

# The Circular

*“Democracy is only an experiment in government, and it has the obvious disadvantage of merely counting votes instead of weighing them.”*

William Ralph Inge  
1860 - 1954  
*Possible Recovery?*

C N Y

## MEET THE CANDIDATES

*By Richard Eagan*

The press room here at the Circular is abuzz with excitement over next month's New York Court elections - faxes, memos, and calls are pouring in from all over. We are now some one hundred members strong, and will increase that number during our Fall membership drive. New members will doubtless be impressed, as we all will be reminded, by the diversity of service and strength of commitment of our 1996-7 candidates. The experience and confidence shown by all contenders is a reflection of the vigor of the Court and our increasing reach into the community at large.

In the following pages you will find statements from the candidates for Emperor, Empress, Board Directorship, and Executive positions. It is the largest and most diverse slate of candidates in what will be the fullest democratic election in the history of the Imperial Court of New York. Please heed the reminder of President Thom Hansen - our elections are not based on clique or personality issues. They are opportunities for us all to make the Court work for the health and vitality of our community to the best of its ability - a group effort involving all of us.

Read the statements, call the candidates with your questions, be an active, informed member and make your voice heard and your vote count.

See you at the September meeting! 



## 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.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Randy Riggs**

Reigning Empress & Executive Board

**Steven Frear**

Reigning Emperor & Executive Board

**Thom Hansen**

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**Johnny Cella**

Vice President & Membership Chairman

**Bill LaMonica**

Treasurer

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**Charles Ching**

Original Incorporator

**Tom DeConza**

Executive Board

**David Mandel**

Executive Board

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**Richard Eagan**

Editor-in-Chief

**Kitty Fouché**

Features Editor

**Bill Patterson**

Calendar Editor

**Fabu La Rue**

Raving Reporter

**Tammie Recine**

Raving Photographer

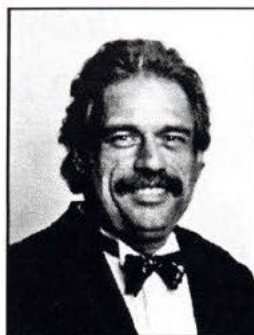
**Brian H. Crede**

Art Director

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 13<sup>th</sup> St. at 8:00pm.

# ELECTION '96- MEET

## ... for Emperor VII



**TOM DECONZA**  
Prince Tom

Having volunteered for two years for *Night of a Thousand Gowns*, and seeing the Court's fundraising abilities, my "husband" of six years Wolfgang and I

decided to join the Court. After one year I had the honor of being elected to a one year term on The Board of Directors. I've played an active role in the Court's fundraising and social activities. Being chairman of the raffle committee last year I raised more than \$2300. This year as chairman again, the proceeds from the raffle was more than \$4600. In addition I organized a theatre night that raised \$300 for the Court. Fundraising is not my only role in the Court. Besides performing with the Court, I have attended most of the Court's social activities and been to four out-of-town coronations. Attended all but one general membership meeting in two years and missed only one board meeting.

Fundraising has not been limited to the Court. Raising money for AIDS organizations became an important part of my life after being diagnosed with "GRID" in 1982, now know as AIDS. Raising money for Gay Games IV was an important part of my responsibilities as co-director of Team New York. As president, the last six years, of the largest Gay and Lesbian bowling league I have developed and organized fundraisers for PWAC, The Quilt, and GMHC, raising more than \$10,000. My dedication to the bowling community has earned me the two highest awards the tri state area gives, The Tom Hack Award and The Ken Hale Award both named for victims of AIDS.

As Emperor of the court, my goals will be to educate HIV+ people that there is a life after being diagnosed. Getting more "male dressing" members in the Court so the public will see that the Court is not just a "drag" organization that raises money for AIDS organizations, but a fund raising organization that happens to have members who look FABULOUS in drag.

With my dedication, financial stability, flexible work schedule and a very supportive Wolfgang, I feel that I will carry on the tradition of our former Monarchs and make you proud of your decision to elect me Emperor VII of The Imperial Court of New York.



**WILLIAM PATERSON**  
Brother to  
H.M.I.S.M. Steven  
The Angel and  
LaScala Duke  
William

I am beginning my third year of membership. I am on the Bylaws and Journal

Committees; I work with the Secretary to mail notices and agendas to members who did not make meetings. In the past I have been on the Hospitality Committee and the Prince and Princess Ball Committee.

