

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **THE CENTER BENEFIT CELEBRATES EIGHT YEARS OF LEADERSHIP IN SAN FRANCISCO'S LGBT COMMUNITY**

*Soiree 8 Gala Offers Evening of San Francisco's Best Nightlife for revelers*

While the number eight carries some baggage for California same-sex marriage advocates, the San Francisco LGBT Community Center is reclaiming the iconic number as it celebrates its eight year anniversary with *Soiree 8*, a gala benefit for the Center. Guests are invited to indulge in decadent foods from San Francisco's best restaurants and enjoy entertainment from leading queer artists in an evening of earthly delights, gods, goddesses and all things mythic. *Soiree 8* takes place on **Saturday, April 10, 7-10 p.m. at Terra Gallery at 511 Harrison Street in San Francisco. Tickets are \$95 each and can be purchased online at <http://soiree.sfcenter.org>. Call (415) 865-5555 for more information.**

*Soiree 8* organizers plan a stellar party for guests as well as an opportunity to support the vital work of the Center and its many programs for the Bay Area's LGBT community. Broadway performer, screen and TV writer Bruce Vilanch notes, "While I'm delighted to partake in earthly delights at *Soiree 8*, I think the real gods and goddesses are those who continue to champion LGBT rights so vigorously as the folks at San Francisco's LGBT Community Center." Vilanch will share the *Soiree 8* stage as M.C. alongside drag star Jackie Beat.

Theresa Sparks, executive director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, says "With the Center's leadership in everything from providing safe space for queer youth to financially empowering the transgender community, it is an honor to be co-chair of *Soiree 8*." Supervisor David Campos is also Honorary co-Host of the event. Sparks adds, "I hope everyone who treasures the Center will join me in raising money and a glass at what will surely be a fabulous party."

In addition to local celebrity DJs and stars of San Francisco's queer nightlife, *Soiree 8* will include both a silent and a live auction for guests to bid on an array of items, from gift baskets to dining packages to international vacations. Last year's *Soiree* was attended by more than 700 guests, including "Milk" screenwriter Lance Dustin Black.

Special thanks to lead sponsor U.S. BANK. Additional sponsors include California Pacific Medical Corporation, Pacific Gas & Electric, M2 Lubricants, Air New Zealand, Barefoot Bubbly, The Examiner, NCLR, San Francisco 49ers Foundation, Southwest Airlines, AT&T, Wells Fargo, Comcast, AAA of Northern California, Nevada and Utah, Greenleaf Produce, Hanson Bridgett LLP, Kaiser Permanente, Safeway, Horizons Foundation, Lennar Urban, Ernst & Young, Kimpton Hotels, Smith Group, Sunset Scavenger/ GGR, Patelco, Wald Law, Swirl Radio, Whole Foods and Curve Magazine.

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## **ABOUT THE SAN FRANCISCO LGBT CENTER**

The San Francisco LGBT Community Center is the home, heart and hands of the Bay Area lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. The Center is dedicated to building community, creating opportunity and securing equality for all. Our vision for the future is a LGBT community united by common purpose, celebrating our history, culture and diversity, while ensuring that no one is left behind. Each month, The Center serves over 9,000 visitors and hosts more than 400 events. The Center is located at 1800 Market Street in San Francisco. Visit The Center at [www.sfcenter.org](http://www.sfcenter.org), or call us at (415) 865-5555, to learn more.

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