

Vote, Vote, and Vote Again!

The Candidates and Their Campaign Statements

For Emperor and Board - Gary Cosgrove

Reflecting on my past involvement with the Imperial Court of New York has led to the ultimate decision to run for Emperor. I know now, more than ever, that I am ready to accept the challenges of such an honor. Should the membership chose to entrust me with this highly visible and important position, I will uphold it with the utmost dignity and commitment. Everyone, who knows me, know, I always stand up for what I believe in. Sometimes right, somethings wrong, but always for the right reasons and for the right cause. As Emperor and as a person, I have and will always remain open-minded to new ideas, suggestions, comments and observations. Our progress as a powerhouse fundraising organization will rely on those innovative ideas and new blood as our membership grows mightily into the new Millennium.

An Emperor must carry a strong and persuasive voice throughout our community. That voice should be one of Pride. Pride for ourselves, our organization and for the hard work we have all contributed. This high-profile position means a serious commitment to our mission, but never forgetting the fun that embodies the true spirit of our membership.

Our membership is the heart of the Court. When everyone participates nothing can stop us. The strength of our organization is our fast growing numbers. I will never tire of striving for 100% participation and nothing is impossible. With such a diverse and unique group to lead, we will be a force to be reckoned with throughout our community and the New York Metropolitan area!

Should my peers elect me their Emperor, I will work diligently to make sure we never lose sight of who or what we are and why we have come together. I, along with my Empress, will continue to find new ways to keep everyone involved, at the same time,



attracting new members to join in our journey to raise the consciousness in and around our community. We must constantly remember that the fight is not over. We are still faced with the AIDS Crisis, as well as other fatal diseases that affect our community. Our vision must not be lost!

As Emperor, I will continue to work on bringing corporate sponsorship into the fold. With this welcome addition to our fundraising, we will move into the 21st Century, stronger, more committed, highly visible and simply *FABULOUS!!* My many years of producing, casting, booking shows, working with some of the top Celebrity Female Impersonators and club promotion will be an added benefit to my reign, should I be elected your Emperor.

I would like to thank the Monarch Review Committee, The Board of Directors and the entire membership for allowing me the privilege of presenting myself as a candidate for Emperor. I will, if elected, uphold the position with the utmost "Pride, Dignity and Commitment".

Also, I have chosen to run for Re-Election, as a member of the Board of Directors, to follow through with some challenging projects that were begun under the Reign of Emperor William and Empress Panzi and continued under the new Reign of Emperor Chet and Empress Anne Tique. As Board liaison to the Public Relations committee, I enlisted the help of Duchess Witti Repartee to develop an informational brochure that will be provided to interested parties about the Imperial Court of New York. As chairperson of the Development Committee, we have been investing a lot of time seeking corporate sponsorship for NOATG. We may finally realize some sponsorship this year.

My goal is still as clear as past years, to have more events where all members can participate, as least costly as possible. Events that are

fun and still raise much-needed funds for some our worthy charities. During my past years on the Board, I have started in the right direction by bringing some fun and different events for all to take part in. In doing these events, I have flushed out some of our members to perform who my not have thought they could or would. Many of our members are talented and deserve the opportunity to strut their stuff. Member participation ranks high on everyone's list. We need more members to help on the planning of the NOATG. New ideas and new blood make for more creativity and more creativity makes for a Fabulous Event! I would like to continue working with the Board as we start preparing for next year's NOATG. With last years' being as well run and entertaining like never before, I look forward to helping make next year even better.

We, as an organization are moving in the right direction. Our numbers are growing and we must prepare to become a fundraising force in the new Millennium. My pledge still stands, to continue to listen to our members, hear what they are saying and bring their questions, ideas and concerns back to the Board. I have served my fellow court members well this past year and a half. I hope you will support me for Re-Election to the Board of Directors of the Imperial Court of New York.

For Empress - Mike Fulk

Victoria Weston came into existence through fundraising for the Gay and Lesbian community in St. Louis and I will never let myself forget how things began. Within a year I had moved to New York and in 1993 began my association with ICNY. There have been countless rewards such as good friends, good fun and a greater understanding of fundraising, community service, and myself. Hidden self-imposed walls that were so firmly rooted in my character are lowering. Not only has Victoria emerged as a more complete individual but so has Mike Fulk. Now, after six years, I feel I can be of value to the

The Court Circular

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of the Imperial Court of New York



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To raise funds for Gay and 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

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Reigning Emperor and Executive Board

Joséph Conigliaro

Reigning Empress and Executive Board

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Vice President and Membership Chairman

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Secretary

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The Executive Board of the Imperial Court of New York meets on the second Wednesday of each month.

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



organization I care so much about. I want to be your next Empress! My career is in place and my own visibility is high. The decision to run for this position seems timely because I can now bring something back to the Court.

