

IMPERIAL COURT OF NEW YORK

The COURT CIRCULAR



GAY
PRIDE

1997!

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New York, N.Y. 10003
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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To raise funds for the 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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1997 EAST COAST CONFERENCE by Countess Natasha

Quietly, and early in the afternoon on Saturday, March 22nd, representatives of the East Coast Courts gathered for their semi-annual meeting. Now two years old, the conference grew out of a need for the more than sixty local Courts of the International Court System to have some way to achieve better and more effective communication and mutual cooperation.

According to the Absolute Empress VII CoCo La Chine, it was felt that the best approach to achieve this would be to organize regional conferences under the leadership of the several Heirs Apparent. The first conference convened in Buffalo in 1995, hosted by Empress I Mimi La Rue and attended by representatives of nine Courts. Three goals were articulated at that very historic event: to serve as a network and center for the exchange of information; to write a protocol and procedure manual; and to pool our resources to raise money more effectively and efficiently.

All three of the stated goals, most notably the third, has been achieved. On or about World AIDS Day, 1995, six of the Courts raised over \$10,000 for the Tijuana AIDS Project. The East Coast Courts the following year, again raised over \$10,000 to support Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS in the

U.S. and the Canadian counterpart.

The formulation of the protocol and procedure manual has been of considerable importance, not only for the new Baronies in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Ontario, but also to guide the already established Courts. This manual must be both flexible and comprehensive, particularly since no two Courts function in exactly the same way and they must accommodate and respond to different State, Provincial and Federal laws and policies. The manual was presented at the Autumn, 1996, conference in Toronto and is now being reviewed by the various Courts in our region before it is approved.

Finally, leading the way to create a center for net-working and information exchange, the Imperial Court of Kentucky has set up a Web Site on the World Wide Web. Here, a Court member or casual inquirer can find official proclamations and news of the various Courts, as well as informal communications, conversations and gossip. The Imperial Court of New York's participation is very ably coordinated by Princess Royale Blaise Patrice. This Web Site is perhaps the very embodiment of what CoCo described as one of the greatest accomplishments of the East Coast Conference -- the achievement of a much greater sense of friendship and camaraderie among the Courts and Courtiers here on the East Coast.

**EAST COAST CONFERENCE
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th 11 AM - 1 PM
AT THE CINCINNATI REGAL HOTEL**

EMPRESSES FIGHT AIDS

by Viscountess Alejandra

On Saturday, June 6, 1997, Empress XI Gianna organized and hosted a fund-raiser at the Ice palace in Cherry Grove, Fire Island, to benefit LIFEbeat's Hearts & Voices. The event was in memory of her good friend, Rob Mooradian.

The evening was filled with glamour, talented performers, dancing and good food, donated by Cherries. The staff at the Ice Palace also helped tremendously. There were numerous performances by New York Empresses, as well as by visiting royalty from Connecticut and Toronto.

Thank God for waterproof mascara! The day began cloudy, but Empress Gianna explained that the sun came out at the same time of the day that Rob had passed away, one year before. She then presented Dr. Patrick Hennessey, Rob's lover of 17 years, with a very special gift - a sapphire Baccarat heart inscribed to Rob.

The evening was quite successful - especially financially. Empress Gianna **must** be congratulated.

GMHC AIDS WALK

by Zondra Foxx

Stay healthy or the ICNY nurses will get you! "Women in White (or ecru or eggshell or ...) was this year's motif for the water girls at the Walk. Fashion fecund Brenda Starr conceived the idea and accessorized the troop with stethoscopes, hats, rubber gloves pins, etc. Eight girls and three boys did diligent duty serving water to thirsty walkers. The scene was not as chaotic as last year, perhaps due to the cooler temperature.

Our boys did the "young doctor Malone" while the distaff decided for Florence Nightingale. As always, everyone loved us and thousands (!) of pictures were snapped to grace albums and mantelpieces.

Amongst the crew were Brenda, Billy Little (who showed alot!), Daisy mae, Delta, Leeza, Patrice. Regina and Jeremy, to mention a few. When the whole show was over, who should appear but Danamania! Schedules, girl!!! The weather was great, the participants all enthusiastic and there was a whole box of ice cream left over for us!



"Offhand, I'd say your problem is medal fatigue."

