

THE IMPERIAL GAZETTE
OF GRATITUDE, WIT & SERVICE



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Rose's Petals	1
The Dragonfly Speaks	3
A Memo from MiDori	4
The Disco's Dance	6
Quote of the Month	2
Photo of the Month	6
Calendar of Events	8

The Rose's Petals

Dearest friends and court members,

I write this after hearing of a recent, sudden loss of a fellow Empress. It has not been the first loss of its kind during my reign, nor is it guaranteed to be the last, although we all would hope it to be.

Alexis Devo of the Imperial Rainbow Court of Northern Utah had only been their reigning monarch since November. She had many hopes and dreams she wished to peruse in her year; sadly, she had only reached her 2nd month and was just beginning those aspirations when she left our presence. It is my hope that, to best honor her, we will remember her strive for the betterment of the whole community, and reach for that same achievement.



Andy Davis is far from the first loss that The Royal Court of the Golden Spike Empire has felt. Within just the first month, several past monarchs lost their brothers and/or sisters, and long-time members and supporters lost close family or friends. This has seemed to be a pattern which has plagued the RCGSE since day one, but few events strike the heart as hard or deeply as the sudden loss of everyone's friend.

Just last week, Empress III, Carole Martindale passed after living a full and wonderful life. Many of us had the great opportunity to celebrate that life afterwards, laughing and remembering all the best of memories with or about her. I, and many others, are currently smiling and embracing such cherished memories with Alexis, but in time a strong note of sadness rings as we realize that such a bright light in everyone's lives was darkened much too soon, in the midst of a crescendo.

I do not wish to downplay the deaths or pain that has been felt these past six months by members across all communities in and outside Utah. Every passing will hit and break hearts. All deaths are unwanted, even if guaranteed to happen. My hope is merely to express my sincerest wishes of the contrary and to inspire, through our grieving remembrance, our betterment and hopefully make her proud.

To those who feel this heartache, or similar pain on the death of a beloved one: let us not abandon the memories, or the love felt and given. Let us instead improve by giving out our love WITH the love of those who have passed and cannot do it themselves. Do not let the amount of love of this world diminish: we must enable its expansion.

From Empress XXXVI of The Royal Court of the Golden Spike Empire to Empress XII of The Imperial Court of Northern Utah: may the angels guide you to your place of peace. It may be earlier than any would have expected, but you certainly deserve it.

To Empress III, Carole Martindale: an angel you were in life, and among them you shall be from now into eternity. Please watch over us all in our times of heartache, and bless us with the joy you so freely gave in life.

And to all the others we have lost on the roads of life: may your next life be filled with as much love and happiness as this one, if not more.

With much admiration,

Emily Rose

Quote of the Month

“No, the journey doesn't end here. Death is just another path, one that we all must take. The grey rain-curtain of this world rolls back, and all turns to silver glass, and then you see it. [. . .] White shores, and beyond, a far green country under a swift sunrise.”

~ Gandalf the White ~

The Dragonfly Speaks

The Royal Court of the Golden Spike Empire, The Imperial Rainbow Court of Northern Utah and the gay community lost three great leaders and souls this last month: Empress III Carole Martindale of the RCGSE, Ann Hart, and Empress 12 Alexis Devo (Andy Davis) of IRCONU. Our hearts are empty from losing them, but we are richer for knowing them and we have all benefitted from the work and service they gave to our community.

Thank you to Vivaca Starr, Trinity Starr, Frank Chugg, Scott Stites and Sheneka for hosting events during January.

MiDori, Austyn, Paris, Earl and I attend Houston's Coronation the weekend of the 20th. We all had a great time, and we hosted the Water Party before their Victory Show where we raised \$350 for their travel fund. Congratulations to Emperor XXVIII Chris Sushi Valk and Empress XXVIII Vixen Winter.