As part of my job, I have worked on four fund raising dinners where several hundred thousand dollars were raised for cardiac research and am currently working on a medical center campaign to raise \$1.25 million. As well I was co-organizer of several large dinners choosing locale, menus, music, etc.

I feel that information or answers to questions do not always filter down from the Board to the membership. I think we should be more in contact with the other courts to learn more about them and, I think, be strengthened by being more familiar with the way they operate. We should actively try to include members from other groups, i.e., leather, computer groups, etc. It would benefit us to be more welcoming to nondrag and nonperformers. If we were able to get a close relationship with a bar or restaurant, we could increase our visibility and fund raising opportunities. We could do more small fund raisers for a variety of causes.

I would like to see the titles changed: enter as baron/baroness; second year earl/countess. At the fourth year marquis/marchioness. Duke/Duchess and Prince/Princess would follow. Of course, the monarchs would have the option of elevating for Court or personal reasons.

I would like to learn more about our archives, what they consist of, and to be available at the *Night of One Thousand Gowns*.

I will do my utmost of my ability if elected to bring a new view, dedication, hard work, availability to listen, and to answer questions.



JOHN YOHANNAN  
aka COUNTESS FABU LA RUE!  
[REDACTED] 8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
ASTORIA, N.Y. 11103

JULY 28, 1996

TO ALL COURT MEMBERS:  
Re: Executive Board Chair;

I have several reasons for wanting to join the Board. One is the fact that I have waited and watched to see how this organization functions and I basically agree with what we are trying to accomplish. It is a charity organization that gives and it is time in my life that I start giving back.

I have worked on a Board of Directors for a Non-for-Profit Dance Company for three years. It was a massive amount of paper work to get through. However everyone pulled their own weight. I am the type to roll up his sleeves and get the job done. I also believe if I do not understand something, to ask. I am also on the Court Circular as a reporter with my own column. I plan to do as much as possible for the Ball this year and next.

I believe in communication with everyone and to treat people equally and fairly. I believe the Board should represent the entire organization and not just a select few interests.

I have many suggestions for raising money and social awareness and hope to be able to put them to good use.

The reason for the late entry is, I originally planned to run and had submitted my application on time. I then had a bad time with my chemotherapy and thought that I would not be able to work as hard as I would like to. However I am fine now and was convinced by many, many Court members and friends to try.

I thank everyone concerned for this last minute decision. If you would like to get a hold of me and ask me questions or just to talk, my telephone number is [REDACTED]

Thank you for your time,

Countess Fabu La Rue!  
aka John Yohannan.

FLR/jy



# THE ICNY MONARCH CANDIDATES

... for Empress XI



**JOHNNY  
CELLA**

*Sister to  
H.M.I.S.M. Steven,  
Consort to the  
Empress,  
The Angel and  
LaScala  
La Grande  
Princess Royale  
Gianna*



**THOM  
HANSEN**

*Sister to H.M.I.S.M.  
Ran-Dee  
The Angel &  
LaScala  
Princess Royale  
Panzi*



**DAVID  
MANDEL**

*Princess Royale  
Shonda Lear*

A Symbol, A Representative, A Voice. This is what I believe our Empress is. I would like to become your symbol, your representative, your voice, because, I would be honored to stand with such a diverse, talented, unique and committed group of people, you the membership. My proudest moments on stage have been when the announcer says "Ladies and Gentlemen, the Imperial Court of New York." Having been active from the very beginning of my membership, I have seen the vast array of changes we have undergone. The most important and significant change has been the sense of unity we now enjoy as a group. I will do my very best to continue this unity of all members, not exclusive - but inclusive! We are not a group of people divided by diversity, but united by it.

Since joining the Court five years ago, I have chaired and/or co-chaired 10 events, been involved on 20 committees, participated in over 100 events, attended 6 NOATG's and attended 10 Out-of-Town Coronations. I am a sincere, approachable, hard working, team player with unbounded energy. I believe in our mission and I take it seriously, because we need to continuously raise awareness, educate and raise funds for research and our Community.

