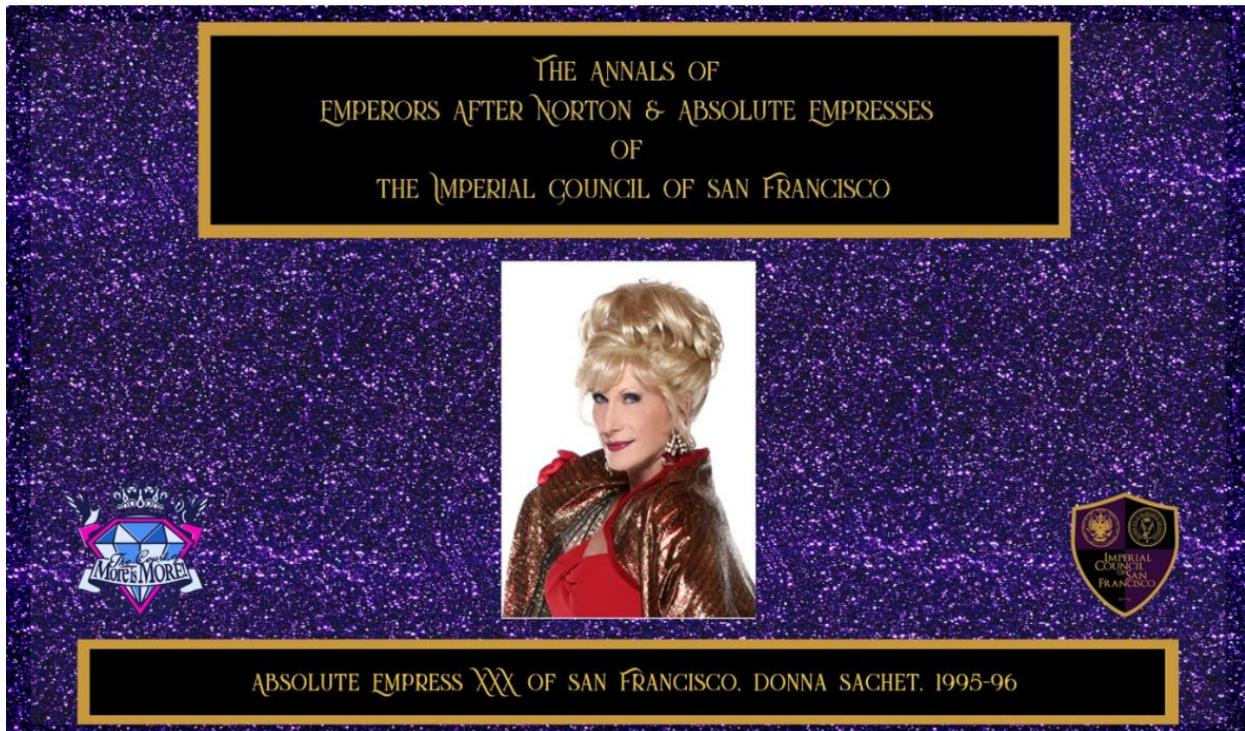


# Annals of the Emperors and Empresses of San Francisco: Donna Sachet

Absolute Empress of San Francisco Donna Sachet shares their 'herstory'



Juanita MORE!



Donna Sachet Image / Shawn Northcutt

*"Annals of the Absolute Emperors and Empresses of San Francisco" is a collection of interviews from Empress Juanita MORE!, who reached out to over fifty San Francisco's Emperors After Norton and Absolute Empresses of the Imperial Council of San Francisco (ICSF)— one of the longest-running LGBTQI+ nonprofits in the country—to learn about each of their accomplishments and involvements during their reign.*

Over 25 years ago, Donna Sachet started her adventure in San Francisco and was selected as Miss Gay San Francisco in 1993 — which propelled her rise to become the thirtieth Empress of SF in 1995. As a live singer and tireless fundraiser, Donna has received many awards from many organizations... some of those being the following:

- [AIDS Emergency Fund](#)
- [Positive Resource Center](#)
- [Horizon Foundation](#)
- Cable Car Entertainer of the Year
- International Jose Honors
- [Alice B. Toklas Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club](#),
- [American Association of Political Consultants](#)
- [Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence](#)
- [CHEER SF](#)
- Bob Cramer Humanitarian Award
- [Academy of Friends Kile Ozier Founder's Award](#)
- [Barbara Richmond & Peggy Ermet Hero Award](#)

Sachet has served on the Board of Directors of [Equality California](#), [Imperial Council of San Francisco](#), [International Court Council](#), [Positive Resource Center](#), and the [SF LGBT Community Center](#).