If elected Empress XIV I would keep myself in the public eye mentioning and promoting ICNY as much as possible with poise and professionalism. For me, drag is dignified with a sense of realism but should remain fun and campy whenever possible. I am respected and accepted as a performer, as a person and as a team player. During performances to different groups of Crossdressers, Lesbians, Gays, etc., I speak of unity. If all segments of OUR community accept each other, ALL will benefit and grow stronger. This is my platform for Empress XIV, INCLUSION! Another goal is for us as an organization to become more harmonious. Service as a board member twice, Vice President/Membership Chair in '97 and appointments as Ambassador to the Courts of Connecticut and Rhode Island have been fun and enlightening. I have seen and heard everything, good, bad and indifferent. As a rule I try not to speak ill of others. (and is that ever difficult sometimes when others around you are) Instead, I try to find the good in everyone. As a minority (some being Gay, most wearing dresses) we are viewed by many with wariness and sometimes disgust. Surprisingly it not only comes from straights but by some Gays and Lesbians. If we pick EACH OTHER apart we make it easier for those aforementioned folk to point and say, "See? They ARE just a bunch of bitchy queens!" To quote José, "United we stand, divided they get us one by one!"

Finally, please know that my head is placed firmly on my shoulders and my feet are securely planted on the ground. I know this is not a REAL title of royalty but an honor, a privilege and the chance to give back to this community and organization, which, through the years has helped make me feel complete. I am READY to be your next Empress. I ask for your support and I promise to do my best to reign with regality and class, keeping the lines of communication open. Working together we can keep New York the shining jewel in the Diadem of José's Imperial Court System.

For Empress - Robert Prokop

During my past nine years of membership with the Imperial Court, I have grown to love and appreciate the work that we have done to support our Gay Drag Community. As a

member, I have faced challenges that have given me the courage to pursue my greatest challenge of all, to seek election as Empress of the Imperial Court of NY. Becoming Empress would give me a great sense of honor and pride, also giving me the great pleasure of representing the Imperial Court to the Gay, Lesbian and Transgender community. I relish the opportunity to continue building the organization by increasing the membership. In turn, this would improve our potential in the area of fundraising. I, along with my Emperor, would also help in developing further contact with Corporate Sponsors. A goal that becomes increasingly important as we inch closer towards the new Millennium. I would also like to develop new and different ways to raise awareness in the Gay Drag community to the existence of the Imperial Court. Our community needs to know how hard we work to raise funds for those in need and urge them to join in the fight against AIDS, hunger, the homeless, cancer and other fatal diseases.

One of my primary goals is to stimulate membership involvement in all our events and activities. I want to work to foster unity among all our members, so that the community will know of our noble and realistic goals as a fundraising organization. As we all know, the Imperial Court is one of the few organizations that gives us an opportunity to participate in Gay Drag fundraising within our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors, Monarch Review Committee, and all the members, for giving me the encouragement and support to be a candidate for Empress. If I am crowned Empress, I will bring sparkle and shine to everything I undertake and uphold the integrity of this position to the best of my abilities. I will wear the crown proudly with the Imperial Court my first priority and Mae Nicole second to the organization and the crown.

For President - Philip Stoehr

The leadership of our Board of Directors is a responsibility that I feel I can continue to fill at this time in my life.

Having served for some years in various Board positions, and as a Monarch, I feel I have a good knowledge of the role and the needs of each of the leaders of this organization, and the supportive relationship between all of them. This past year as President has given me an even more complete picture of how this organization



works, what we need, and what we can achieve.

To the General Membership, the President should be a communicator. I feel that I have done my best to keep the members informed of what's going on in the Court, and encouraged participation at whatever level and to whatever extent each individual wishes.

On a Board level, the President acts as a moderator, helping to present all sides of any issue. I hope to be a voice of reason in the decision-making process, with the ability to identify the crucial and encourage fair compromise while validating people's feelings and opinions. Serving on the Board of a not-for-profit organization should be an exciting and fulfilling experience, not an exhausting one; and as President, I hope to encourage that among all the Board Members.



For Vice President and Board - Tom DeConza

Commitment, Support, Experience, Involvement, Organizational Skills, Fundraising History and Ability, and Time. That's what I feel I can give to The Court.

Since joining The Court in 1994, I have



attended all but one general membership meeting. When I was on The Board as a Director, a Monarch, and Vice President, I only missed only one meeting. When I was diagnosed in 1982, I became

very involved in Fundraising for AIDS organizations. As Co-Director of team New York, I met Coco while doing Fundraising for Gay Games IV. Coco told me about The Court and their goals, I knew that I could do a lot with The Court.

The year I joined I was Chairman of the Raffle Committee. That year I was able to raise \$2,300. for our beneficiary, Since then I have Co-Chaired the committee, turned into The Silent Auction, Raffle Committee. This year with the help of many of my fellow Court members, especially Gene Rogers, we were able to raise more than \$9,200 for AVP.

As President of the largest Gay and Lesbian Bowling League for 8 years, I created many Fundraisers, including two

theater parties that saved the members of The Court and my fellow bowlers \$15 and still we were able to donate more than \$700 to The Court. Some of the other events I have created, hosted or organized have been the Annual Holiday Party, the New Members' Dinner, Mamá Bella's Pasta Dinner and Penny-a-Pin AIDS Day Fundraiser with my Empress Gianna, and most recently, Meet the Candidates Dinner. All these events were reasonably priced and raised thousands of dollars for the beneficiaries.

