

IMPERIAL
COURT



circular

the Court

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Las Vegas-You Can Bet on It!

By Emperor Tomás & Empress Panzi

The buzz in the Court circuit was the birthing of the Newest Court here in Las Vegas, the Royal Court of the Desert Empire. By Imperial Proclamation of José I, the Widow Norton, the former barony became an Empire. Reno, their mother court, was pleased with the prompt elevation of the former barony. Baron I Mark and Baroness I DeShannon in a public election became the first Emperor and Empress. This very popular event was crowded. Seats for 185 had been provided and over 300 attended. 26 courts were represented at this glorious event. Our Empress XII Panzi was a guest on the dais and was named Sister to the Emperor. Empress VII Coco did a command performance during the coronation. Panzi was mistress of ceremonies at the out-of-town show on Friday night. Emperor Tomás coordinated the package deal for the event at the luxurious Mirage Hotel and Casino where the glamourous ladies of our

court turned heads every time they made their way through the Casino!

We enjoyed hosting Mamá for dinner at the Mirage. She was thrilled that 19 court members and two friends of the court from New York were present for the coronation. Vegas being Vegas, a group of 14 went to see Cirque Soléil (Mystere) and enjoyed the wonderful music and acrobats and balancing acts. Bill, Panzi & Philomena took in EFX, which is a special effect show at the MGM Grand. Angela Mercy and Freeda Chews were lucky to see Bette Midler's performance at the Hard Rock Café which was being filmed for the Billboard Awards. Several members went to see the jewels of the desert at the Liberace Museum. They loved it! But according to Philomena and Panzi, the Star Trek at the Las Vegas Hilton was out of this world! What's next, the Imperial Court of Outer Space?*



...and now the dirt that
you didn't hear from us!

Extra! Extra!

By the Lone Stranger!

The following information comes to us directly from Las Vegas:

1. There is NO truth to the rumors of how our beloved Princess Bella got separated from her panties during the Ball. Although she was staying at the Mirage, it was completely baffling to hotel employees, that Bella's underwear was

found ripped to shreds in some strange man's hotel room at the Holiday Inn, the next morning. Investigations to follow...

2. There is NO truth to the rumor that after some bad luck at gambling, and seeing most of her life savings, deeds and mortgages laid out on the "Craps" table, next summer anyone visiting Cherry Grove will have the chance to shop at the 'new' Caesars' Palace Liquor Store. Thank God she didn't bet the crown jewels. "If only Margaret had been there, we could have saved the Bentley."

3. And speaking of jewels, there is NO truth to the rumor that after an inspiring visit to the

The Court Circular

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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 second Wednesday of each month.

The General Membership meets on the first Wednesday of each month at The Center, 1 Little West 12th St. at 8:00pm.

Liberace Museum, Shonda Lear was seen canvassing Thrift Shops along the north Las Vegas Strip in search of a Baby Grand Piano to cover in rhinestones and wear as a shoulder pin, that lit up and played a rumba.

4. Viva Sexx is NOT as tall as the Stratosphere, however she is much more fun to ride.

5. Empress Billie Ann Miller did not see Elvis, Wayne Newton, or Frank Sinatra, although it is reported that at different times she dated all three...separately, of course!

6. There is little truth to the rumor that after getting thoroughly "happy" at the Ball, our very own Empress Philomena got really 'lucky' on the gaming floor (or was it the elevator?) of the Mirage. Despite the fact that she didn't have a single quarter on her, the man seen leaving her room the next morning, was overheard saying, "That was the best One Armed Bandit I ever pulled!"

7. After visiting the Russian Royalty Exhibit at the Rio Hotel, Coco LaChine and Mamá, Empress I, the Widow Norton were seen visiting the gift shop. However there is NO truth to the rumor that the shop girl refused to sell the 'Rasputin, Double Headed Eagle, Poison Tipped, Shoulder Pin' to Coco as a small 'gift' for Nicole.

8. Although there is NO truth to the rumor of how far she spread herself out, it is still, however, an amazement, that every time a cab driver found out that you were from New York, the next question inevitably was, "So, do you know Anne Tique?" That girl hit the town faster than the 'Gold Rush Fever of 1874'.

9. There is NO truth to the rumors that Gefil Tefish got 'lucky'. Even though there were over 20,000 Cowboys in town for the National Finals Rodeo, when asked upon her arrival she replied "It will be a cold f----g day in the desert before I get lucky!"