To me the Empress of the ICNY has a very time consuming, difficult job. She must approach this position with her heart and sole, be dedicated, have worked very hard for the Organization over the years, focused on our Mission, and be representative of the level of excellence which the ICNY has established and maintains. She is the memberships voice to the Board. She should be gracious, have a sympathetic ear and be confident. I now believe I have these qualifications to properly serve you and have a successful reign.

My promise is to represent you in the glamorous and elegant tradition maintained by our illustrious College of Monarchs, as well as in a dignified and articulate manner, at all times. My goals are to continue to raise funds for our Community through various new and exciting venues and projects by increasing visibility and public acceptance; educate the public on the importance of the Court; increase the male image acceptance; to increase the sense of unity within our own organization, for "united we stand together, divided we will fall one by one." I thank you for your time, consideration, efforts this past year, and most importantly, your unity. I welcome the opportunity to be your Empress XI. **VOTE! Trust your heart, your heart will not let you down, and neither will I.**

Many of you have asked why I want to be Empress. That is, perhaps, the hardest question of all. I can give you a litany of my past experience in the Community and in the Court; I can make promises as to what I would add to the Monarchy - but "why" is a very hard question. I only know that in my true heart of hearts, I really want to serve you as your next Monarch. When the Widow Norton, founder of the Imperial Court System proclaimed me her first grand daughter while we were in San Diego, I gained a new appreciation and respect for the roles we play in our little "game".

Sometime this month, I will mail each of you my resume, listing my credentials and prior community involvement. I encourage you to read them to get to know me better. Hopefully, you will see that I am qualified to fill this position.

This past year I served as President, and now I am asking you to extend your confidence in me, once again, but this time as your next Empress. I am committed to this role, and if you chose to elect me, I promise that you will never regret this choice. I also believe that I can best serve the Court in only one capacity at a time - and this is why I decided not to run for President this year.

Timing is everything, and the time is right for me now. I own my own business, and it is structured as such, that I can take as much time as I need for travel, community service, and whatever the Court may require me to do. I do not know what the future will hold for me - that is why I would like to serve as Monarch this year as opposed to sometime in the future.

I love life. I love to have fun and I love to make people laugh. Please give me the opportunity to share my individuality and personality with you as Empress - it will make my poor, dear old Grand-Mother very happy.

*Here's to a Grand Year...*

Heart felt thanks to all members of the Imperial Court. Before I start recounting any of my experiences during the past four years of my membership with the Court, I must say that without all of your support through the years I would have not been able to realize my dreams and creative endeavors in establishing my own jewelry company. To all of you I am deeply grateful.

The service, dignity and hard-working fun that the title of Empress XI brings will be the crowning event of my new life. Over the past five years (2 1/2 years of which I was a member of the Executive Board), I have chaired and co-chaired seven committees for various functions and have been a working member of numerous others. As we approach the 11th *Night of a Thousand Gowns* and circuit coronations across the continent, the tingly feeling of delight comes over me. I am looking forward to participating in these events to the fullest.

For me, discovering that I am HIV+ and later developing AIDS was the springboard element of my direct community involvement. My father, who many of you met during the pre-assembly of the Pride Parade, is also incredibly proud of our community achievements. This is one of the main reasons why he marched with PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). Since I have been marching in the parade for over 15 years and have never had this experience, I was overwhelmed. My goals and visions for the Court are ones of hope and happiness and most importantly raising money for our overextended and tireless community organizations.

My vision. My vision for the Court consists of the following: direct innovative fund raising through ICNY events; assisting other organizations in their fund raising efforts; and education and learning about other community organizations that meet at and/or around the Center. Inclusion of transgendered, drag kings, women and people of color through outreach events and creative forums are also part of this plan. I believe creating an organized volunteer program in association with the Gay and Lesbian Center will be a wonderful way to reciprocate all the things they have done for us. Public awareness of the Imperial Court of New York through innovative and cost-conscious visual aids will help show the community at large who we are through powerful examples of raising self-esteem, purpose, fun, and working together as a team. This hopefully will bring more happiness and self-fulfillment to ourselves and others.