When running Fundraisers and Socials I have always tried to make it cost efficient for our members and our friends. As Emperor, when many of The Court members wanted to attend Toronto's Coronation, I contacted American Airlines and arranged for a Group Fare, saving us 15% off the lowest fare. Last year, as Membership Chair I took the initiative in organizing the trip to The Las Vegas Coronation. The package included airfare, 5 nights at The Mirage and airport transfers. The package made it possible for 23 Court Members and friends to attend. A royal time was had by all.

As Vice President of the Court for the past 10 months, I feel that I have upheld my promise to continually update the roster when new elevations were awarded, correct any changes or correct my mistakes. Because of my flexible work schedule I am able to devote as much time as necessary to execute the duties of the Vice President. No matter how demanding it might have been I have always had time to raise money for The Court. In order to further the visibility of the male dressing members, I held the first all male, live, performance fundraiser. It raised more than \$750 for Mamá, José I, The Widow Norton. For me this is what The Court is all about and most important. Having raised more than the "suggested" \$300, by creating affordable Fundraisers and Socials has been one of my "achieved" goals. They have proven to be inexpensive and lots of fun.

As a member of The Board, I have always felt that it is just as important to support The Monarchs by attending out of town coronations, (I have attended more than 15 across the country), attend Fundraisers, and offer support whenever and however they might need it. Personally, I feel that it's not only about being an officer of The Court, it's about being involved, giving support and raising money and helping out where ever necessary. Since joining The Court, I have always remained focused on what The Court is all about. Been there to help in any way possible, Whether it's in the spotlight or working behind the scenes, that's what I am all about. It is also important that we connect with the new members and the OLD ones. Listening to their concerns, addressing their problems, giving some direction, or getting the new members involved, is also important. whether it is helping a fellow

Court member by securing Raffle gifts, offering a member a place to dress to attend a Court function or just giving someone a lift, I have always been there to help. Having been a Director, a Monarch and a Vice President, I have never taken "time off" or stopped working for our goals. I have always been willing to listen to suggestions, take criticism, and try to work things out in the best interest of The Court. Although I have not always agreed with the decisions of The Board, I feel that it is very important to support those decisions.

If elected Vice President, I will do my best to find ways to make more things affordable for all our Court members to attend out of town Coronations, Fundraisers and Socials. But most of all, I want to raise money, LOTS OF MONEY.

In Peace and Unity, Tom De Conza-aka Emperor VII Tomás Emperor of Courage and Survival

For Vice President - Michael Barret Jones

Thank you for considering me as a candidate for Vice President of the Imperial Court of New York. Serving as Secretary for the past year has given me insight into how things are run, why things happen the way they do, and more importantly, it has taught me patience and helped me become a more understanding and compassionate person.

The members of the Imperial Court are very good at helping others and bringing joy to people throughout the region. However, I have noticed that we are not nearly as good at helping each other and bringing joy to everything we do. Perhaps part of the problem is that we, as members of an organization, do not get to know each other very well. Certainly each and every one of us has a circle in which we travel -- that is human nature and it cannot be avoided. I would like to take on the position of Vice President/Membership Chair to help each and every one of our members get to know each other in a more thorough manner.



Currently, the Imperial Court has a New Members Dinner every fall, and occasionally another event or two for the sole purpose of mingling. I think we can do more. I would like to see casual cocktail parties where members can mingle. I would like to see the Lord and Lady Show reinstated and brought into play earlier in the year - perhaps January - so that we're not

meeting people for the first time during Coronation Week. New members can and should be incorporated more thoroughly into every thing we do, from performances to raffle sales to committee work, and it is the responsibility of the Vice President to make sure that they have these opportunities.

Likewise, it is the job of the Vice President to serve as a conduit between the membership and the Board. Frequent contact with individual members can quench the fires of "hot topics" (like the recent by-law change) before they become roaring conflagrations. The Vice President, like every board member, is elected to represent the members, but specifically as Membership Chair, it is also his responsibility to represent the individuals.

I would also like to see our Night of A Thousand Gowns mailing list used as a step off point to increase the size of our membership. The more of us there are, the more money we can raise, the more organizations we can serve, and the more people we can help. Sending mailings to this list several times a year with updates would help us to cultivate a greater public, as would sending them information on open membership dates. We have a great public at Night of A Thousand Gowns, and there is no reason we shouldn't open the door to them throughout the year.

In summary, there are three major tasks I would like to undertake as Vice President/Membership Chair: 1) Bring new members into the fold with open arms, and continue to nurture them throughout the year, 2) Serve more actively as a conduit between the membership and the Board, and 3) Increase the size of the membership through more public events and direct solicitation of our current friends and supporters. I believe I am capable of accomplishing this work plan, and by better serving our membership, help better serve the community around us.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope you'll give me the privilege of serving you for another year.

