

"IMPERIALLY YOURS" Newyork Letter of I.Q.N.Y.

Imperial Queens of NEW YORK

"XMASTYME" - 1994
Vol. 26, No. 11 *

Manhattan, NY 10011 (212) 580-9862

Season's Greetings.....IQNY trusts this is your biggest holiday card!!!!!!



Imperial QUEENS at The COPACABANA

The 14th Annual "NEW YORK CITY BAR PEOPLE'S BALL" at the legendary COPA was held on Oct. 3, 1994. Some of the **I.Q.N.Y.** members present included (as pictured above): **BARONESS RAYETTE, PRINCESS MARIETTE, QUEEN ALLYSON ALLANTE, MARQUESSA MOLLY BEE AITKEN** and **LADY LUCILLE SPENCER**. This event is always a "Who's Who?".

The Attorney General & The Imperial Queen

NEW YORK STATE (current) Atty. Gen. G. OLIVER KOPPELL (right) with Imperial QUEENS of NY//LI Pres. ALLYSON ANN ALLANTE at a special "STONEWALL" event both guest spoke at along with Liberal Party head RAY HARDING & N.Y.C. Judge KAREN S. BURSTEIN.



I.Q.N.Y. AUTUMN FESTIVAL OF EVENTS -- 1994

- ★
- Mon., NEW YORK CITY BAR PEOPLE'S 14th Annual fabulous N.Y.C.
OCT. 3 "COPACABANA BALL" at The COPA. Special Speaker: Qn. Allyson
9:00pm Ann Allante reads congratulatory/support letter from Mayor Rudy Giuliani.
- Fri., **Imperial Queens/NY & LI** Monthly Regular Meeting at **The Gay**
OCT. 7 **Community Services Center**. Pix from **THE COPA BALL**. Formation of
8:15pm Special Social Committee for "**GAYE GOWNS GALORE**" Annual Dinner &
Dance to be held on Sat., Feb. 11, 1995! *Let's have a Ball!*
- Tues., **Gay Services Center "Orientation Program"** to be held at The Gay
OCT. 18 Center. **I.Q.N.Y.** will have an information display table. Featured
7:00pm speaker is Imperial Queen Allyson Allante, among five other speakers. Info
tables and opportunity for new members and friends. For more info, call
Frank Iovino at **The Gay Center @ 620-7310**.
- Wed., **GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE AGAINST DEFAMATION (GLAAD)**.
OCT. 19 Organizational meeting, with **I.Q.N.Y.**, invited to participate in
6:00pm planning for a special event highlighting the transgender community as
a "**Benefit for Indigent T/S's**". Their headquarters: 5th fl., 150 W.
26 St. (bet. 6th/7th Aves.). Tel.: 807-1700.
- Tues., "Campaign Cocktail Party for **JUDGE KAREN S. BURSTEIN**". Hosted
OCT. 25 by singer **LESLEY GORE** and many others. An historic campaign in
6:00pm which every vote will count. **I.Q.N.Y.** will speak. See enclosed card for
details. For more info, call **MS. LESLIE WELLS @ 696-9308**.
- Sat., "Halloween Weekend Gathering" organized by the **Imperial Queens**
OCT. 29 at the new transgender club, "**KARALYN'S OASIS**", 818 Tenth Av.
9:00pm (@ West 54th St.), NYC. Ask for Ms. **MONICA PEDONE**.
- Mon., "**21st Annual Greenwich Village Halloween Parade**". We will attend
OCT. 31 as we usually do, since 1973! Call **I.Q.N.Y.** for more details. After
7:00pm the parade passes by, we will have our "**1994 IMPERIAL HALLOWEEN**
and **DINNER**" at **Cafe Melville Rest.** (on Washington St. off Christopher St.).
9:00pm "Dress-up", etc. Call Ronnie @ 924-0110 to confirm your reservation.
- Fri., The 1st Friday of every month is when **I.Q.N.Y.** holds its monthly
Nov. 4 meeting. We go out to dinner after all meetings. **Bring a friend!**
8:15pm *Membership application cards are available. Call I/Q @ 580-9858.*
- Mon., **THE PARADISE CLUB** (luxurious and legendary) at 50 West 33 St.
Nov. 21 presents its "First Annual Cross-Dressers Show", starring Imperial Queen
8:00pm Allyson Allante performing "**Goldfinger**" and "**This Is My Life**".
- Fri., Monthly pre-holiday Social Meeting, then dinner at a G.V. restaurant.
DEC. 2 "**Dress Up!** if you wish. **The Gay Center** front desk tel. # is
8:15pm 620-8120 for reference regarding **I.Q.N.Y.** meetings.
- Mon., "**IMPERIAL QUEENS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER**" at the grand
DEC. 26 **TOWNHOUSE RESTAURANT**, 206 East 58 St. (bet. 2nd & 3rd Aves.)
6:00pm Tel. 826-6241. Must R.S.V.P. and send \$29 check/m.o. to **I.Q.N.Y.**