# ELECTION '96- MEET THE

## ...for President

### JOHN BERTRAND

*Sister to H.M.I.S.M. Steven,  
The Angel and LaScala  
Princess Kitty Fouché*



Please join me in celebrating the start of my tenth anniversary with the Imperial Court of New York. These years mark for me a celebration of personal dedication and participation in one of New York City's most influential, philanthropic Gay and Lesbian

fund raising organizations.

During the first nine years I have witnessed successes our organization has made to our community, both in finance and public awareness. My tenth year I want to make a greater contribution by providing leadership our organization needs; leadership with insight on maintaining our court's purposes to the community and to it's members.

I seek the primary position of President and/or the position of Treasurer.

I want to serve as president so I may implement a strategic Business Plan that enhances our fundamental purposes of community fund raising, safe member socials, and positive community awareness of the Imperial Court System ideals. My Business Plan prescribes a renewed commitment to these purposes and a realization that we "cannot continue business as usual." We must approach our future with professional business management using clear-cut goals of expectation and accomplishment.

When elected I will focus on three areas of programming. First, orchestrate a strong marketing plan to include two major fundraisers (our *Spring Night of a Thousand Gowns* and a similar function in the Fall) and I would develop continuous fundraising projects throughout the year. Second, use the approved By-Law Standing Committees of Fund Raising; Community Outreach; and Promotions and Public Relations to fulfill the plan's objective. Finally, improve communication between membership and Board by creating a forum or round table of discussion for members to voice their issues and ideas. Such a forum will allow members to speak on issues such as by-law ratification, board decisions, and potential fund raising projects.

Principally there are four fundamental board responsibilities. They are to ensure Monarch fulfillment of obligations, regulate the Monarch Candidate Nominations Committee,

supervise the annual Board elections, and oversee the coronation production.

I add a fifth responsibility of Program Development. This Program development would include all member participation, profitable programming to benefit our community, and programming that will be less "self-proclamation" and more "self-gratification" in the eyes of our community.

As president I will conduct professional, impartial management of our corporation, and preside all meetings with Parliamentary Law and working knowledge of our by-laws and standing rules. As treasurer I will adhere to the positions' expectations.

In this year of centennial Olympic dreams I ask you to hand me the torch of hope and trust so that I may light the path to accomplishment with fairness and equality. I will appreciate your vote of confidence!

### CHARLES CHING

*H.I.M. The Absolute Empress VII  
CoCo LaChine*



"Oh, her again?" You're right, I'm here again running for the position of President of the Court. I have been here a few times before, as president and once as Empress. For me, having served as Empress is probably the highest title I would ever want, so

my desire to serve again as President really is not for the title.

Being President is usually a thankless job. You bust your butt off, but there is always some jealous queen who will find fault with you. I've learned from my past experience: you can't please everyone - you can only do your best. It definitely is not for the power.

When I helped reorganize this Court over 6 years ago, I had great dreams for our organization. Today, I am very proud of who we have become. This Court has established itself as an important part of the Community. We are recognized not only for our camp and elegant style, but for our philanthropic works as well. I would like to continue this tradition as President.

I will bring to this position my vast experience in the Community, having served on the boards of The Center, GLAAD and Gay Games IV. I will bring more recognition to the Court, having been honored with the Outstanding Service to the Community Award by the Gay/Lesbian Law Association and named as one of OUT Magazine's Top 100 in 1994. I will add

to the visibility of our work, having been featured on the covers of HX and Tapestry magazine. And if you don't blink, you could actually see me in the movies "TO WONG FOO" and "STONEWALL".

So why am I running for President? Simply because it would be an honor to do so!

## ...for Vice President

### J. GRANT ANDERSON

*Lord Grant*



I've been a member of the Imperial Court of New York since I moved here in January '96. Prior I had been a member of the Imperial Court of Buffalo for three and a half years. While a member of the Imperial Court of Buffalo I had served two terms as

secretary of the Executive Board and had risen through titles from Lord to Imperial Crown Prince. I have chaired several fundraisers as Imperial Crown Prince, at the same time serving as secretary. Many of you say New York is not Buffalo - however any Imperial Court is a non-profit fundraiser organization. I hope to add my experience as a fundraiser and Executive Board member from Buffalo to the Imperial Court of New York.

