

*“One should never trust a woman who tells one her real age. A woman who would tell one that, would tell one anything.”*

Oscar Wilde  
1854 - 1900

*A Woman of No Importance*

C N Y

### BROADWAY CARES/EQUITY FIGHTS AIDS & THE ACTORS' FUND OF AMERICA

Many of you are familiar with the good work that Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS has been doing for the past decade. Beyond the enormously successful and fabulous fundraising events that BC/EFA produces, you may not be aware of how some of the money raised is being spent. I have been working at The Actors' Fund of America for six years, both in the Human Services Department and as director of The AIDS Initiative Volunteer Program. I have first hand knowledge of the kind of services BC/EFA has provided through The Actors' Fund AIDS Initiative.

The Actors' Fund is a national charity organization (with offices in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago) dedicated to providing financial assistance and social services to entertainment professionals. There are various criteria for assistance from The Fund, depending on the client's need and work history in the entertainment industry. The AIDS Initiative Program has the biggest budget, thanks entirely to BC/EFA. In 1995, over \$1.5 million dollars was provided in direct financial assistance to people living with HIV and AIDS. That means rent, doctors, dentists, alternative (holistic and experimental therapies not covered by health insurance providers) therapies, health insurance, utilities, psychotherapy, etc., were paid by The Fund for clients in the AIDS Initiative, due to the benevolence of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

I have witnessed the difference the Human Services staff at The Fund has made in the lives of our clients living with HIV and AIDS. Besides dispensing financial assistance, the Social Workers afford a shoulder for our clients to lean on; provide advocacy and deal with government and institutional red tape; and run support groups for People With AIDS, for their family members and carepartners. Along with the Buddy Program (modeled on GMHC's program) the AIDS Initiative Volunteer Program also provides seminars, groups, special events and a ticket desk for our clients. Altogether, The Actors' Fund is able to provide a comprehensive financial, social services and volunteer program for PWAs and those that love and care for them, thanks to the generosity of our friends at Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

If you or anyone you know may be eligible for these services from The AIDS Initiative, or other Actors' Fund Programs, please call The Actors' Fund at 212 / 221-7300, and ask for an Intake Social Worker. All information is kept strictly confidential. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have, and you can count on my discretion. And remember darlings, Tori Adores You! 

*by Tori Adore, aka Victor Grossetti*

# 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.*

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**Richard Eagan, Victor Grossetti**

**Jamie Seguin, Robert Sorrell**

*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 13th St. at 8:00pm.*

## CORONATION - HOUSTON

We extend our congratulations to H.M.R.S.I.M. Empress XII, Ruby Stone the Guardian Angel of Heart, Humor, & Humanitarianism and H.M.R.S.I.M. Emperor XII, Jim Halbert



## TEATIME WITH KAY SERA

**THE EMPEROR OF SOCIAL CHANGE: H.I.M. Ron, Emperor V of New York, Emperor Ron, The**

Lionhearted, aka Ron Cohn. We had the privilege of an audience with His Imperial Majesty as he held impromptu Court with some cronies in a hash-house hard by the Community Center.

KAY SERA: What's a nice boy like you doing in a place like this?

RON: My dear, I did not choose the name Emperor of Social Change for nothing. There is a history that brought me to the Imperial Court, as there is for every one of us. I come from a performing tradition – I love theater – and I have always been dedicated to societal change.

KAY SERA: That can be a potent mixture, as we learned in the 1960's and continue to see today.

RON: Yes. This country is not, contrary to what we might have been taught in school, a "melting pot" – in fact *difference* is important beyond question.

KAY SERA: What is your history as an activist, then?

RON: I went to law school at Cornell and began practice in Elizabeth, New Jersey. I was a specialist in race relations at the

time of the civil rights movement, and was executive director of the Human Relations Commission in Plainfield, NJ. I moved to the South to conduct investigations into the Klan, and spoke at Ebeneezer Baptist Church at the first celebration of Doctor King's birthday.

KAY SERA: Now cut to Emperor Ron The Lionhearted, performing "Oh My Papa" in leather drag at the Center Hallowe'en Ball in 1994.

