

IMPERIAL
COURT

NEW YORK

The Court Circular

Volume IV, Issue 4

June 1999

Night of A Thousand Gowns

by Princess DaisyMae

Ah, Night of 1,000 Gowns. It's our evening to shine! This year the Imperial Court of New York became the Emerald Empire as we welcomed our guests to come join us in Emerald City! From the opening number, which gave us a twelve minute version of the Oz story to the Coronation of the new monarchs, it was an evening of glam, glitter and glamazons.

The opening number, *Welcome to the Emerald City* gave us a chance to bring a new meaning to a beloved story. Panzi, as Dorothy, shined and with her little dog, Toto, ably performed by Bentley, got a chuckle from the audience. The Scarecrow, the Tin Man and the Cowardly Lion, played by Matt Baney, Gary Greene and Jacques Beaulande, were wonderful. We loved our own Empress Billy Ann as Auntie Em. One wonders what was being said when our Imperial Crown Princess Anne Tique was cast as the Wicked Witch of the West. Her broomstick never swept the stage so gracefully! Bella, as Glinda, the Good Witch, was wonderful. But the group that stole the show was the wonderful Lollypop Guild. Joni Plotkin, Carol Casbar and Damien Ross just made you want to suck on an all day sucker! The chorus, members of the Imperial Court were stunning in various concoctions of Green as the denizens of Emerald City. Emperor William's speech about "a girl from Jersey City could become Empress" was touching. And the finale to the number was a moving *Over the Rainbow* with a portion of the Rainbow Flag that was from Stonewall 25 as the centerpiece. Thom Hansen conceived the number and is to be congratulated for a number well done.

The first act included the opening speech by President Phillip Stoehr. He reminded us that the purpose of the evening was fundraising for two worthy charities: God's Love We



Deliver and the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project.

Our Dowager Emperor Tomàs entertained us with his walk/musical number. With the assistance of the lovely ladies of the Court, he brought back memories of our youth with various Motown hits. We will fondly remember Tomàs' contribution to the Court.

The second act opened with a command performance by Lee Roy Reams. He gave us a recap of Jerry Herman numbers that we enjoyed.

Then the Imperial Court of New York took center stage with a montage of all our members. Cameras were flashing as our beauty and grandeur emanated from the stage. As we were introduced to the Monarchs from the lowest to the highest, our

walks were well received by the audience. And we *were* glamorous. As Bette Midler once quipped, "We showered, we shaved, we FDSed ourselves into a stupor!" It was a fitting end to the reign of Emperor William and Panzi as we greeted them.

After a fun musical number by our Empress XII-1/2 Jazzmine Taylor, the rest of the Courts in attendance were presented.

The end to the Second Act was Dowager Empress Gianna's performance. She gave the *Lion King* new meaning as she and her entourage went over-the-top. It was a performance worthy to be performed on Broadway.

The Third Act included the Final Walks for Emperor VIII William and Empress XII Panzi. The

Emerald Empire Monarchs were enthusiastically received by the audience. It was well known how much work they both had contributed to both the Court system as well as the general community during their reign.

Then the finale began, the Coronation of our new Monarchs, Emperor IX Chet and Empress XIII Anne Tique. The college of Monarchs accompanied by our Queen Mother, Nicole the Great de



The Court Circular

*The Official Newsletter
of the Imperial Court of New York*



New York, NY 10003

www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Heights/4090

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*To raise funds for Gay & Lesbian
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*The Executive Board of the Imperial
Court of New York meets on the second
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*The General Membership meets on the
first Wednesday of each month at
The Center, 1 Little West 12th St.
at 8:00pm.*

San Diego and Empress I. José, the Widow Norton joined William and Panzi on the dais for the event. Then the presentation of the new monarchs began. Chet chose the title of The Ethereal Sunrise Emperor and his walk to the dais was touching with a Tudor design. Anne Tique chose the title of The Golden Gotham Glamazon Empress and she brought back ancient Greece and Rome with her family. They both were received into Mama's family as she proclaimed them our new monarchs.