Last Saturday we had the Gay Utah Pageant and Gay Utah Youth Pageant at Club Sound. It was a fun Pageant. Thanks to those who stepped down: Mr. Gay Youth Utah MMXI Thomas Dyke-e-ana Childers, Mr. Gay Utah XXIX Nick Watts, Miss Gay Utah XXIX Passion Giovanni and Ms. Gay Utah XXIX Kay. My apologies to Kay for not knowing all of the names you used to step down with, I only briefly saw the paper you handed to Paris listing all of your names. Congratulations to the new title holders: Mr. Gay Youth Utah MMXII Stevyn Tauteoli, Mr. Gay Utah XXX Russel Starr, Miss Gay Utah XXX Krystyna Dior and Ms. Gay Utah XXX Alina Grey. Thank you also for all the work and help done by former Pageant Chair Korynne (who resigned January 4th), her Co-Chair Jessica Christie, and our new Pageant Chair Danny Filipe along with the Pageant Committee under these people.

On Sunday, February 5th, Sheneka, Emily Rose and I are hosting the Super Bowl Party at The Trapp at 4:00 p.m. There will be a buffet and raffle prizes, including two tickets to the Utah AIDS Foundation Oscar Gala on February 26th. There will be a \$5 cover for the Drive of the Spike Scholarship Fund.

Seattle's Coronation is Feb. 18th, and on the 16th we are co-hosting the Salt Lake/Denver Show in Seattle. If you are planning on going and have not yet contacted me, please email me at emperor@rcgse.org or come to the Court Meeting on Feb. 7th at the Pride Center at 7:00 p.m. They request protocol be submitted in advance, so if you want to walk, please let us know you are attending. Also, if you are going, you are welcome to perform at the Salt Lake/Denver Show.

We will contact you by email and Facebook regarding other events this month, and also update you on AIDS Awareness Events which will begin on March 1st. We also plan on sending out the March Newsletter around the 22nd of February so everyone will have a schedule of AIDS Awareness Week events in advance.

Once again, thank you for being part of the 36th Reign. May we all strive to work for and help out our community with love and respect.

Mike Bennion



A Memo from MiDori

You know, I really didn't know exactly how I wanted to approach my article for this month's newsletter. A lot has happened this month. Some good, some bad, and some just down right jaw dropping. After a rather uneventful holiday spent in bed sick the entire time, the new year seemed to be off to a great start with the celebration of my birthday. I usually don't look forward to my birthday, but this year I was surrounded by friends and loved ones who not only showed me a great time, but also showed me that there are people who truly do care about me which I will forever be grateful for. Sadly a few days later we were all notified of the passing of Empress III of the RCGSE, Carol Martindale. I did not know Carol personally and unfortunately can't remember that I ever had the chance to meet her at all, but to hear the stories of how wonderful a person she was and how easy-going and laid back she was while still keeping her community and responsibilities close at heart lets me know that she was an outstanding person and an amazing individual who with the help of others helped mold this organization that means so much to us as one of the very first monarchs to serve this city. I unfortunately was unable to attend her celebration of life at the Trapp, but I was fortunate enough to have met with a few members of her immediate family at the Trapp which I am very thankful for. I truly believe that their charm and vibrance through such a tough time was the spirit of Carol, so in a way I guess I was blessed enough to have met her. If we remember nothing else over the next few months left of reign 36, lets remember that Carol is watching us from up above and we want to do everything we can to make her proud.



We are often told when going through hard times that "God is testing us..." and that we must remain strong in an effort to show that we are capable of perseverance. I don't think anybody could have been prepared for what followed after the passing of Empress III Carol Martindale. I was immediately sent into a state of shock and disbelief when I was told that a good friend and sister, recently crowned Empress XII of Ogden Alexis Devo/Andy Davis had passed. I was not ready. I was shaken to the point where all I could say for days was "I just saw her Saturday, I just saw her Saturday!!!" Words cannot express what Alexis' friendship meant to me before and after I stepped up as Princess. She was always there for me when I need to talk or I needed help. One of my favorite memories of Alexis is from the day I was crowned at Victory Brunch. I walked into The Trapp in face (and everyone pretty much knew if I was in face I was getting something...lol) wearing a golden colored sun dress and topaz earrings that just so happened to match the crown that was about to be placed on my head. I walked past Alexis and she looked at me and said "Oh MiDori aren't you looking lovely this morning. You look so GOLDEN...JUST GOLDEN!!! The subtly of your foreshadowing sucks PRINCESS!!! Oooops I wasn't supposed to say that out loud yet!!!" Afterwards when I had already been crowned she came up to me and said "Honey I'm so happy for you, I had no idea...lol!!!" It's that humor and carefree personality that I will miss the most. Many don't know this, but Alexis actually had a huge impact on me when at one point I was considering "stepping away." Her advice was very simple . . . "Remember why YOU'RE here and keep your eye on THAT!!!" We often lose sight of the task at hand, especially when things aren't going the way we want, but if things always went how we wanted them to go, nothing would be special and life would have no meaning, because there would be no triumph and the sense of satisfaction in knowing you persevered over an obstacle would be lost. Alexis herself was a prime example of that. Though she had only been Empress XII for a few months, she saw what she wanted, knew why she wanted it, and went after it and was victorious. I'm just happy that I was able to be there to share that moment with her. I can't say that I have fully accepted Alexis's passing yet, but I do know that she is in a more peaceful place now and though she's not physically here with us any longer, her heart and spirit will continue to live in us all and perpetuate the love she had for her family, friends, and community.