★ "Gaye Gowns Galore" dinner/dance will
be Sat. Feb. 11, 1995. Save the date! Let's have a Ball!! ★



State of New York

Executive Chamber

On June 27, 1969, the single most defining moment in the history of the gay and lesbian civil rights movement occurred at the Stonewall Inn from the concept that gay men and lesbians could attain full recognition and participation in all aspects of our society.

This concept was based on the fundamental principle that an individual can be a part of this country, and contribute to its richness, diversity, wealth and growth regardless of their race, color, creed, national origin, religion, or sexual orientation.

In the twenty-five years since the Stonewall rebellion, New York State has demonstrated progressive leadership in: establishing the first, ongoing, statewide office of lesbian and gay concerns, the appointment of open lesbians and gay men to instrumental policy making positions within New York State's government, a comprehensive and compassionate response to the AIDS epidemic, and the support of service organizations that reflect the true spirit of the lesbian and gay community. But there is still much to be done. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation still exists, violence against lesbians and gay men still exists, AIDS and the discrimination that it engenders still exists.

This month the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion is commemorated in New York State with a tribute to the past in honor of the brave men and women who fought against prejudice, hatred and violence at the Stonewall Inn; an acknowledgement of the present with a rally and a march on the United Nations to affirm the human rights of lesbians and gay men in the United States and throughout the world; and with a spirit of commitment to a future of full participation and recognition of lesbians and gay men in all aspects of our society.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mario M. Cuomo, Governor of the state of New York, do hereby recognize June, 1994 as

LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE MONTH

in the state of New York.



IMPERIAL QUEENS OF NEW YORK

1 E
A ch
New York, NY 10011

Attn: Queen Allyson Allante

Mario M. Cuomo

DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

By LINDA YGLESIAS

Daily News Staff Writer

IT WAS EARLY, NOT EVEN MIDNIGHT, so "Little Orphan Annie" and "Hormona" and "Sissy" and "Twinkie" and "Cross-eyed Cynthia" meandered about, waiting to gussy up, when they saw six cops pass through the door of 53 Christopher St.

"Stonewall" happened next.

Into the wee hours that first weekend of summer on Sheridan Square, hundreds of gays raged against a wall of blue. Their call became Gay Power.

Out of the rubble of the Stonewall Inn, a riot-gutted gay Village tavern across from the park on a pleasantly warm Friday, June 27, 1969, the foundation for a new civil rights movement suddenly fortified.

Theirs was an inadvertent glory. They were random idlers: young, handsex drag queens, many underage, joining forces with men and some women, young and old.

"None of us shaved and showered to go to an uprising," said Bob Kohler, 68, who was walking his schnauzer, Mr. Magoo, that night.

Some wore blouses and makeup. Others were in madras and loafers, coats and ties.

Some had come over from Wall Street. Others arrived from the Frank E. Campbell Funeral Home dressed in black and emerald slippers, where Judy Garland had laid in state.

Some were outside for a summer stroll. Two hundred others had dropped by for "Aquarius" on the jukebox, a drink and a dance, a \$3 cover, a quarter for two songs.

MIDNIGHT BUST

A little past midnight, the 6th Precinct launched an ordinary evening's ordinary bust, a liquor-license beef.

"It was a big joke because bar raids were common," said Kohler. "You thought, here we go again. ... Nobody blinked an eye."

This night, somebody did.

Williamson Henderson, a popular teen local — Allyson Allante when dressed in drag — whose blue Caddy parked out front was legend, was one of the first the cops arrested, breaking his collarbone.

A bottle was thrown and a brick hurled and the park boys, buoyed by growing legions of gays and nongays, pelted cops with coins, and a trash can was set ablaze.

"You better run, Lilly Law!" "Girls in blue, we're gonna get you!" the boys started yelling," said Kohler.