So to recap. It was an exciting evening. The closing of a great reign for William and Panzi and beginning of a new day for Chet and Anne Tique. ■



Anne Tique and Chet Get Their Feet Wet

By Empress Anne Tique

The Prince and Princess show at Splash Bar on March 24th started off Coronation week. The show benefited The Callen-Lorde Center and New Jersey Based Friends for Life. The show was hosted by at the time Imperial Crown Prince Royale Chet and Imperial Crown Princess Royale Anne Tique. The show went on promptly at 9 p.m. with fabulous performances by Anne Tique who will never walk alone and Chet who likes to dance a lot. Our reigning Monarchs Emperor VIII William and Empress XII Panzi were in attendance and congratulated on a successful reign. Gabriel Della Notte and Mae Nicole who showed us there ain't no mountain high enough. The ever glamorous Victoria Weston singing live as usual made a triumphant return to the stage at Splash. She ran in and out as she was working but wanted to support the show. The charming Eddie Larosa strutted on stage and wowed us. The glamorous Rusty Carter popped her cherry on stage performing a show stopper with her Broadway baby. That's one broad we will see performing again. Daisy Mae and Robert made goo-goo eyes as they kept talking about making whoopie when they got home. Shonda Lear was The cats meow. Patrice Roberts was a stunner as always. To wrap up the evening, a wonderful live performance by Steve Carpenter singing Medowlark. The show ended promptly at 10 p.m. and raised over \$1,500 dollars. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked the door and the room. Trompe L'œil, Witt Repartee, Mitzi, Josephine Boner Parte, John Capozuca, and everyone who was there supporting and helping with the event. ■

STAR-STUDED SPECTACULAR at the LIMELIGHT

by Prince Royal Gabriel Della Notte

A packed house, enthusiastically welcomed Royalty from around the country for our annual "OUT-OF-TOWN Show,

Friday, March 26th!! Over \$2000.00 was raised for our beneficiaries: Callen-Lorde Community Health Center and Friends For Life!!! All performers graciously donated their tips to the cause, as everyone hooted and hollered all night long! So many performers and so few lines to list them all. From the moment Prince Royale Gabriel Della Notte entered the stage to *Jesus Christ Superstar* (twice!), the opening number with our own "Emperettes" (Ran-Dee, CoCo, Billie Ann & Panzi), to our final numbers from ICP's Chet and Anne Tique, the crowd was wild with laughter and song. I do want to thank my very special co-hosts for that evening, the always glamorous, Blue Sapphire Empress XI Gianna, the Ethereal Broadway Angel, Empress X Ran-Dee, Empress VI of Rhode Island, Jazzmine, Empress V of Connecticut, Stella by Starlight and who could forget one of the most popular Empresses on the circuit, Empress IV of Buffalo, Chevon Davis.

No show would ever get off the ground without the people who help put it all together. my Stage Managers: Countess Fiona and Duke Damian Valentino! The on stage staff: Prince Ron, Count Eric, Viscountess' Babs and Margaux and of course the Most Famous raffle girl of the Court system: Princess Royale Mae Nicole, assisted by Viscount Tiny Chicago James (Tutta Rosa Maria). At the front door: Duchess Witt Repartee, Viscountess Morgan Stevens, Princess Royale Teddi DeBear and Baroness Mitzi. They forged their way through some technical difficulties with the sound system but managed to do a splendid job in the DJ booth: DJ Baroness Veronica La Vie en Rose and Baron David Wallace. Special thanks go to Lenny Smith and the staff at the Limelight for all their patience and help. A great big KISS and Thank you to my crew, performers and everyone who attended to make this show a huge success! See you all next year!!!! ■

The Victory Brunch

By Princess DaisyMae

Ah, the fitting end of a wonderful weekend - our Victory Brunch. It's always wonderful to see our Wuzzies, this time Emperor VIII William and

Empress XII Panzi looking like the rest of us, relaxed and casual as our new Monarchs, Emperor IX Chet and Empress XIII Anne Tique were dressed and elegant. How they manage to do that after the previous nights festivities is a wonder to all us mortals. Guess that's why they are the Monarchs and we aren't! To begin our thank yous were opening remarks by