MAKING A "CONNEXION" IN NEW JERSEY

**by Babs, Lady Crystal de
Canter**

As lifelong New Jerseyites we have found it disconcerting that if Babs wanted to go out for a fine meal in a "safe" friendly environment, certainly with a group, we would have to cross the state line, whether to New York or Pennsylvania. Recently, thanks to a friend who forwarded us an E-mail from a "Danielle" on AOL, we have found our garden spot in the Garden State!

Just a hop and a skip away from Exit 44 off Interstate 287, we pulled into the parking lot of Connexions. What was formerly the Boonton Township railway station is now Jersey's newest alternative lifestyle club!

Walking upstairs, we passed a busy animated bar (with pool table) and came to the Amante's (Lover's) Cafe, tastefully decorated with wood

and mirrors (yes, we gals love those mirrors ... don't we?) and featuring a sophisticated Italian-Continental cuisine.

For starters, we savored scallops wrapped in bacon over spinach and finished with a light cognac butter sauce. Carol swooned over her shrimp provencale, while Babs enjoyed her tri-color salad in olive oil and lemon sans garlic. Other appetizers on the menu included grilled portobello mushrooms in a balsamic glaze with cheese (which we will sample next time), pasta fagioli and a home-made mushroom soup.

One of the signs of a very good restaurant is their willingness and ability to prepare dishes not on the menu or to accommodate their patrons' (matrons' in our case?) special dietary needs or tastes. Our compliments to Chef Jackie Tinney, for her accommodation and expert preparation. She offers a large selection of pasta dishes as well as daily fresh fish specials. The wine list features several modestly priced items.

However, we passed on the desserts, because we were quite full and this is summer - bathing time, you know!

We met one of the owner-managers, John, who welcomed us and made it clear that all trans-people were welcome anytime! We also spoke to a few of the local "sisters" who have already made Friday nights in the bar and dance club a sort of regular meeting and mingling place.

For anyone wishing to go for fine dining or just relaxing drinks at the bar, shooting pool, or dancing, then "Connexions" is the place to go. Open since last October, it has been a big secret just waiting to be discovered. "Amante's Cafe" located at Club Connexions is open from 6-10 PM for dinner Wednesdays through Saturdays and for Sunday brunch from 11-4 (major credit cards accepted, reservations recommended) Connexions is open 7 days, 4 PM to 2 AM. Club CONNEXIONS is located at 202 Myrtle Avenue, Boonton, New Jersey, 07005, (212) 263-4000.

CORONATION V THE IMPERIAL COURT OF RHODE ISLAND

5/17/97

by Fabu La Rue

Let us start the night before. The Out-Of-Town Show was held on Friday night at the Union Station Bar. Four handsome strippers gave the 18 performers a helping hand to keep the crowd aroused. Emperor Ron and Empresses Philomena and CoCo along with yours truly from NYC received great applause while Empress Billie Ann looked on approvingly from the dais. For those who can make it next year, don't miss it! The people are so hospitable and friendly, especially the

strippers - just ask CoCo!

The theme of the Coronation was "A Golden Evening" and we did our best to fit the theme. There was an Imperial Command Performance by Empress XI Gianna and 15 NY Members, *plus* command performances by Trixie De Lite, Mae Nicole and Victoria Weston. I was not able to walk with the New York Court, but that is an article by itself.

Both outgoing Monarchs, Emperor IV William Anthony Elliano and Empress IV Nicole Elliano were stunning and most gracious as always.

Emperor Kevin Cody, the Imperial Rainbow Dragon Emperor and Empress La Diva Jones, Celestial Scarlet Ice Empress graced the stage with

dignity and royalty. May your reign be successful and as wonderful as you both are.

The Victory Brunch was another highlight for several of our visiting royalty. Empress IV Nicole made both Mae Nicole and Trixie De Lite, Sisters and presented a Past Empress to Past Empress award to Empress Billie Ann. ICNY was once again awarded Best Out-Of-Town Walk. Emperor III Steven Hartley gave a special award to Empress Philomena stating "...she is class and everything the Court stands for. BRAVA! ... you are truly loved in and out of the Imperial Court System.

Next year's theme will be "Baubles, Bangles and Beads - The Great Gatsby Era". See ya there!