The cops escaped past the black-painted Stonewall windows and barricaded themselves inside, against shattering glass and a battering-ram parking meter.

Around them, on the narrow Sheridan Square streets, spur-of-the-moment rebels battled the suddenly appearing Tactical Patrol Force — formed in the wake of Vietnam War protests — with everything from bricks to lighter fluid and matches and a high-kicking chorus line.

They raged three nights, two others quelled by rain.

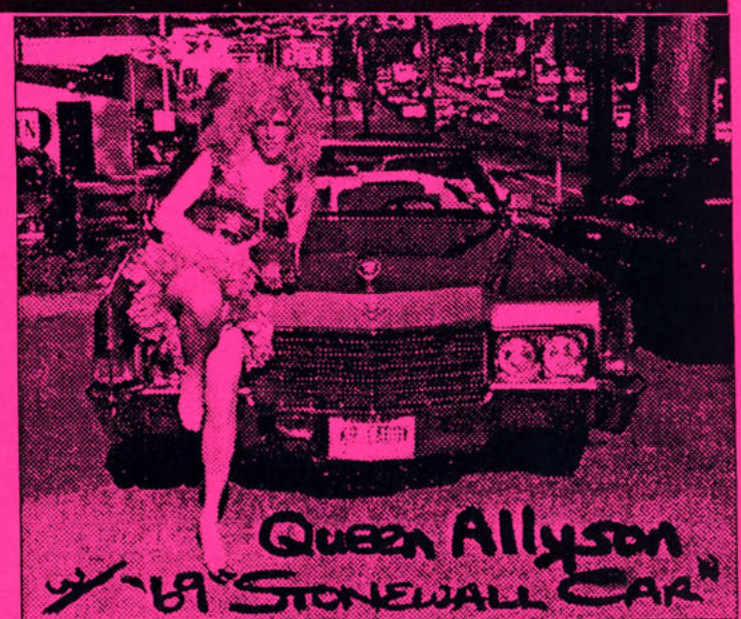
"Gay Power" — organized — had come to Mayor John Lindsay's town.

'GAYEST' WEEK IN HISTORY

Today an Indian clothing boutique shares the building with Stonewall, the bar. Next Sunday, as 1 million 25th anniversary celebrators link arms in "The gayest week in the history of the world," said Henderson, Stonewall will be filled with photographs of what happened then.

The memories of the witnesses are varied.

Did Sylvia Rivera, beloved drag queen, throw the first brick or didn't she? Did her friend, Marcia P. (Pay-it-nomind) Johnson, who guarded Henderson's Caddy, \$3 a night, make it every night to



Williamson Henderson, who owns a personnel agency, dresses in drag as Allyson Allante. Ally and "her" blue Caddy were legend at Stonewall, Henderson was one of the first people arrested that night.

fight, or didn't she?

Whoever did what, when, there is a common bottom line. As heirs to the struggles over Vietnam and black civil rights, Stonewall combatants walked all walks — "regular, gay people and young drag queens, transvestites and people not even gay," said Henderson.

"This could not have happened in 1959," said history professor Martin Duberman, whose book "Stonewall" is the acknowledged chronicle of those nights.

'NOTHING TO LOSE'

"They were people who had nothing to lose, the runaways, the outcasts, the transvestites, the drag queens," said Jay Blotcher, former media coordinator for ACT UP and Queer Nation. "They were the ones who took it on the chin, defiantly."

"These kids were the real Stonewall warriors," said Kohler. "They were the first to throw things, to taunt. If they had not been across the street, there would be no Stonewall riot."

25 years ago, on the first weekend of summer at Sheridan Square, hundreds of gays raged. Gay Power was born.

The Daily News returns to 53 Christopher St. that night. The account based on Kohler and other witnesses who had, by happenchance, converged there:

■ Henderson/Allante, who doesn't give an age — today a personnel agency owner and officer in the Imperial Queens of New York, founded in Stonewall's wake — had dropped by for a nightcap.

■ Jeremiah Newton, 45, now a film industry liaison to the NYU film department, had run into friends from Judy Garland's funeral that day. He needed to lift his spirits.

■ Mama Jean, today 62, a Connecticut state employe, then in Cookie's, a lesbian bar on 14th St., walked with three friends toward Pan-Pan's, 8th St., to dine on bacon and eggs.

■ Howard Cruse, a cartoonist now 50, high on acid, uptown, then, grabbed a taxi downtown.