President

Philomena. She announced that the Board had a present for Prince Robert and Princess DaisyMae for all the work done on this year's Journal. Panzi and William then took over the dais and gave out several thank you gifts and final presentations to various Monarchs and Courtiers throughout the various empires. It was a fitting ending to a grand year for them and we all applauded them as they left the dais. Then the moment we were all waiting for, the virgin speeches of our new Monarchs. It was a joy to have both of them name the





members of their respective families, most of whom were in the Coronation the night before. Chet established the Ethereal Sunrise Society and Anne Tique the Metropolitan Muse Society as part of the occasion. There were lots of hugging and air kisses as members gathered around the dais as they were named. In this writer's humble opinion, it was a good mix of members from the Court and one that reaches out to all sectors therein. Chet and Anne Tique are committed to enriching our Court and nurturing it. Their societies reflect that commitment to fairness and opportunity. The final minutes were time for words of wisdom from our dear, José I, the Widow Norton. He commended New York on the work that we have done and encouraged us to continue to grow in that direction. He reminded us that the Court system isn't just about Dressing Up, but is a commitment to our community to build and nurture it using our special gifts as the vehicle to do so. So with this benediction, we bid our out-of-town guest adieu and left feeling satisfied that we had accomplished much. ■

saw the amazing transformation of the Men of the Court into the finest ladies your heart could desire - not! Whether it was Emperor V Ron doing a Julie Wilson number, Tutta Rosa Maria, giving Ethel Merman a run for the money or Chet himself, it was a fun evening of humour and the ridiculous. Really folks, if you missed this, you missed the funniest evening of the Court all season. These men really showed us that they have studied the ladies and know all our foibles to a T! There is just something about a bearded lady that gives hope to the homely and unnoticed. We loved Cher, Gary, and we want to know when you will be booking with her? Eduardo, you took the cake with your outfit. You sure you weren't a drag queen in an earlier life? Anne Tique, you better hide your make-up from Ron or we may yet see a same sex couple in the Empress's household! Damien, we are ready for that Spankie! And Tony. Shonda better hide her jew-



els! And Daisy Mae-Not. What can I say? In twenty-four hours to go from a man to THAT hussy! And look good doing it! But our evening was complete as Empress



Tuff Drag

By Princess Daisy Mae

The final event of Court Week was on Tuesday, March 30th, when we undertook Tuff Drag at the Web on 58th Street. Under the able leadership of Emperor IX Chet and the encouragement of Empress XIII Anne Tique, we





VIII Billie Ann and José I, the Widow Norton, proclaimed our own Peacock the Tuff Drag Queen. As you can see from the pictures, nothing was left to the imagination! Tips flew like air kisses as our men worked their booties for the Court! Brava! ■

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Swellegant Elegance

By Princess DaisyMae

The Court once again visited with our brother organization, the NYC Gay Men's Chorus at Carnegie Hall on March 15. The theme was *Swellegant Elegance*, an evening of Cole Porter. It was an evening of all favorites as Porter's music is so well known. But Musical Director, Barry Oliver, gave the

evening a special twist with various speciality numbers. Our own Jacqueline Joneé' debuted solo with a witty rendition of *Is It the Girl (Or Is It the Gown)* which I believe most of us could really relate to! Appearing with Jacqueline were the Jo-nets who made the number really zing! Harvey Fierstein was wonderful and amusing at the Master of Ceremonies. And a great surprise was special guest Kristin Chenoweth, who is appearing in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. Ms. Chenoweth, who also made her Carnegie Hall debut, has the voice of a nightengale. For such a little woman, she's about five feet tall, her voice filled the room and she was enthusiastically received.