### WOLFGANG BUSCH

*Count Wolfgang von Busch*



After 2 years as a member of the Imperial Court and with the support of my Domestic Partner Tom De Conza of 6 years, I have decided to run for the office of Vice President. I started my community service at the age of ten. I

grew up in Germany, was an Altar Boy and a Local Youth soccer player. Later I broke in the "NEWPEES" a.k.a. American G.I.'s and supported the German-American Friendship in a unique way.

My family background is in business and politics and I have successfully worked them



# ICNY BOARD CANDIDATES

together. Supporting myself by working my trade as a dental technician and doing lights and sound for bands on the road and various clubs and organizations I was able to start volunteering in 1985 at the Musicians Union, Local 802 for two years. There I learned that in order to make political changes I needed to know everything about the music trade, including the problems of Gay and Lesbian Musicians in a billion dollar business. So I worked as a producer, director, promoter, booking agent, publicist, distributor, host, security, DJ, art designer, artist development, manager and created dance parties for 10 years for clubs like: Limelight, Palladium, China Club, Tunnel, Webster Hall, Roxy and many more. I became known as a "Music Entrepreneur" and Role Model. Out of that I started to develop my video skills and in 1990 created a Public Access TV show for the local musicians to educate and showcase their talents to the local music community and created Seminars and Fundraisers for Gay Games IV, Hale House, Animals Adoption League, Act Up, Gods Love We Deliver and others followed. I have volunteered for LifeBeat, The Music Academy, Women in Music, Imperial Court (for two years prior to joining), GLAAD and GMHC just to name a few.

The creation of New York New Rock LTD, a Not-for-Profit music corporation two years ago in 1994 has been an important part of my life. Working with Jack Herman, a former member of The Board of Education, has helped me with my higher education skills. In the last 2 years we have worked with The International Center for the Disabled, Arts and Design High School and with The Department for the Ageing and Youth addressing issues like stereotyping, smoking, intergenerational programs and many more. Besides the documentation of events for The Imperial Courts, I covered the Soccer World Cup '94, Gay Games III and IV, Major League Soccer and Industrial/Gothic and Experimental Music.

With the time, effort and participation in many of The Court's events I have invested for the last 2 years I feel the time is right to get more involved politically with The Court and present my ideas. Meeting "Mama" after attending the San Francisco Coronation and entertaining her this summer I was able to pick her brain on the foundation of The Imperial Court system and I must say it was a mind blowing experience. Knowing her prayers and sense of humor now, my fundamental point of view is to teach this to our membership. To structure that, I want to create committees that do just that. Besides the day to day duties as Vice President I plan to spend a lot of time doing research.

I enjoy and love working creatively and look forward to serving The Imperial Court.

## FRED FRICK

*Sister to H.M.I.S.M. Ran-Dee,  
Consort to the Emperor,  
The Angel & LaScala  
Princess Lita Austin*



Having been an active member for 5 years and attending NOATG for 7 years, I have seen the Imperial Court of New York grow from a few dedicated individuals into a strong, active and committed organization. I feel that the general membership is the "life force" of

this organization and their collective voices should be represented. If elected as Vice President, one of my major goals would be to keep the members updated and informed. I truly believe they should be made aware of their choices and share in the decision making process.

No leader is absolute and I feel that any elected position is a "trust" between that office and its members. A good leader should have compassion and flexibility, as well as convictions, and stand by these principles. The Imperial Court of New York is above all a fundraising organization to benefit the Gay and Lesbian community. I have been involved in many aspects of this area and feel that it is time to take the next step.

To the members and friends who know me, they know I am one to help in any way I am able, be it personal or Court issues. To the new members I look forward to forging new friendships, as well as being able to represent you. I truly believe that the Imperial Court of New York serves a vital and important function in our "community" and it would be a great honor to serve you ... the members.

## ... for Secretary

### VICTOR GROSSETTI

*Viscountess Tori Adore*



As a new member of the Imperial Court of New York, I have been impressed by the quality of leadership of this organization, and wish to contribute my energy, imagination, and enthusiasm to the Board of Directors. I have been a mem-

ber of the NYC Gay Men's Chorus since 1992, serving presently on the Music and Artist Development Committee. I also served as the 15th Chorus Queen in 1995 and sought to elevate the position from an in-house honorific to a visible and glamorous representative of the group. It seemed natural for me to join the Court in November 1995 as my reign was ending, since the Court embodies so many of the ideals I sought to personify as Chorus Queen.