Though the passing of our dear friend Alexis was incredibly hurtful and abrupt, our reigning Emperor Michael Bennion, and I along with past monarchs Austyn Riley, Paris Silver, and Earl Kane ventured down south to the state of Texas for Houston's Coronation. We were all torn over the fact that not only would we not be home for Alexis's services, but Alexis had also originally planned on joining us in Houston. If I knew Alexis at all, she would have kicked our butts

through security and down the tarmac had we even mentioned not going. As bittersweet as it was, I am so very glad that we did make the trip after all. With Houston being my hometown, I was able to spend time with my family and celebrate my mother's birthday with her (FYI, you will all get to meet my mother at coronation!!!) and I got to really hang out with Austyn, Paris, and Earl for the first time. It was by far the best coronation that I have attended all reign. The trip was a blast from start to finish. I met some really amazing courtiers from out of tow, received my very first coronation command from a currently reigning monarch, and got to talk a lot with some of our most amazing past monarchs, not to mention creating a stronger bond with my Emperor, Mikey, who I found out is pretty damn funny. As Paris would say "THE EMPEROR GOT JOKES!!!" Long story short, I can't WAIT to go back next year!!!

All in all, January has definitely been a rollercoaster month, but here we are making our way into February. If we can survive last month, we can survive anything. I will say that the month ended on a good note with an AMAZING turnout at the Mr, Miss, Ms Gay Utah and Gay Utah Youth Pageant. A huge congratulations to my good friends Nick Watts and Kay, Mr. and Ms. Gay Utah 29 as well as Mr. Gay Utah Youth Thomas. The three of you have been amazing title holders and even more amazing friends and I applaud you all. I would also like to extend congratulations to our new Gay Utah 30 and Gay Utah Youth title holders. I know you all will do an outstanding job. If you don't I'll cut you...lol jk...jk...or am I? LOL !!! But seriously, no worries here, you guys will be great. I know you'll show us a lot in these last 4 months of reign 36 (really ??? only 4 left...guess I better buy stock in Kleenex now...lol !!!). Lets love our community and each other, and REALLY let everybody know WHO AND WHY !!!

Sincerely with love as always,

Princess MiDori



The Disco's Dance

I write this month's message with a full heart. This past month has been truly painful for me with the passing of all our friends. When I stop to put this on paper I start to cry thinking of Andy and how I will never hear him make a room full of people laugh again.

We need more than ever to stand by each other and take time to love each other. We also need to spend a lot less time hurting each other. Remember, we are here to make a difference in our lives as well as in those in the community. Our goals should be to help each other grow.

I have been involved with this organization for 20 years. And I believe in its mission and all those who are involved or served. I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve. This organization has given me more than I could have imagined.

As we move forward with this important work, let us all pledge to speak with kind words and love with open hearts. As for me, be expecting more hugs.