In Empress Panzi's absence, our



Empress XII-1/2, Jazzmine Taylor of Rhode Island, ably accompanied Emperor William to lead us members of the Court who attended. Morgana

Deluxe of Connecticut also visited with us to our delight. The after Concert cast party was a great success. It was great meeting the special stars of the evening

as well as once again congratulating the Men of the Chorus. They add so much to our community and we are proud of them. ■



In Our Easter Bonnets

By Princess DaisyMae

This past Easter, the Imperial Court again made a visit to the Easter Parade on Fifth Avenue, much to the delight of the denizens of not only this city but the world! We gathered in front of Radio City Music Hall and after waiting awhile for stragglers we made our way across 51st Street to the fabled parade. Leading the way were our new Monarchs, Emperor IX Chet and Empress XIII Anne Tique. We all looked like we had come out of the pages of Vogue as we strolled the

Avenue. We had flyers for two charities that we really like, the Children's Hope Foundation and Safe Space. While we



couldn't ask for donations at the event, our discussing the reason why we were there gave food to people to think about amid all our finery. Needless to say, if we had a nickel for every photo taken, we could put on next years Ball for free! We could only walk a few feet before we had to stop for yet another photo opportunity. Despite the cool cloudy weather, we raised the spirits of the people there and gave some sunshine to each other as well. A real highlight was returning to brunch at LIPS via New York's Fastest! Yes, we took the train downtown to the surprise of the passengers and conductors! Special thanks to Infanta Shonda Lear and Duke Tony for arranging the fun! ■



Frank calls for order in gay-rights effort

Lawmaker tells University Of Texas crowd that political discipline is best way to get results

By Angela Shah

American-Statesman Staff

Published: April 3, 1999

In a witty and often biting speech, U.S. Rep. Barney Frank on Friday urged gays and lesbians to go beyond rallies and marches and work within the political system to fight for equal treatment. Frank said gays and lesbians must now focus on defending their rights at a time when opponents are attempting to limit them through legislation, such as a Texas proposal to prohibit homosexuals from adopting children.

At a lecture sponsored by the University of Texas School of Law, Frank urged a group of about 300 to get organized, vote and lobby state and national leaders. Although he derided the attempts of the religious conservatives to "demonize" gays and lesbians, he said they have mastered the art of the political fight. "If we had the same percentage of people with the same fervor (voting and lobbying), we would win; . . . we would win sooner," he said. "My greatest regret is that I haven't been able to get us to participate politically."

A 10-term congressman from Massachusetts, Frank is a member of the House Judiciary and Banking committees. Frank, 59, is gay and for years has been a leading advocate of gay rights. Recently he attended rallies in Florida supporting a state senator's bill to give benefits to unmarried partners. During those rallies he cautioned gays and lesbians against using only marches and rallies to promote equal rights.

Politicians "don't care if you're not voters," he said Friday. "The (National Rifle Association) is the most influential political organization in the country, and I don't remember the last time they had a demonstration or parade," Frank said.

Frank also cautioned gays and lesbians against alienating people by behaving outlandishly. He compared the 1963 march in Washington supporting equal rights for African Americans with the march gays and lesbians held in the same city 30 years later. "1963 was a tightly disciplined operation," he said. "In 1993, we had a big party; we were very self-indulgent . . . talking about how it would be fun to have sex with Hillary Clinton. 'If Redd Fox would have stood up there (in 1963) and talked about sex with Jackie Kennedy, he would've been strangled on the spot,'" he said. "When you are trying to appeal to the majority, that you should disregard the feelings of the majority is very dumb."

Frank said the religious right is scrambling to find ways to oppose equal rights for gays and lesbians because overt discrimination is no longer acceptable to the general public. "The Rev. Jerry Falwell has a particular compulsion to remind the world about once a month that he is a moron," Frank said, referring to commentary attributed to Falwell that suggested the character Tinky-Winky in the children's TV program "Teletubbies" is gay.

