



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Imperial Court of New York and YOU!

This weekend would have been our 34th Annual Night of a Thousand Gowns in New York City. Instead, we are hunkered down trying to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. Cancelling coronation weekend was a difficult decision to make. Planning for this large scale event started back in June and involved a large group of members and volunteers. To say that we are greatly disappointed would be an understatement. But at the end of the day, our primary concern was the safety and well-being of our members and guests. That part of the decision was never in doubt.

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank our reigning monarchs, Emperor Antonio T Ventura and Empress Chuleta Devine. These two courtiers worked their hearts off in an event-filled year, not only raising money for our charities but bringing joy to the communities we serve. I would be remiss if I do not also acknowledge the preparations our elected monarchs, Graham D'Cracker and Madelyn Keyth, have gone through in anticipation of and their great plans for their forthcoming reign. To these two couples, I thank you.

I would also like to thank our Ball Chairs, Empress Ann Tique and Emperor Fantasia, and all the numerous committee chairs and volunteers. Your work did not go unnoticed and we will come back even more fabulous. I want to give particular thanks to our treasurer, Patricia Harrington, for an exceptional job in handling our financial soundness and obligations. And most especially to our secretary, Veronica Blake, for endless hours of behind the scene work to keep me on track and the wheels turning. To my Board of Directors, we all held together in this difficult time and put aside our personal feelings and stayed true to our goals. And to the membership, who gave us their full-support and understanding as we work through all the logistics of cancelling a multi-event weekend responsibly. To you all, I thank you.

To our out-of-town guests, we truly appreciate your generous support and patience as we all deal with this pandemic in our own cities and realms. We are disappointed that we won't be seeing you this weekend. Just as you are doing your best to stay-in-place, we will be rooting for you as we weather this unimaginable threat together.

New York City and our neighboring cities and townships are going through a very difficult time. Being the financial and entertainment capital of the East Coast, we are being particularly hit hard because of the density of our population. What we are currently and will be experiencing in the next few weeks and months is a preview of what might be coming your way on a different

scale. The Imperial Court of New York's immediate concern is our members, their health and financial struggles as we are all impacted in every way. We need to watch out for and take care of each other. We will do our best to be innovative and continue our mission of helping those in our community that need us the most. One of these ways is our online raffle that will continue to raise money for our beneficiaries, the Hetrick-Martin Institute and Hudson Pride. Now that the Ball has been cancelled. I hope that you will consider participating in this raffle by going online to <http://bit.ly/2vk5rU7>

For now, we are going to weather this storm and deal with life on a day-to-day basis. There will be many dark days ahead of us, but we have no doubt that there will be a rainbow at the end of this road. Once the dust settles, we will work on our mission, our future plans and continue our tradition of charity and empowerment. Our Court will be back stronger, just as we know you will, because we are New York Strong. We ask that you give the Board of Directors the time to discuss and plan the necessary steps to get us back to what will be our "new normal".

I want to send everyone our well wishes for your continued good health that we all survive this pandemic as a family. We hope to see you again soon in New York and as we travel to your homes in the United States and Canada.

From the Heart, Through the Court, To our Community!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Coco LaChine', written in a cursive style.

Empress Coco LaChine
President, Imperial Court of New York