P. S. It snowed in Las Vegas! Congratulations to Freeta, Angela, Aunt 'B', Tomas, William, Eric, Ron, Bruce and Tony, for keeping their noses clean, and staying out of the rumor mill. More investigations to follow... *

Bailey House Holiday Cheer

By Baroness Witti Repartee

In addition to raising money for various and sundry AIDS and community service organizations around New York, the Imperial Court of New York also dedicates energy to entertaining people who have neither the means nor the health to get to one of our performances. On Sunday evening, December 13, 1998, members of ICNY entertained the residents of Bailey-Holt House in a holiday extravaganza that brought smiles to the faces of residents, their friends, families, and the staff members of the AIDS Residence on Christopher Street.

The event was hosted by Empress XII Panzi, who in addition to her requisite song, entertained the crowd with a variety of jokes (both holiday and risqué). The performers featured new members Lady Lorelei Layne and Lady Felicia Michaels, Viscountess Clover Honey, Viscountess Sophia Antoinette, and crowd favorites Baroness Witti Repartee and Princess Luisa Verde. The performance concluded with a round of Christmas carols and songs in a sing-along-audience-participation-have-a-jolly-holiday format. The performance was a rousing success. In addition to the performances, Court members toiled and baked and provided scrumptious desserts which fed not only the bodies, but also the souls of the attendees.

Additionally, the same evening, at the same time, another benefit was going on a few blocks away. Grace Oasis, a pentecostal church for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community had several performers drop out of their holiday show. ICNY, under the coordinated effort of Gary Cosgrove, came to the rescue with performances by Baroness Witti Repartee, Princess Royale Josie, Baroness Morgan Stephens, and Viscountess Babs Crystal de Cantor. The Court filled out Grace Oasis' performance roster quite nicely, adding our special brand of class to their proceedings. *

A Triumph at Carnegie Hall!

By Baroness Witti Repartee

The special relationship enjoyed by the Imperial Court of New York and the New York City Gay Men's Chorus



was once again celebrated at Carnegie Hall on December 21, 1998 as the 200 voice chorus celebrated the holidays with *Seasons of the Heart*. This two and a half hour concert included traditional Christmas music, haunting Hanukkah and Yule pieces. There were also irreverent pokes at the holiday season. Featured were the world premiere of two works commissioned for the concert.

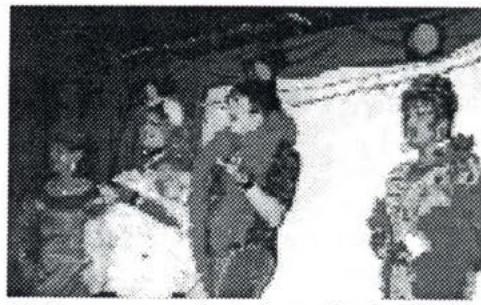
Seated in the royal box, Emperor VIII William and Empress XII Panzi and their entourage observed the performance and were observed by a sold out crowd of 2,800. On stage Court/Chorus members John Nieman/Jacqueline Jonée, Michael Barret Jones/Witti Repartee and Alex Viaggio/Lorelei Layne were each celebrating something special. Jacqueline was featured in a hysterical romp "Christmas on the Beach at Waikiki",

Witti was making her Carnegie Hall debut, and Lorelei, the former Chorus Queen, was making her debut as a member of the Imperial Court. Just before intermission, Emperor William and Empress Panzi surprised the crowd by making an entrance on stage to present NYCGMC music director Barry Oliver with a special jeweled conductor's baton. Maestro Oliver was named "Keeper of the Chorus" by the right and the pleasure of Their Most Imperial and Sovereign Majesties. This was done in recognition of his debut with the Chorus. A good time was had by all Court members in attendance. *

12 Drags of Xmas Knock Them Dead!!

By Prince Royal Gabriel Della Notte

A cold December Saturday night made for a HOT Drag Show at Mother. The Imperial Court came out in force to support our girls and boys in a fundraiser for Camp Viva. From the opening number by Imperial Crown Princess Royale Anne Tique and Prince Royale Gabriel Della Notte to the Grand Finale, the night was filled with music and laughter. Everyone who performed was at the top of their game. Reigning Empress Panzi wished us all a "Homo Xmas", while Duke Damian Valentino swept his way across the stage to "Wishing You a Drag Queen Xmas". Viscountess Babs Crystal DeCarter(first time performing) got the crowd whipped into a frenzy with the "Christmas Conga" and the "Hot Totties"(DaisyMae, Clover Honey, Sophia and Fannie Fondu) got us all toasty and warm with their Xmas medley. Other Holiday zaniness included Baroness Mitzi as the Xmas angel lighting up our evening, Lady Lorelei and the Bouffants singing a lively and LIVE Holiday jingle, Duchess Angela Mercy, after a false start, recovered and wowed the crowd, Empress