For Vice President and Board - James Palacio

After being a member of the ICNY since 1992, I find myself asking what else can I do? I've been around longer than most of our membership and feel that my vast experience with this organization can only assist in my success as Vice-president or Executive Board Member.

The most important contribution that I can make will be that of being the voice of our general membership. I want members to feel like there's someone on the board they can turn to who will listen and bring up



their concerns. As we all already know I don't hide behind pretenses nor do I "yes" people just to fit in. If I believe in something, I let it be known. Recently I believed an amendment to the by-laws was wrong and with the aid of three fellow courtiers, spearheaded the movement to have it repealed. The proof is in the pudding, the amendment was voted against by a majority of nearly 3 to 1. I like to think that most of my views accurately reflect the majority of the general membership. After all, we are all here together sharing a common goal. And even those who don't agree with my views, should know that I am more than willing to listen to all members and not dismiss them simply because we do not share the same opinions. General members are what make up our organization and are as equally important as Board members. Together we can all work towards a better, stronger and more united court where every person counts.

Another contribution is my being well connected within and outside of the Gay and Lesbian community. I want to utilize these good connections in the form of corporate sponsorship and spread the word of the ICNY. As an actor/actress and with my recent notoriety as *"Ring Girl"* on the HBO series *"OZ"*, this will enable me to do so in a professional, glamorous and high profile manner. Visibility is the key!!! I want us to become more mainstream and feel that I can help accomplish that goal. As for my commitment to the court, I've more than demonstrated my love and support for our organization and what it stands for. I've participated in a vast amount of events, chaired and volunteered for numerous committees, attended 4 Out of Town Coronations and 9 NOATG's. I was supporting our cause even prior to becoming a member. I've always believed in the good of the court and feel it's time for me to give back to an organization which has been an important part of my life for many, many years. The position of Vice-president as well as Executive Board Member are not easy ones, but I know I can handle the job and accept the challenge.

For Secretary - Lynne Walker

I have been involved in the trans community since the early 80s, when I was a member of the Tiffany Club of Boston, but it was not until I moved back to NYC that I became active as a leader. In 1992, I

co-founded the Metropolitan Gender Network (a social and support group for people of trans experience), and served as their first Chair and as Secretary. I wrote and published the newsletter and the annual report for three years, during which time the organization increased in number from five to over forty. The same year I began to work as a volunteer counselor with the Gender Identity Project at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center; in that capacity, I facilitate a support group for women of trans experience. In 1993, I co-founded the Greater New York Gender Alliance, (a regional network of drag and trans organizations), and served as the Secretary for three years. In 1994, I was elected to the Board of Directors of the International Foundation for Gender Education (a non-profit corporation for public education and advocacy), and I was elected Chair of the international Congress of Transgender Organizations (an international network of Trans organizations). The same year, I was among the first members of the Transexual Menace, a political/social direct action and advocacy organization committed to the defense of oppressed trans and drag folk. Finally, in 1995, I co-founded GenderPAC



(a national political advocacy coalition), and served as the first Chair of the Board. During this time, I was also engaged in permanently transitioning from a male to a female social and vocational role.

Outside the trans and drag communities, I worked as a senior medical administrator for the federal government for quite a few years, and now serve as Operations Director of SafeSpace, a comprehensive 24 hour program for homeless and street youth. I also teach English and Philosophy at a local college. Elsewhere in the 'volunteer' realm, I am fairly active in local church activities, though I have not served as a pastor since the mid-90s.

I'm computer literate, and an accomplished writer and public speaker. It has been a pleasure to speak before crowds, classes, conventions, and church congregations, and I've been published a number of times in trans journals. Moreover, I am a loyal team player: I like to work with other hardworking and dedicated people. My style is understated but ordinarily effective, and I find that I have the ability to organize and present ideas clearly and succinctly, and I can do many things at the same time (see above: work, trans stuff, and transitioning).

I joined the Court about six years ago,

and though I know little about fundraising or publicity, I am glad to be with empowered people who can and do raise so much money and attention and consciousness about our community. Since joining, I have made some of my closest friends here, and I have had the pleasure of travelling to a number of out of town coronations. I've found among my other friends a tremendous respect for the Court and our work. So to get to the point, I feel that I now have time and energy to lend a hand in doing the work.

For Secretary and Board - David Wallace



I haven't been a member all that long. Many of you don't know me very well. I'll address the present and the future in a letter I'll be sending to everyone soon, but for now I'll focus on charitable endeavors in

which I participated in the past.

In January 1969 I was elected the youngest member of the National Steering Committee of the Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Viet-Nam. For those of us unwilling to admit to being old enough to remember, the SMC created the Moratoriums, national days of demonstration and protest against the war.