From 1984 to 1991 I sang with the Pan Am Chorus and traveled throughout Europe and South America with them, averaging four trips abroad a year. From 1990-1992 I was the manager of the AIDS Initiative Volunteer Program at the Actors' Fund of America, where I have been employed since 1989. My commitment to political and social justice has been lifelong; I have been a political activist with Act-Up, a volunteer at GMHC, a member of the NY Public Interest Research Group, the Straphangers Campaign, West Side Citizens' Action and a board member of Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats.

I have worked on various political campaigns since the early 1970's including openly Gay and Lesbian candidates Deborah Glick, Tom Duane and Dave Taylor, who's unsuccessful campaign for City Council in 1989 employed me as Office Manager and Treasurer. I have been living with my domestic partner, Page Jackson for over 18 years, and I bring a strong sense of commitment to any endeavor I undertake. I am honored to be a member of the Imperial Court of New York and the International Court System and pledge to work diligently to enhance the already formidable reputation of this wonderful organization. Therefore I humbly ask for your support: "Vote for Tori, you won't be sorry!"

## ... for Treasurer

### JOHN BERTRAND

*Sister to H.M.I.S.M. Steven,  
The Angel and LaScala  
Princess Kitty Fouché*



*See for President*



# ELECTION '96- MEET THE

## BILL LA MONICA

*Sister Empress to H.M.I.S.M. Ran-Dee,  
H.I.M. Empress VIII Billie Ann Miller*



For the past six years I have been Treasurer for the Imperial Court of New York, and I would like to continue in this position. I have the time and the desire to assist in monitoring the Court's finances. Hopefully, the members feel I am worthy to con-

tinue in this position and will vote in favor for me.

## ... for Board Member

### J. GRANT ANDERSON

*Lord Grant*



*See for Vice  
President*

### GARY COSGROVE

*Brother to H.M.I.S.M. Steven,  
The Angel and LaScala  
Count Gabriel Fratelli*



As a member of the Court for the past 2 years, I have taken a great interest in the inner workings of our organization. With my experience and background in politics, as well as various service boards in a 12-step program, I will bring to the organization my

hopes, strengths, and experience. I strongly believe in a "WE" organization not an "I". As

every executive board should have authority in matters concerning the welfare of the organization, the voice of the membership should be just as strong. The Court's focus is on fundraising and with that comes fun. We all need to come together and fight the battles together, not against each other. I have always admired work the past boards have done and if elected I hope to enhance the Court's visibility and fundraising efforts, as well as have fun. I thank you for the opportunity to be of service to the Court.

### BRIAN H. CREDE

*Sister to T.M.I.S.M. Ran-Dee & Steven,  
The Angel and LaScala  
Princess Trompe L'oeil*



I consider it a privilege and an honor to announce my decision to run for a Board Member position of the Imperial Court of New York. I fully realize the responsibility and welcome the opportunity to serve the membership and bring my experience to this

important position.

I've been an active member of the Imperial Court for 3 years. My involvement with the Court has been, primarily, on a design level. I was co-chair of the Ball Journal Design Committee for 2 years ('94 & '96) and was responsible for the layout, design, and production of those Journals. I've contributed designs for fliers and ads for various Court events including *Night of a Thousand Gowns* & H.I.M. Philomena's Tijuana AIDS Benefit, designs for the Monarch Pins for H.I.M. Billie Ann & H.I.M. Ron, H.I.M. Philomena, and most recently, H.M.I.S.M. Ran-Dee & H.M.I.S.M. Steven. I created the new ICNY logo and most recently acted as the founding art director of the ICNY's newsletter, the *Court Circular*.

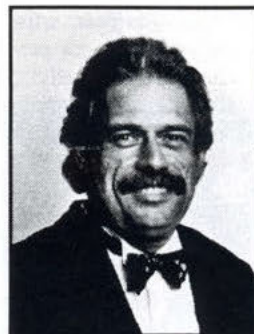
Turning to other organizations, I sat on the Board of Directors of the Graphic Artists Guild (4 years), Spanish Dance Arts (3 years), and the Arts Project of Cherry Grove (2 years). I co-chaired the annual Cherry Grove Art Show for 8 years and designed show posters for 15 years of fundraisers in New York and on Fire Island.