Philomena reminded us all what Xmas was all about, while Duchess Freeta Chews dug up Judy Garland with "Fabulous" Xmas medley of Judy songs. Princess Royale Josie gave a spirited gospel-like "Oh Holy Night" and tore the house down -- and let's not forget the Unforgettable Baroness Witti Repartee with her "LIVE" performance of what she REALLY wants for Xmas!! The night was capped off with finale of "White Christmas" performed by the entire cast. The event raised \$725 for Camp Viva and also instilled the joy of Christmas in each and everyone of us! Special thanks to Mae Nicloe, Gefil Telfish and DaisyMae Not for all their help!! Join us next year and see what everyone is talking about!! *

Dining In Drag

A Place for "Old Fashioned Girls" –

YE WAVERLY INN

by Carol & Babs

In a quiet corner in the heart of the West Village is a cozy and quaint gem of a restaurant, Ye Waverly Inn. Located on the corner of Waverly Place and Bank St., it is the antithesis of its neighbor, LIPS, a short block away. Laid back, quaint, cozy and simple, they nonetheless welcome us! Ye Waverly inn was built in 1844, where it served as an inn for travelers. In 1920, Ye Waverly inn was turned into a tea room under the care of two ladies. Robert Frost and Edna St. Vincent Millay among others dined here on home style portions such as chicken pot pie, southern fried chicken, yankee pot roast, corn pudding,

home made muffins and such desserts as pecan pie, Indian pudding and fruit cobblers. These traditional favorites are still served on the menu as well as a roast stuffed turkey. If you like onions, the pot pie is a favorite, and Babs has to use her will power to fend off the enticing muffins mixed in the bread basket. Besides the traditional entrees, they also feature grilled Filet Mignon with Roasted Corn Mashed Potatoes and a grilled portobello mushroom, Bar-B-Q Baby Back Ribs, and a tender Grilled Marinated Tuna Steak with Sprouts, black bean salad and an interesting lime ginger sauce!

But, this is the Big Apple, you want some contemporary food, hip California inspired fare that's looks good too? They feature that too! Impressive to our eyes and even more to our palates, was their "Sunflower Seed Crusted Jumbo Shrimp with



Apple Pineapple Chutney" appetizer. Salad entrees included a tasty Charred Chicken Salad, with lettuce, pears, pecans, tomatoes and a honey mustard vinaigrette.

They also feature a vegetarian entree and daily specials. A la carte entrees range from about \$11.75 to 20.00. There is also an "early bird" 4 course dinner special, featuring some of the traditional favorites available Monday through Thursday 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. at \$13.50.

The wine list was adequate, they did feature some ecologically correct wines. We did try a bottle of the organically grown Bonterra California chardonnay that was a bit light considering the \$24 price tag, and preferred the fuller bodied, if "incorrect", Kendall Jackson Vintners Reserve for \$4 more.

The pleasant fare is enhanced by the

Keep in Touch!

Deadline for the next issue of the Newsletter is January 20th. Please submit articles either on diskette or via e-mail in ASCII (text) format only. We can scan photos or incorporate graphic files. Call me at 212/208-1691 or 212/989-8113 if you have a submission or questions. You can e-mail the articles to **ICNYDAISY@AOL.COM**

Thank you! Michael Weyand, Editor

overall ambiance of the former 19th century carriage house. Ye Waverly Inn remains true to its heritage with such features as three working fireplaces, mouldings, wooden floors and booths. The cobblestone courtyard has been converted into a garden dining area, with a cover and fans. The modern amenities have only helped Ye Waverly Inn to remain quaint, romantic and warm. **Ye Waverly Inn**, 16 Bank St., 212-929-4377. Major credit cards. (Weekend reservations suggested) *

UP COMING EVENTS

★ Holiday Party ★

January 15th, 1999
Fifth Avenue Ballroom

Spaghetti Dinner
Sunday February 7, 1999
Location TBA

For inclusion in upcoming calendars:
contact Secretary Baroness Witti Repartee, at

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