I served for a number of years on the Board of Directors of the ARA, Inc., first as Secretary and later as Vice President. During this time I represented approximately 500 tenants of the Hotel Ansonia in housing court on a nearly daily basis. In conjunction with the Treasurer, I supervised an escrow account in the millions, rent money being withheld from the landlords as part of a rent strike that continued, in one form or another for nearly two decades. I also supervised the incorporation and re-wrote their By-Laws to bring them into compliance with the regulations and standards of the State of New York.

In the last decade I have been active in the Freemasons, a centuries-old fraternal organization which supports and runs charities worldwide too numerous to list. And while I'm certain there's one out there, despite years of looking I'm still the only openly gay Mason I've ever met.

I have participated in other events, of course - AIDS Walks, fundraisers for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, Tom Duane's Council campaign and many others outside the gay community - but in the organizations above I played a role of some leadership. As one of the organizers for the recent campaign to repeal certain amendments to the By-Laws I have amply demonstrated my

ability to organize and motivate. Even those who voted against repealing the amendments would, I believe, concede that I am certainly competent to perform the duties of Secretary or Board Member. I welcome the challenge and the opportunity to serve in either capacity, should a majority of the membership choose to elect me.

For Treasurer - Matt Baney

I was invited to join the Court in 1995 when I moved to Cherry Grove for the summer. I met so many wonderful people who were involved in the organization. It seems as if the entire College of Monarchs lived there, from Billie Ann Miller and Philomena to Ran-Dee, Gianna, and Panzi. From these individuals I learned what the Court does and why....we are not just a bunch of people who enjoy dressing up. We raise money for, and awareness of, issues that directly effect the Gay, Lesbian, Transgendered communities. My involvement started slowly from attendance at a number of small local functions, to NOATG, to the honor of being a brother to Empress Panzi and Emperor William. Emperor Chet also honored me with the designation of brother.

The ICNY has given me great opportunities to meet new friends, travel, and provide community service. Now I feel it is appropriate for me to pay back the Court and its members for the years of enjoyment I have gotten from my participation. My professional skills and abilities can best be used as treasurer for this organization. I am currently the financial administrator of a large hospital-based HIV/AIDS program located in the Village. I have a masters degree in business and at the present time manage \$10+ million in funding on an annual basis. I would like to use my financial planning skills to maintain the financial records of the organization and also to expand upon funding streams. I teach classes across the country on grant writing and financial development for non-profit organizations and I would appreciate the opportunity to use this knowledge to benefit the court.

For the last two years I have chaired the tickets committee for NOATG. I have seen first-hand that we are no longer a little group of friends who raise money on a small scale. We are now a large organization that should be managed as a business. Our distribution of money to our beneficiaries represents significant enhancements to the receiving organizations. We brought in almost \$100,000

last year in ticket sales alone, which represents a lot of \$135.00 tickets!!! The record keeping for such an endeavor is extremely time consuming and we balanced out at the end of the event. Thank you's for the assistance of Billie Ann and Philomena.

I have gotten to know almost all of you over the course of the last few years. I have heard the criticisms and praises of seating for the Ball and tried to work with each of you in a fair and timely manner for any issues that have arisen surrounding the event. I think I have proven myself to be approachable, accountable and thorough. I would welcome the chance to bring these traits to the position of treasurer for the Court next year.

For the Board - Thom Hansen

I am currently serving on the Board of Directors and have served since April 1998. I reigned as Empress for 1998/9. In 1995/6, I served in the capacity of President of the Board. During the time when I was President and this past year, I served as the co-chairperson for the By-law Review Committee.



This past year, the By-laws were amended to allow for an additional person to serve as a Director on the Board, thus increasing the General Membership's direct participation in our organization. This is a great opportunity to bring "new blood" onto the Board with new, fresh ideas. However, I feel that while it is important to bring in new blood, it is equally important to maintain some consistency for the sake of stability. This is why I would like to be reelected to the Board of Directors. I have the experience, the passion and the time to serve ICNY. In addition, having been involved so deeply with the By-Law revision process, I feel I would be of great importance this coming year, as questions may (or may not) arise regarding the By-Laws. I have also been involved in the International Imperial Court System: I am Secretary of the Board of Directors of the International Court Council. I am honored by the fact that I am the only individual to serve on this Council who is not an Heir Apparent to Empress I José, and when I was originally elected to this position, I was the only person to serve who was not a Monarch at one time or another.

In summary, whether or not I am elected to the Board of Directors, I will serve our organization as I have in the past.

For the Board - Bill LaMonica



For the past eight years I have served on the Board of Directors in the office of Treasurer. I now feel that it is time for another qualified member of the Court to fill this position, so that is why I am applying for the Board. I have two reasons

for this: One is that I can be readily available to help the new Treasurer, and the second is that I would like to continue to represent the senior members of the Court. I will be involved in doing whatever I can for the Court as I have in the past.