"Stonewall was one of the very few places the run-of-the-mill gay man could go to dance, which was totally illegal," recalled Kohler, who owns a clothing store on Christopher St. "It even had go-go boys dancing on the bar."

"For a young person who wanted to dance into the night," said Newton, "it was the most wonderful place."

Until June 27, 1969, they did.

& THE SUPREMES DIANA ROSS WAS CROONING

One a.m. Diana Ross on the jukebox. Henderson — "I was there as a boy that night" — danced.

A panicked staffer on raid-watch suddenly flooded the colored dance-floor lights with whites and pulled the jukebox plug. The warnings weren't in time.

"The cops came charging in," said Henderson, arrested for disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and loitering. "They put us in lines, checked I.D.s, which most people didn't have. They started taking people out. Things got nasty."

At Greenwich Ave., Newton heard sirens and saw red bubble lights eerily washing over taunts, cries and shattering glass.

"I looked up at the Women's House of Detention to people screaming out the windows, sticking pieces of flaming toilet tissue out the mesh, alerting us," he said. "The flames falling to the ground reminded me of a modern Pompeii."

A rookie guarded the Stonewall door. "A bottle went flying in a perfect arc, showering him with splinters," said Newton.

Two doors west, said Duberman, the Lion's Head Inn locked up. Apartment door-men barricaded doors with broom handles.

"The cops were in total, absolute panic," said Kohler.

"They retreated into the Stonewall and barricaded themselves."

They somehow commandeered a fire hose. "They opened the door to hose us," said Kohler. "But this being New York, nobody had bothered to check the hydrant. Only a trickle flowed."

Then came the Tactical Patrol Force, and the tension turned from the bar back to the streets. "These cops came out of two buses like robots and lined up in the streets, arms folded across chests," said Kohler.

Newton thought how the hot, muggy air could do no good when he heard more breaking glass and saw cops placing 28 case of beer and 19 liquor bottles into a van.

A young guy asked: "What's going on? I'm straight. I got no place here. I'm going home," said Kohler, who saw him minutes later "being dragged through the streets, covered in blood."

Most of those who saw the light that night have vanished. Marsha P. Johnson's body was found in the Hudson River. Sylvia Rivera moved away. The park boys are departed, many of them dead. Many are lost to AIDS.

Cruse, who grew up in Birmingham, Ala., is writing a novel about the times of civil rights and being gay and Southern, then.

Henderson still drives his Caddy to Stonewall: "I'm always going in there expecting to see someone from a quarter-century ago."

Mama Jean and Kohler went on to be activists: she the grand marshal of the first gay pride march in June 1970, he founding member of the Gay Liberation Front that July.



"THE FORGOTTEN STONEWALL LEGACY: REMEMBERING THE TRANSGENDERISTS" Pictured above: Rachel Pollack & Allyson Allante, veterans of THE STONEWALL REBELLION, lead candle lite and torch "Procession" from THE GAY COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER with police escort to STONEWALL!

*Cora
Spondents....*

I.Q.N.Y.'S : "LETTER-OF-THE-MONTH"

*(Winner Gets to Lick Our Stamps & Seal Our Flaps
except Public Officials -- They Get our Votes)*



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(212) 477-1203

RESPOND TO:

City Hall Office
 District Office

Queen Allyson Allante
Imperial Queens of New York
[REDACTED]
New York, New York 10011-8307

Dear Queen Allante:

This year as we celebrate Gay Pride and commemorate Stonewall 25, I want to take this opportunity to recognize you as a strong advocate who has been effective in shaping Gay civil rights. You were fighting for our community *before* the Stonewall uprising and continue to do so today.

You have been an outstanding educational force, and a credible promoter of positive awareness of the transgender community. In conjunction with that goal, the monthly publication, "Imperially Yours", is an informative and interesting newsletter that is dependably circulated to a growing number of fans city-wide.

Queen Allyson, you are that wonderfully unique person who has a respected history in the community and exemplifies identity and pride in one's being. Long Live the Queen!

Best Regards.