With much appreciation,



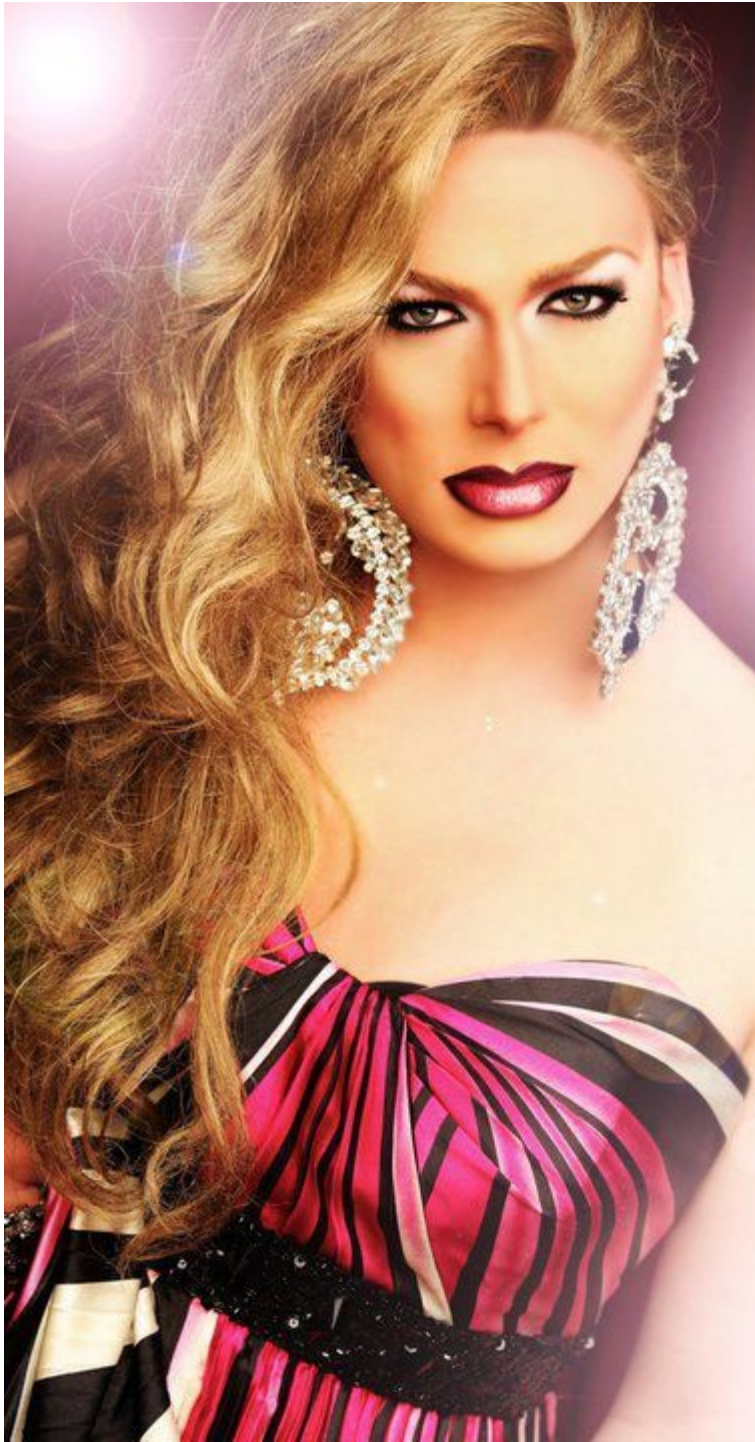
Prince Johnny "Disco" Harris

Photo of the Month



Newly crowned Miss Gay Utah, Krystyna Dior, Mr. Russel Starr, Ms. Alina Grey, and Mr. Gay Utah Youth, Stevyn Tauteoli

In Memoriam



Until we meet again.

Alexis Devo (Above), Carole Martindale (Top Right)

& Ann Hart (Right, on left)

**THE ROYAL COURT OF THE GOLDEN SPIKE EMPIRE,
REIGN XXXVI**

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Happy Birthday!

February Birthdays

5th — Casey Tom

16th — Miss Gay Pride Utah
2010-2011, Vega Starr

26th — Emperor XXXVI,
Michael Bennion



Remember!
www.RCGSE.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Super bowl Party 4pm @ The Trapp		Court Meeting 7pm @ The Pride Center				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				Seattle Coronation	Seattle Coronation	Seattle Coronation
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Seattle Coronation						
26	27	28	29			
		Board Meeting 7pm @ The Pride Center				