For the Board - Billy Little

My fellow court members. I am applying for an Executive Board Position. To my knowledge I am the first African American (Black) person to join The Imperial Court of New York. The same considerations I faced to join the court faces me to run for Executive Board Member. I talked to friends and relatives and they asked me why? Would I feel like a token? Would I feel excluded? Could I be as good and most important would people think I was



trying to be "white"? I face these things on my own every day as so some of us do when we leave our homes in drag. I'm proud of who I am, a court member and what the ICNY has become. I have attended nearly all of our monthly meetings for the past six years I've been

with the court. I was there when the court was only four years old when it had 40 or 50 members and *I'm still here!* Emperor VI Steven himself told me he gave me my first elevation to Baroness before they became automatic because "Billy - you're always there". I believe in what we can achieve and have. We have the power to bring people together of all colors and backgrounds.

You may ask why only now I seek a position on the board? You see I feel anyone in a group that deals with charity should first join with their heart and then know their assets and short-comings. Unfortunately my disability is economics. Like so many of us in the court I live from hand to mouth and can't always contribute or go to functions that don't fit my budget but I do what I can. I make all of my own clothes and costumes, hair, sometimes jewelry and graphics. I feel now I have the confidence to keep helping our charities on a higher level. I want to help us now. To put to work the

saying "charity begins at home" by helping our court members who are in the same position financially like me.

My inspiration to become a member and aboard member came from a person who's shown me anything can be accomplished with a pure sense of giving from the heart to those who are less fortunate and never for selfish reasons. Empress

VI Saleen always saw past the politics and difficulties that stand in the way of charity. I will also always carry in my heart what he stood for to continue giving even when sometimes I have nothing to give but my own talents, hard work and dedication.

I can help the court continue to reach out to the "Little People" in and outside of the court as a board member. I want to make a difference with people who think they have differences and show them they have none. Everyone deserves a chance and to be heard and as a board member I will always fight for equality.

I have the ability to work with people, to give and take and to see the bigger picture. I was born in Queens, educated in NYC, have lived on LI for over five years and now live uptown in East Harlem. I can bring to the court people who are just as proud, conscientious with the same dignity and grace we have come to standardize in the gay community. As a board member my connections and talents will encourage everyone for generations that sometimes all it takes to give to charity is a Little "Peace and Love".

For the Board - Oliver von Birkenwaldau

It is difficult to believe that a year has passed by so quickly since I last stood before you and introduced myself as 'one of the men of the Court'. In spite of rumors to the contrary, that my "sister" the Lady "O" is eagerly awaiting her opportunity to leap onto the stage, I stand before you once again as 'one of the men of the Court'.



I thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your Board Member at Large. It has been a busy year filled with many lessons. Boot Camp has had some bumps and scrapes, but it has been completed successfully, and I am in shape and in training for the next year.

I repeat my pledge from last year. This is a diverse community, this Imperial Court of New York. It is family. As such, we have a variety of opinions. If we are to continue our successful growth in membership, and our continued success as a volunteer, fundraising organization, we must protect, and nurture, all of our many talents and gifts.

As your Board Member, I will bring a particular sensitivity to that role, and will work to further develop not only individual members, but the visibility and impact of the Imperial Court of New York Inc. in the GLBT communities of metropolitan New York.

For the Board - Jeffrey Wallach

As a member in good standing for over four years, and as someone with a track record of produced and completed results on behalf of the Imperial Court Of New York, I would like to declare myself as a candidate for general board member.



Because of my devotion and loyalty, who I am, and what I've done, I feel that the next logical step of progression within court interaction, is the more committed position of participation, that of general board member. Although I intend to continue working with or without election into office, being elected by my peers is the inspiration, to achieve and work harder, and contribute even more. As I have always been known for my behind the scenes service - it is time to bring myself and my skills forward.

I applaud the present board and its group accomplishments. Elected positions are not about personal agendas, but that which is good for the group, as a whole. As individuals working towards a common goal, it is most important to listen, stay flexible, and grow, especially during those times when not always getting ones own way. Strength, knowledge, and wisdom come from support of "the good of the whole".

I feel I possess the aforementioned qualities. This, in combination with my being able to get the job done, is where I know that I would be an asset as board member.

My acute attention to details, ability to see the whole project, background in design, theatre and organizational skills, are the qualities / assets that, if elected, I shall bring to this board, as a committed working member.

To serve the general membership is an honor, and Service is a strength I possess, and would like to share, as board member, with the Court in its entirety. ■

Philomena Is A Mother!

by Princess DaisyMae

Recently our beloved Santa Philomena, the jewel of our Court, got work. She starred in the wonderful production of *How Now, Voyager*, which is playing at the Grove Street Playhouse. She stars as the only female (sic) in the cast. The role is Mrs. Henry Winel Vale. Mother Vale is the mother from hell. The kind of woman



who you just want to have Jackie Gleason punch "to the moon!" She dominates her young son, Charlie, who is a lad who just wants to have fun. Despite Mother's admonitions, Charlie meets Coach Jaquith and finds freedom and men and the ability to suck on a cigarette that Jeff Striker would love to learn! Not to be outdone, Mother Vale decides to give the ultimate guilt trip on Charlie, when he returns from a tropical voyage and meets strange men, by telling him that he has to give up "that life" and come be her footpad again. When he refuses, she takes a tumble down the steps that you just have to see to appreciate. This viewer never realized Philomena was such a gymnast! And when Mother Vale dies at the end of the play, her death scene gives new meaning to melodrama! If she took longer to die, there would have to be a second intermission! While Philomena will be leaving the play after the 20th of August to star in the final play of Cherry Grove's Season, "The Last Drag Show", those who saw her will never forget that our perennial ingenue could really be a Mother! ■