He called religious conservatives hypocritical for support-

ing general-looking measures that are really only designed to thwart gays and lesbians, such as the Defense of Marriage Act, which Congress passed in 1996. "If they were honest, they would call it the 'We Don't Want Two Lesbians to Live Together Act,'" Frank said. "Defense of Marriage? It's like the old V-8 commercial. As if this act didn't pass, heterosexual men all over the country would say, (smack) 'I could've married a guy?!'" ■

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Thank you! Michael Weyand, Editor

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Good "Cheer" in Chelsea

By Carol and Babs

One of our friends who lives in the Chelsea section of Manhattan had told us about his favorite neighborhood meeting place, a little bar and bistro with excellent food serving a diverse clientele, that he affectionately calls something that rhymes with "Cheers", a place he/she had felt comfortable in either her male or female persona. Perhaps it was a good omen that we immediately found a parking spot on 15th St., a mere half a block away, but that was the beginning of a very pleasant and memorable evening!

Walking past the front window dining area, then the medium oak wooded bar, we were seated in the non smoking section in the rear dining area. The ambiance was kind of an airy country French. Once settled in the comfortable seats, we were pleasantly surprised with the premium house white wine, a semillon chardonnay blend from Australia, medium to full in body, but with a balance of fruit, tartness and oak that drank well by itself and later with our meal!

The menu reflected a wide variety of American and Continental dishes. We were tempted by several of the daily specials and impressed by the waiters description of them and readiness to have the ingredients modified for our dietary preference. Carol started with the shrimp cocktail, consisting of 4 fresh well textured shrimp accompanied by a "perfect" cocktail sauce, hot, biting, but without numbing the pallet! Babs, although hungry, decided to be

frugal (after paying for her new gown for the "Night of a Thousand Gowns"), and opted for a selection from the \$19.95 prix-fixe dinner menu. With a choice of New England clam chowder or mixed salad greens for starters, she chose the salad that was accompanied by a pleasant, yet tasty, balsamic vinaigrette dressing.

For the entree she chose the Tuna Provencale, prepared in a light sauce with cucumbers and capers, that was tasty even without the normal garlic, and complemented by the rice and steamed green beans. Having no Veal Parmesan on the menu, Carol became daring and picked a dish on the regular menu, the "Shrimp Pernod with saffron rice". These shrimp also had an excellent consistency, but the light creme sauce was stunning, full of flavor with the hint of the bite and sweetness of the Anis (licorice)! Served with the saffron rice and green peas, this was a marvelous dish, and combined with the Australian Bordeaux-Burgundy blend white wine, made for a truly gustatory experience! It was a winner!

The prix-fixe dinner included a modest choice of desserts and a beverage. The raspberry sorbet was very good. Meal portions were more than adequate, and we each took home doggy bags, but not to share with our puppy! Prices are reasonable, the Shrimp Pernod was \$16.00. Vegetarian and pasta entrees were \$11 and \$12, while the top price was \$21.00 for a rack of lamb. Hamburgers and limited sandwich menu is also available. Our server was knowledgeable, polite and professional.

Adjoining the downstairs kitchen is a private party room that will accommodate about 60 people in a Parisian Cafe atmosphere. We both agreed to come back again to recreate one of our more memorable meals!

Raymond's Cafe
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Visit Our Web Page

By Princess DaisyMae

If you haven't been to our Web Site, you haven't been on-line! You really must visit the site, <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Heights/4090>, produced by Princess Royal Ultimas Blaise Patrice and Trompe L'œil. It's well organized and very visual, which is what a Web Page needs to be. It has links to several different areas of interest. Most important for traveling plans is the link to the International Court calendar, which lists all the balls in the system. With a couple of clicks, you can find out almost anything about an out-of-town ball and even send e-mail to a contact at that court if you have questions that are not answered. This is especially useful if you decide you want to visit a court that is off our usual beaten path. Blaise and Trompe both welcome pictures from events as they occur as they intend to update the page often so it's well worth a return visit. Also, we are most fortunate in having a business arrangement with the premiere Internet bookseller, Amazon.Com. When you click on our suggested reading and then go into Amazon.Com we get a small commission. And if you buy the book we get a larger commission on purchases that stem from our specific recommendations. So visit the site. If you have any ideas for books, videos or music, you are encouraged to give them suggestions to put on the site. Anything that members appear in is especially desirable. And, of course, anything of special interest to the crossdresser. So, the next time you go on-line, visit us on the Web! You'll be glad you came!