RON: Well, yes! No contradiction there at all! As social activists, it is vital for us to not fall by the wayside, to stay involved. Both the leather and transgender communities are in the vanguard of social change, the visible cutting edge of difference. I am privileged to be involved in the Court at the same time that I chair the Lesbian and Gay Issues committee of Community Board #2, and keep active in conferences and events that push forward the acceptance of difference. One must see the big picture – there's great diversity in the queer community, more than just a matter of gay or straight.

KAY SERA: So, as a member of the Court, drag means that...

RON: Every day is a drag day! It all depends on what you're doing. When I go

to an interview, it's as if the casting director is calling. Male, female, leather, three-piece Armani — I once went for an interview in the South dressed like a redneck fisherman, and got the job. Like RuPaul says, "Honey, we're born naked, and it's all drag after that".

**KAY SERA:** What advice have you, Ron, for young Courtiers?

**RON:** Learn to revel in difference. Don't stereotype people. I don't give a shit what people think about what I do, I gotta do what's right, especially at my age. I've never hidden my involvement, whether it be in civil rights or in the lesbian and gay empowerment movement. If you hide what you do, people will not trust you, will not take you seriously. That's why coming out is so important.

**KAY SERA:** As one parent to another, how have your children fit into the life you describe?

**RON:** I have been married twice, twenty-two years to Tobi, who's been as active as I have in social causes. I have two grown sons, and have tried to create an atmosphere in which they could share their lives with me, with us, so we could be supportive. I took my sons to Center functions, to Annie Sprinkle's shows, everywhere. I've never shielded them from life, and have tried to make my life available to them. I may not have always done the right thing, but it is important to make the effort.

**KAY SERA:** It's been a full life for you. Are you having fun yet?

**RON:** It was the wish of Jose (H.M.I.S.M. The Absolute Empress I of San Francisco,

founder of the Imperial Court System) that we not only raise money but that we have a great deal of fun while doing it. And that's what I intend to keep doing. 

## FROM THE GRAND DUCHESS

In the world of Monarchy, a sovereign is ceremoniously anointed with his or her title at birth. Subsequently, additional titles can be added through marriage, inheritance, and conquest. However, some of the most revealing titles are bestowed upon monarchs by their own subjects and often summarize, whether fairly or not, a ruler's most outstanding quality. For instance, of all the Catherines in Russia, it is Catherine the Great, noted for her territorial acquisi-

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

#### Thursday, February 22

- *The Center's Spring Gala* starring Nell Carter at Town Hall, 8 PM, call The Center for tickets

#### Saturday, February 24

- *Snow Ball - Carnival in Rio*, Coronation — Hartford, CT,

#### Thursday, February 29

- *New York Law Awards*, Tavern on the Green, (Coco to be honored), contact Charles Ching
- *Advertising Deadline* for NOATG Ball Journal, call Thom Hansen

### MARCH

#### Saturday, March 2

- *Brian & Donna's Excellent Adventure*, Coronation — San Francisco, CA Fairmont Hotel. Contact Thom Hansen to make reservations for discount rooms.

#### Wednesday, March 6

- *Next scheduled* general membership meeting, ICNY at The Center
- *Victory Brunch Tickets Go On Sale*, \$25., see Johnny or Fred

#### Thursday, March 7

- *GLAAD Media Awards at The Waldorf*, see Coco for tickets and information

#### Friday, March 8

- *Ball Chair Committee Meeting*, 7 p.m. at Panzi's

#### Sunday, March 10

- *Hearts and Voices*, West Bank Cafe, 407 West 42 Street, NYC, call Robert Van Glahn to participate

#### Wednesday, March 13

- *Julie Wilson at The Algonquin* (especially if you've signed up to come), contact Ron Cohn for details

#### Thursday, March 21

- *Gay Men's Chorus at Carnegie Hall*, contact Victor Grosetti for ticket information

#### Saturday, March 23

- *Hoe-Down at the Big Hair Corral*, PS 3, 7:30 — Midnight (plus set-up and clean-up), Contact Mike Weyand for information. Volunteers needed!