New York Numbers Growing In Kentucky

by Princess Royale Victoria Weston

Two years ago I came back from Lexington singing it's praises. I told Panzi it was a "Must not miss" ball and She, Coco, Viva and I returned that following year. This year we four were joined by Gefil, Bea, Ron Kresl and our illustrious Empress Anne Tique. I can only hope that next year our numbers will double again. We were welcomed into Lexington with open arms, and a free flowing spigot of Kentucky Bourbon. That southern hospitality is nothing to sneeze at! Empress Mika Milano and The Fabulous and Feminine Rainbow Regent EmperorKeeper of All that is Drag Regent Emperor 17 of all Kentucky Suzanne were more than gracious and at the Out of Town show, hosted by Club 141, all of our New York gals did us proud. I was especially touched by the tribute Emperor Suzanne paid to the Late Oxana de Bull with her command performance that evening.

Later that evening yours truly went back to the hotel to change into boy drag (surprise, surprise) to attend the special Nine Inch Boys performance during the Texas Party at Crossings leather bar. A good time was had by all (just ask Coco and Panzi for extra details, and specific measurements)

The next day was a whirl of hospitality, protocol, socializing, and preparation. From Playbills to Boogie Nights opened its doors at 6:00 and the festivities began. I was especially proud of my gal Chanda Lier during her Dowager walk. Her champagne satin

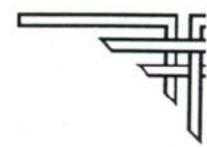
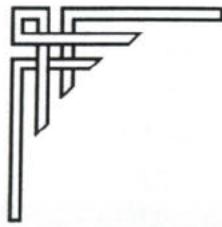


gown with crystal and gold accents set the pace for elegance and proved that Lexington can hold it's own with glamour. I was also very proud of Emperor Suzanne's sleek, forest green satin gown showing more curves than any road in the midst of the Appalachians. Mika was not to be outdone and showed great flair in her choice of colorful fabrics for gown after gown throughout the evening. Her final walk in her signature

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 Loeil. 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. Even send e-mail to a contact at that court, if you have questions. 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! ■



CHRISTMAS
IN
JULY II



Christmas in July: The Christmas in July Party was a smash success raising over \$1,500 for Bailey House and many toys were collected for Harlem Hospital. Hats off to Princess Josephine Boner Parte for all her work on this event!



orange (with cream and yellow) was a wonderfully sexy two piece ensemble with train suspended from the one shoulder.

The Golden Gotham Glamazon, Empress Anne Tique did a wonderful Command Performance in a sparkling silver gown (that I immediately wanted to snatch right off her body!) making a grand impression and proving once again that New York Monarchs are nothing if not polished, gracious and consummate professionals. Coco performed a lovely assist for Emperor Elvin Harkin's Dowager walk. Yours truly did a medley of Patsy Cline tunes for my command and Panzi and I had the privilege of emceeing the the third act coronation.

Both Candidates Kevin Fillips and Eden Towers ran unopposed and won the approval of their peers. They were crowned by 11:30 pm. Becoming The Magical Masked Mardi Gras Emperor XVIII of all Kentucky, Kevin Fillips and Empress XVIII of All Kentucky The Enchantress of the Mystical Garden Eden Towers

Then it was back to the Hospitality suite for HOURS of fun and frolic. Later that evening the "Mine is bigger than yours" comparisons were topped by a dangling gallon of orange juice, BUT, gentle reader I will

not divulge all the blow by blows. (ask the other attendees for specifics) Suffice it to say that there was many a wide open shocked spectator during THAT performance "piece."

As your roving reporter had to be back on Fire Island the following evening I was sorry to have missed the Victory Brunch but heard through the grapevine that there were



a few awards given to New York. Mika graced Panzi with the Empress to Past Empress Award. Kevin Announced a line of Kin (later to be delineated) Sister to the Emperor Anne Tique, Sister to the Emperor Victoria Weston and His Majesty's Great Aunt Panzi. Eden proclaimed Sister of Big

Hair, Panzi, Her Majesty's long lost Sister Viva Sexx, and Sister to the Enchantress, Keeper of the Big Apple, Victoria Weston.

So my fine friends, get your calendar out for the Summer of 2000 and mark down that Kentucky ball, a great time will be had by all ... guaranteed! ■



San Antonio Rocks

by Emperor IX Chet

San Antonio certainly does know how to have a good time. Four ICNY members attended Coronation VIII on July 3, 1999. The theme was a Gala at the Taj Mahal.:An Evening of Intrigue and Seduction. The coronation was held at the historic Menger Hotel adjacent to The Alamo, and seventeen



Courts were represented.