She created and hosted her annual musical cabaret benefit *Songs of the Season* for 25 years; co-created and hosted the annual *Pride Brunch with Gary Virginia* (which is now in its 24th year; and starred in *Sunday's a Drag* at The Starlight Room for 12 years. Donna was selected as Community Grand Marshal of the [SF Pride](#) Parade in 2005 and chaired the committee for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Imperial Court of SF, featuring an elaborate gala in City Hall on February 15, 2015. Donna currently writes a biweekly social column, *Donna's Chronicles*, for the [SF Bay Times](#) and serves as President of the Board of Directors of the [Rainbow Honor Walk](#).



Mark Leno (left), Donna Sachet (middle), and Kamala Harris (right). (Photo: Courtesy of Juanita MORE!)

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Juanita MORE! (left) and Donna Sachet (right). (Photo: Courtesy of Juanita MORE!)

I reached out to Donna Sachet to learn more about her accomplishments and involvement during her reign.

**Juanita MORE!:** What year was your reign as Empress?

**Dona Sachet:** I was Absolute Empress of San Francisco from 1995 through 1996

**JM!:** What led you to run for Empress?

**DS:** The Imperial Court offered me a chance to express my drag personality while raising money for charitable causes, quickly broadening my performance experience, increasing my leadership skills, and rewarding my fundraising efforts. Thus, running for Empress was a natural progression.

**JM!:** What was your proudest accomplishment?

**DS:** Within the year of my reign, I am tremendously proud of improving relations within the Court, expanding our interactions with other organizations, and representing SF across the continent. In 2015, I was most proud of chairing the committee for the 50th Anniversary Gala of the Imperial Court at City Hall.

**JM!:** What nonprofits did you support during your reign?

**DS:** During our reign, AIDS Emergency Fund and Positive Resource Center were primary beneficiaries.

**JM!:** What are your hopes for the future of the Court?

**DS:** As one of the oldest and largest continuously operating LGBTQ+ organizations globally, the Imperial Court faces many challenges in getting its story across to a larger audience. Improving social media skills could easily increase membership and involvement. In addition, more collaborations with other organizations in town and out of town could raise our profile, improve our image, and increase our impact on the LGBTQ+ Community and the larger world.

Although my direct involvement with the Imperial Court has varied over the past 25 years, I remain enthusiastically supportive and loyal to its overall importance historically and currently. I still enjoy producing entertaining events, raising significant money for charitable causes, and developing leadership skills within its membership. Our history is rich with exceptional leaders and remarkable achievements, but we must focus on our current limited public presence and plan for a vibrant and inclusive future.

**JM!:** What are your favorite nonprofits to give to?

**DS:** My favorite non-profits include Positive Resource Center, SF LGBT Community Center, Rainbow Honor Walk, Horizon Foundation, SF SPCA, Richmond/Ermet Aid Foundation, and the LGBT Asylum Project.

To keep up with Sachet's work, you can follow the Absolute Empress on her social media handles:

Facebook: [donna.sachet](https://www.facebook.com/donna.sachet)

Instagram: [#sachetdonna](https://www.instagram.com/sachetdonna)

Twitter: [@donnasachet](https://twitter.com/donnasachet)

Website: [www.donnasachet.com](http://www.donnasachet.com)

*To learn more about the Imperial Council of San Francisco, visit [imperialcouncilsf.org](http://imperialcouncilsf.org). Please visit the Imperial Council of San Francisco's website to donate to the reigning Monarchs Charity Fund.*