I welcome the opportunity to bring my experience from 18 years of running my own business, as well as, my fundraising and organizational skills to the Court Board. I believe there is a need to open communications between the Board and the General Membership so that, together, we can work toward a united goal. It is my wish to see the entire Court, both the Board and the Membership, working together as one to

make the New York Court the greatest fundraising organization it can be. I look forward to becoming part of this exciting new team and promise you, the membership, my continued hard work. I hope I can count on you for your support.

### TOM DECONZA

*Prince Tom*



*See for Emperor*

### THOM HANSEN

*Sister to H.M.I.S.M. Ran-Dee,  
The Angel & LaScala  
Princess Royale Panzi*



*See for Empress*

### GARRET MALTER

*Baroness Leeza Monet*



As most of you know, on June 8th, I received the title of Miss New York City 1996. That night is one I will not forget. I am now beginning to realize what an honor it is to represent our community as Miss NYC. Reality is setting in and it's wonderful.

A lot of people have asked, "what are you going to do with that title?" My primary goal is to support the fund raising efforts in our community.



# ICNY BOARD CANDIDATES

The first step I'm taking to achieving that goal is running for Executive Board Member of the Imperial Court of New York.

The first NOATG I attended was Coco's stepdown. That seemed like yesterday. Since joining ICNY, I have participated in an average of 15 events and served on about three committees annually. I've also travelled out-of-town. For those of you who haven't done drag on the international set, Toronto is the place to do it! Outside the Court, I've participated in pageants and contests and performed in bars throughout the City. As a Board Member, I would like to represent the general membership as a "general member" and to increase the Court's awareness by reaching out my fellow brothers and sisters of color.

When casting your vote, please remember that your vote is your opportunity to be heard. Your one vote can set the tone for the Court for the coming year. To all Monarch and Board Member candidates the best of luck. Just remember - whoever our next Emperor and Empress and Fearless Leaders may be, you have my support.

## DAVID MANDELL

*Princess Royale Shonda Lear*



*See for Empress*

## ROBERT SORRELL

*Grand Duchess Swana Swarovski*



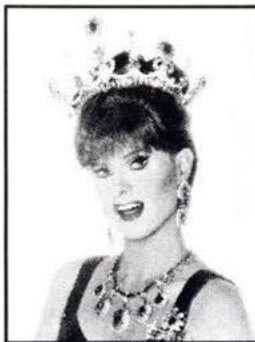
In my mind's eye, I have a vision of what the Court should be and of the function it should perform. The only way I can realize this vision, even in part, is to involve myself in the decision making process.

I also enjoy very much the small

parts I have played in planning "The Ball". I feel that being on the Board keeps me more informed and involved than I would be as an ordinary member - and that is good for me.

## PHILIP STOEHR

*H.I.M. Empress IX Philomena*



At this time, I feel as though serving on the Board of Directors is the best way I can support the Imperial Court. Having achieved the post of monarch, I feel that stepping aside a little and encouraging other, newer, members to become more involved in the man-

agement of the Court will help serve to lay the foundation of our future. As a member of the Court for six years, and the General Secretary for the past four years, I feel that I can bring an historical perspective to the Board's proceedings, as well as experiences and contacts that should prove useful to the organization. Regardless of the outcome of this election, it is my sincere intention to remain an active member of the Court, and to support the Monarchs, the Board and the membership in all ways.

## DOMENICO A. TOLIPANI

*Countess Tedi DeBare*



When I joined the Imperial Court of New York in September 1994, I joined to show my support for someone in the Court, not the organization itself. It seems I really didn't know the full scope of the Court System. In the 2 years that I have been a member, I've been privileged

to get to know some very wonderful, hard working people and to, in some small way, contribute to a very special organization. I've come to know the Imperial Court of New York and the International Court System, and am very proud to be a part of it. Now, I support the Imperial Court of New York in whatever small way I can. In the past two years, I've had the privilege of working with some very special people: Phil at his show at Triad; Coco at the Center's Garden Party; Kitty at St. Luke's (Hearts and Voices); Daisy Mae and Robert at the Hoedown; and, of course, co-chairing the hospitality suite at this year's *Night of a Thousand Gowns* with Billie was something else. At this time, I feel I would like to be a lot more involved in the Imperial Court of New York, and, as I am no Victoria, Gianna or Fabu (just to name

a few), I think the most logical place for me to do so would be as a Board Member.

