions. Through ongoing broadcasts in every region of the country (including NYC's WNET-13), IN THE LIFE increases public awareness and understanding of the positive contribution made to

The Court Circular

The Official Newsletter
of the Imperial Court of New York



New York, NY 10003

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To raise funds for Gay & Lesbian Community and social service organizations; to provide a safe, social environment for people with the same interest as those of the corporation; to create and promote positive Community awareness of the ideals of the Imperial Court System.

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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.

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society by gay women and men, and also provides an arena for educational, cultural, and political discourse relevant to the experience of gay men and women. Most important, bringing this information to the straight television viewer de-mystifies homosexuality and prompts an understanding of gay life which creates a more empathic community for everyone.

POWARS is a nonprofit organization of volunteers who work to provide all aspects of maintaining an animal to keep people with AIDS together with their pets because they have a beneficial effect that few forms of therapy can match, and no medication can rival for safety. POWARS not only ensures a normal continuity in the lives of these animals, but it eliminates the financial hardships, anxiety and physical stress resulting from concerns about what might happen to a pet whose owner is in crisis. POWARS supplies scientifically accurate information about potential health problems in order to prevent unnecessary pet-owner separations. They can also provide dog walking, food and supplies, vet care including transportation, counseling, grooming, in-home foster care, pet-related cleaning, as well as adoption if necessary.

SAGE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

On Saturday December 9, 1995, Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE) held its annual Christmas social at F.I.T.,

hosted by ICNY Empress VIII Billie Ann Miller and Baroness Teddi de Bare. About 175 people turned out for the social, which included a buffet of holiday fare and the annual ICNY show, which has become a tradition at the SAGE event since it was introduced four years ago.

Performers included Empress IX Philomena, Tedi de Bare, Forsythia, Fanny Fon Due, Josephine Boner Parte, Chiclet, Billie Little, Leeza Monet, Kitty Fouche, Rose Levine, and Fabu La Rue. All the beautiful and talented performers were delighted to do the show for SAGE because the crowd was so friendly and appreciative. The evening was topped off with a raffle, for which the performers all participated in selling tickets.

SAGE is dedicated to improving the lives of lesbian and gay seniors (and none of us, honey, is getting any younger, day by day). SAGE is supported strongly by the younger gays and lesbians of the community, and the key word here is support.

Let's hope that one day all lesbian, gay and transgender organizations may be giving each other the support felt by SAGE at this holiday social event.

Peace and Love

Billie Ann Miller



LET'S ASK PHILOMENA

"Advice for the Lovelorn and Others from Empress Philomena"

Dear Philomena: In the past, I have tried to explain to my 10-year-old niece that "Yuck, gross!" is not a tactful response to Christmas or birthday presents she doesn't like. With the holidays just over, how do I handle teaching her good manners about this for the next time?

Signed; "The Gay Uncle."

Dear Unc: Explain to her that "faking it" is a useful social skill -- especially for girls -- and that as she gets older it will serve her well.

Dear Philomena: I have recently acquired a wonderful lover. My problem is, I am bringing him to my parent's home for a large party, and they are very nervous about how they should introduce him. What do you think?
Signed, Prodigal Son.

LETTER FROM DAVID MANDEL

Dear H.M.I.S.M. Philomena Empress IX, ICNY Board of Directors, and Fellow Court Members:

The Show Must Go On! is proud to announce that in appreciation of the Imperial Court of New York's many philanthropic and humanitarian deeds, ten percent of all jewelry and accessory orders for this year's Night of 1000 Gowns placed before April 1, 1996 will be donated back to the ICNY's general charitable fund.

With gratitude and Fondness,
Sincerely,
David Mandel

Dear Prod: I think you should always introduce people by their names, period. What kind of entertainment do they expect to provide their guests that everyone's sexual affiliations must be declared at the front door?

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 E. 8 St., NYC 10011.

WEDDING BELLES

We've gotten news of not one, but two, Court engagements. Congratulations are in order for Richard Eagan, the Court Circular's editor and his fiancée Elizabeth Ostrow, and to Court members Nicodemus Giannelli and Monica Pedone. Both couples plan to wed in the near future. *AK*

COURT JACKETS, T'S, ETC

If you ordered a jacket, Tee, or sweatshirt from Fred please remember to bring a check, payable to ICNY, to the next meeting to pay for your purchases. *AK*

KOURT KUDOS

We often don't find the time or words to thank Court members who go out of their way to help others. We'd like to take the opportunity this month to acknowledge the "good deeds" of two of our members.

The Toys for Tots drive, organized by Amanda Mackie, was a huge success. Over 100 toys were brought in by Court members. Not satisfied giving only one toy, Brandy donated a case of toys. A special thank-you to Brandy from Amanda, the New York Court and, especially, the children at St. Luke's Hospital.

Our ever active Vice President Johnny Cella deserves to be praised for volunteering as photo stylist for photographer Anthony Colantonio. Johnny gave up 3 very full days (approximately 30 hours) to help out and make sure we all looked our best for the camera. A very special thank-you from all the members for your fluffing, poofing and attention to detail.

If you know of a good Samaritan, let us know - contact Richard Eagan so they can be acknowledged. *AK*

ELEVATIONS

At the Court's Holiday Gathering on January 14, 1996, Empress Philomena awarded title elevations to members of the Court who have displayed outstanding service to either herself or the Court. The honorees and their newly granted titles were:

Baron Matthias (Baney)
Marchioness Trompe L'Oeil
Viscount Tom (DeConza)
Viscountess Kay Sera
Marquess Robert (Nowak)
Faith & Hope Count William (Patterson)
Count Michael (Shanahan)
Countess Brandy
Marchioness Daisy Mae

Congratulations to all. *AK*

PHOTOS, PLEASE!

The Journal committee is looking for photos that represent the past ten years of our history. Anyone who might wish to lend photos of past monarchs and/or Court members should submit them to Bruce Monroe at the next meeting, February 7. All photos will be scanned-in and returned to you unharmed. *AK*

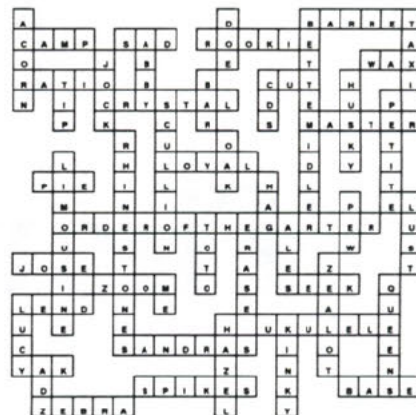
SF OUT-OF-TOWN SHOW

See John Yohannan at the February 7 meeting for details if you are interested in performing in San Francisco. *AK*



"I'd give \$1.50 for a roll of toilet paper."

December's Answers



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1996

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, February 7

- Deadline for journal photos, see Bruce Monroe
- Deadline for newsletter copy, see Richard Eagan

Saturday, February 24

- *Snow Ball - Carnival in Rio*, Coronation - Hartford, CT Marriott Hotel. reservations: (203) 257-6000 or contact Howard Hadley

MARCH

Saturday, March 2

- *Brian & Donna's Excellent Adventure*, Coronation - San Francisco, CA Fairmont Hotel. Contact Thom Hansen to make reservations for discount rooms.

APRIL

Saturday, April 20

- *Night of a Thousand Gowns*, Coronation - New York, NY

Sunday, April 21

- The 'Widows' Victory Brunch



**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]