Coronation Weekend included Mr. Texas Stripper Contest (Coco was a judge) a riverboat cruise of the nostalgic Riverwalk, and a very interesting Bus Bar Tour after the Out of Town Show. We visited eight bars! There was a House of PENIS Party with an induction!

The Coronation went off without a

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hitch and ended with the crowning of Emperor VIII, Nathan Javine and Empress VIII, Candace Pevey. New York received an award for Best Out of State In Theme Walk, Brother to Emperor VII Adam Garza-Chet., Sister to Emperor Adam Garza-Coco, Casa del Sol inducted Lady Lorelei Lane in honor of her Command Performance. We all had a great time.,and we are hosting a New York Party in San Antonio next year because Panzi made a bet on the Knicks and lost. ■





Dining in Drag with Carol and Babs

Judy's Chelsea

Several years ago we learned that Judy's Cabaret and piano bar was a welcome haven for the Transgendered. However, being located on 44th St. on the east side of Broadway, we had only visited them on rare occasions and then for a short respite.

In the Fall of 1998, Judy's closed, only to reopen in Chelsea on 8th Avenue, just adjacent to the Joyce Theater. We stopped by on a Saturday night, and we were welcomed and acknowledged by the pianist, Charlie Lindberg, whose prodigious talent we had formerly enjoyed at the old "Oaks" in the Village.

Behind the retro 90's deco styled bar was the male alter ego of Ruby Rims, the "Red-

hot Mama" drag queen, also an "Oaks" alumna, who is responsible for the "TeddyCare" series of shows at Holiday time where by dollars and teddy bears are collected and distributed to children (many with AIDS) in the City's hospitals. Ruby is always fun to listen to..she usually never needs a mike, and makes everyone feel at home. As a professional Drag Queen, she does extend professional courtesy to other "Queens"! We just love that!

We go just about everywhere, (no, Babs does not do White Castle! ..Oh! Oye! Heartburn at mere thought!), but really like to find places that do welcome diversity, so that all our transgendered friends will feel comfortable. Our first visit included our own Viscountess Morgan Stevens, who is well known as the fabulous Ann Margaret impersonator with the big..hair! Flamboyant, yet sensitive to not offending anyone, she is very conservative in choosing public places to visit in her Ann Margaret persona. Her confidence and comfort zone ostensibly soared while sitting by the bar, after one of the "regulars" presented her with a flower and a great big smile! (Now she had a big ego to go with her big...)

Subsequent visits on different nights with different staff confirmed the high quality of the entertainment, whether by the talented staff or the patrons (many obvious professionals) who got up to perform! Now, if we can get Carol to get up and sing Patsy Cline again! We also saw other transgendered folks who were welcomed

and appeared very comfortable there!

The food had come highly recommended and our expectations were exceeded! We were seated in the small dining area in the rear and enjoyed a very creative and eclectic menu. Our entire party remarked that the food well presented and tasted very good to excellent! From the creative salads through the entrees, and even the magnificent corset stretching desserts! Prices were not unreasonable for Manhattan, considering the quality of the food and the presentation!

Behind the dining area in the rear is the glass enclosed Cabaret room, which features Quality cabaret performers on many nights. Cabaret acts usually have a music charge and a two drink minimum.

Our only complaint was the layout of the bar and restaurant.. being long and narrow, we, while eating in the rear dining area, could not really enjoy the action around the piano, which was located near the front window! To really enjoy the music, the pianist, the singing of the wait staff, one should be in the bar area, near the front.

If you want to dress up, be seen, enjoy great Broadway music, or just want a great meal in a cozy dining area, come down to Chelsea!

Judy's Supper Club
169 Eighth Avenue
Manhattan, NY
(212) 929-5410

Reservations strongly suggested for dinner and Cabaret. ■

Volunteers Needed for the Boston-NY AIDS Ride

by Princess DaisyMae

The Boston-New York AIDS Ride Sponsored by Tanqueray will leave Boston on Thursday, September 16th and arrive here in New York on Saturday, September 18th. The ride is a benefit locally for The Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center and the Callen-Lourde Community Health Center, both groups which are pivotal in our Community's fight against AIDS. The ride locally has over 2,200 riders signed up and it is promising to be the biggest ride yet in its five year history! Court members, Rob Hansen - Princess Patrice Roberts - and Michael Weyand - Princess DaisyMae - are riding this year.

There are opportunities for you to

assist with the ride besides riding. There is need for people to Crew the ride, that is come along the ride and assist with myriad details to help make the ride run smoothly. But the pressing need is for volunteers on the day the riders return to New York City. Assistance is needed in many places: Volunteer Check-in; Site Set Up/Signage; Bike Parking; T-shirt Distribution; Holding Area Pit Crew/Relief; Victory Ride Assembly; and many other areas including the ever necessary and popular Clean-Up! If you would like to help out a wonderful event call the Ride Office today - 212/242-RIDE (212/242-7433) and tell them that you'd like to be a part of history! ■



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