I was a member of the Board of Directors of SAGE for 4 years, co-chairing the special events, cultural diversity and inclusion and membership committees. I currently chair SAGE's Group Activities Committee which puts together the monthly SAGE socials.

If the membership feels I am qualified, it would be a privilege and an honor to serve as a Board Member for such a special organization; the Imperial Court of New York.

## ALBERT WALSH

*Kammersangerin Viscontessa La Diva*



Over the last 20 years I have belonged to and served on the board of many organizations. I am now finally comfortable in an organized group - The Imperial Court of New York. I would like to take all my skills, and as a people person, use them

to help guide the Court through a new year. I feel that our strength lies in our diversity. If we can work together through our diverseness, we can send a united and strong message to one and all, while fulfilling our goal of education and charitable works.

## ... for Minister of Protocol

## BILLIE LITTLE

*Viscountess de Ville*



Dear Members of The Imperial Court of NY, I am Billy Little, Viscountess de Ville and I'm running for the office of Minister of Protocol. I have been a member of the Court for almost 5 years and recently been elevated to Viscountess based

on my many years of visibility at numerous Court functions. I took the title de Ville to represent Queens, Brooklyn and L.I. I want to thank the reigning monarchs for this honor; wishing to



serve as Minister of Protocol with dedication, using fresh ideas in an old fashion way, carrying on important traditions we have preserved and improving our system of protocol.

I have many ideas for each and every member to become united to share the spotlight. I've proposed at the July meeting a *new* ICNY 10th anniversary button that I wish to produce. At our past ball I made a gold staff to note that I was the person to "check-in" with so that *all* members were united on stage to make their presentations. These ideas are to "show us off" as the individuals we are through protocol

The job isn't easy when it comes to the ball. Protocol is an important part but one person can do it all. The point of the ball is to *have a ball!* Protocol assists as part of the grandure highlighting each and every member as unique personalities such as our own Shonda Lear. We can use it to strongly unite us — or separate us. Starting out as the only visible "Black Lady" in the Court years ago *I don't want to be separated.* As one of the "Little" people I want me and my ideas like you to be heard and seen — especially seen!

I've always loved protocol and the fun you can have with it. I want to show you how much fun you can have with it too! *Remember — "Presentation Is Everything!"* See you at the next meeting!

# ROBERT SORRELL

Grand Duchess Swana Swarovski



See for Board Member

You've had the opportunity to meet this year's candidates for the Imperial Court of New York's up coming elections. Please read their biographies, and learn a little something about what they stand for and where each candidate thinks the Court is going. This is your organization, please take part in electing the Monarchs and a Board of Directors that you feel represent the Court to its fullest.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### AUGUST

#### Sunday, August 18

- *Morning Party*, Fire Island - contact Tom DeConza

#### Monday, August 19

- *Royal Review* at the Ice Palace, Cherry Grove, F.I. - contact Billie Ann

#### Wednesday, August 28

- *End of the Year Social* at Panzi's - contact Panzi

### SEPTEMBER

#### Wednesday, September 11

- *ICNY General Meeting:* Elections of Monarchs and Board Members

### OCTOBER

#### Saturday, October 5

- *Atlantic City Outing* - contact Gary Cosgrove or Robert Van Glahn

#### Saturday, October 12

- *Coronation* - Toronto, Canada - contact Empress X Ran-Dee & Emperor VI Steven

### NOVEMBER

#### Tuesday, November 19

- *A Royal Birthday Celebration for Emperor VI Steven* - 8pm "Chicago" Theater Party, \$60.75. Payment no later than August 7 - contact Johnny Cella

### 1997

### JANUARY

#### Friday, January 17

- *Holiday Party* - at 24 Fifth Avenue. Semi-formal, \$55/per person - contact Tom DeConza

### MARCH

#### Saturday, March 22

- *Night of 1000 Gowns* - Coronation, New York, NY at the Hilton New York - contact Empress X Ran-Dee & Emperor VI Steven.