Sincerely,

Antonio Pagán
Antonio Pagán
Councilmember
2nd District, Manhattan

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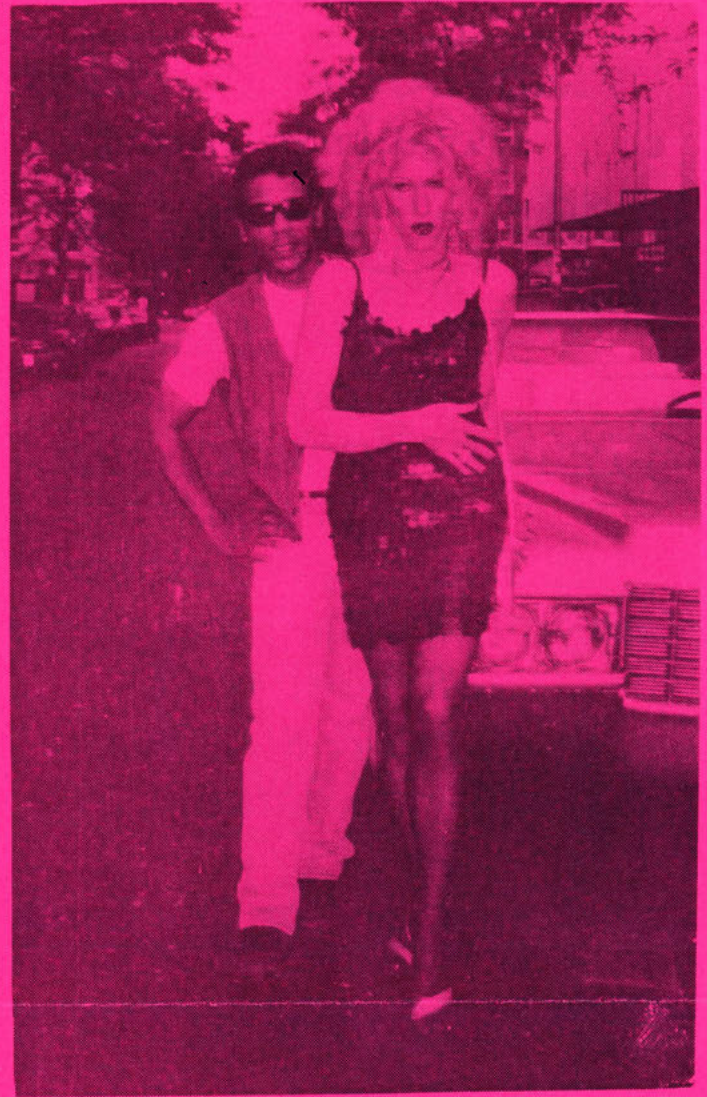
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#1 CLUB IN BACHELOR PARTIES

"FIRST ANNUAL CROSS-DRESSER SHOW"
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the first time at this known club
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performing the SHIRLEY BASSEY hit
"GOLDFINGER" and from "STONEWALL"
the symbolic "THIS IS MY LIFE!!".

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"SUPERQUEEN"

Modelish Allyson Allante before filming
in "To Wong Foo" with Motownish Rockwell
and "The STOREWALL Car".

Coming so sooooooon in '95:

!!!! GAYE
!!!!!! GOWNS
!!!!!!! GALORE ★

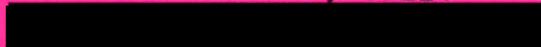
Dinner/Dance!

Sat., Feb. 11

Tickets: \$75

Let's have a BALL!!

To order tickets, call:



Please Attend the Next
Social & Business

★ Meeting ★
of The

Imperial Queens

on

Friday, January 6th

@ 8:15 p.m.

at The Gay & Lesbian
Community Services Center

208 West 13 St.

(bet. 7th & 8th Aves.)

Greenwich Village, NY

(admission: \$2. for The Center)

Hostess: Queen ALLYSON

Host: King FARRELL

Imperial Queens

NAME: _____

STAGE NAME (if any): _____

Apt. # or P.O.B.: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Tel. #: _____ Biz. Tel. #: _____

Interests (as a member or supporter of I.Q.N.Y.): _____

Birthday: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

I.Q.N.Y.



Manhattan, NY 10011

Celebrate in Style!

"Annual

Xmas-tyme

★ Holiday ★

5-Course Dinner'

at the

Town House Restaurant

206 East 58th Street

(between Second & Third Aves.)

Manhattan, New York 10022

Monday, Dec. 26, 1994

(Xmas holiday weekend)

6:00 p.m.

Hostess: Queen Allyson

Host: King Farrell

Special Price: \$29 (complete)

RSVP - (212) 580-9858

I.Q.N.Y. Membership Application

----- Royal Member Dues (\$39./year)

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----- Subscriber (\$15./annual)

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