### APRIL

#### Saturdays, April 6 and 13

- *Bar Runs* (tentative dates) to publicize NIGHT OF A THOUSAND GOWNS, see Ben Sander to participate

#### Wednesday, April 10

- *Re-scheduled Date* for April meeting

#### Wednesday, April 17

- *"Kitty's P.P. Show"*, Hearts and Voices fundraiser at Pete's on Christopher St., contact John Bertrand for details

#### Thursday, April 18

- *State Dinner*, Jose — Guest of Honor, Time and place TBD

#### Friday, April 19

- *Pre Out-of Town Show Cocktails*, at Barracuda, West 22 St, 6:30 p.m.
- *Out-of-Town Show*, at ROME, 290 Eighth Avenue (at 24th Street), NYC, Doors open at 8:00 p.m. — Performance at 8:30 p.m. SHARP! \$10.

#### Saturday, April 20

- *Night of a Thousand Gowns*, Tenth Anniversary Charity Ball / Coronation — New York, NY, contact Tom McNamara (212) 807-8767 for ticket information or reservations

#### Sunday, April 21

- *Victory Brunch*, 11:30 a.m., Sheraton Hotel New York, Ballroom B, \$25., to purchase tickets contact Johnny or Fred

#### Saturday, April 27

- Coronation — Buffalo

tions that we remember. We recall her ancestor, Ivan the Terrible, for much different reasons.

These appellations, or nicknames, are a great source of amusement to me, and are actually helpful reminders of which monarch in particular is under discussion. Don't forget, France alone had 16 reigning Louis' from the Capetian Louis the Fat to the Bourbon Louis the Great.

The Spanish House of Aragon was littered with Alfonso's, such as Alfonso III the Do-Gooder, Alfonso IV the Debonair, and Alfonso V the Magnanimous. The rival Spanish House of Castile was not so fortunate, to have Henry II the Bastard and Henry III the infirm. I would however, like to have seen Sancho the Desired at close range, The Spanish kings of Asturias had a wide range of appellations, from Alfonso the Chaste to Ordono the Wicked. I think my personal favorites are the poor English King Ethelred the Unready and the Norwegian Magnus the Barefoot, along with the proud Swedish beauty Sigrid the Haughty and the sad Norwegian Queen Inge the Hunchback. If anyone reading this newsletter is just bursting to bestow any Imperial Court System monarch with an appellation, please feel free to send it

to me, with a short rationale and we will consider reporting it in this column. 

Grand Duchess Swana Swarovski  
aka Robert Sorrell  
No. 2, East 30th Street, Apt 3-A,  
NYC, NY 10016

## COOKIN' WITH KITTY

Well bless y'all for clamoring for more! Let me jus' wipe this...stuff...off mah hands and offer y'all a couple of mah favorite cocktail-hour type DIPPY THINGS!! Enjoy, now, hear?

### CAPE COD DIP

- 1-8 oz package of softened cream cheese
- 1-10 3/4 oz can of New England Clam Chowder soup
- 1/2 tps Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 tps garlic powder
- 1/8 tps (or a shot) Louisiana hot sauce

Stir cream cheese until smooth. Stir in soup, Worcestershire, garlic powder and hot sauce.

Chill 2 hours. Garnish with fresh chives. Serve with fresh vegetables, crackers, or chips.

Makes 2 cups,

Prep: 10 minutes,  
Chill: 2 hours

### SHRIMP DIP

- 1 pkg. (8 oz) cream cheese, softened
- 1- 10 3/4 oz cream of shrimp soup
- 1/2 tps Louisiana hot sauce
- 1/4 cup finely chopped celery
- 1 tbs finely chopped onion

Stir cream cheese until smooth. Stir in soup, hot sauce, celery and onion. Chill at least 4 hours.

Serve with fresh vegetables, crackers or chips.

Makes 2 1/4 cups

Prep time: 10 minutes

Chill Time: 4 hours

## BOARD ELECTIONS

Elections to fill the board position left by Art Snyder will be held at the March general meeting. Nominations will be taken from the floor that evening. If you are unable to attend this meeting and wish to place a proxy vote, please call Panzi to make the necessary arrangements. 

# NIGHT OF A THOUSAND GOWNS

A P R I L 2 0 , 1 9 9 6

Ticket Information: Tom McNamara