

THIS WEEK

S M T W T F S

VALENTINE EVENT

'Aphrodisiacs of the Tropics'

"50 Shades of Green" is a garden tour of "steamy" plants at the S.F. Botanical Gardens. Over at the Conservatory of Flowers, explore "Aphrodisiacs of the Tropics," a garden of plants thought to stimulate desire. "50 Shades": 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12; 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14. S.F. Botanical Gardens, 1199 Ninth Ave., San Francisco. \$50. (415) 661-1361, www.sfbotanicalgardensociety.org. "Aphrodisiacs": 6-10 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14. Conservatory of Flowers, 100 John F. Kennedy Drive, San Francisco. \$30. (415) 831-2090, www.conservatoryofflowers.org.

PERFORMANCE

Black Arm Band, The Nile Project

Australia's Black Arm Band, a group of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal musicians, present "Dirt Song," a reflection on their cultural and linguistic diversity through music. The Nile Project spreads information about civic and ecological responsibility through musical collaboration with 11 countries. Black Arm Band: 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12; 11:30 Monday, Feb. 13 (for K-12 students); The Nile Project: 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18. Zellerbach Hall, Bancroft Way at Dana Street. UC Berkeley. \$13-\$54. (510) 642-9988, www.calperformances.org.

AUTHOR EVENT

George Saunders

The writer and a recipient of a MacArthur genius grant discusses his first novel, "Lincoln in the Bardo." It's a story about familial love and loss. Joining him in conversation is author Dana Spiotta, a National Book Critics Circle Award finalist for her novel "Stone Arabia." Members of Z Space's Word for Word Performing Arts Company read from Saunders' book. 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13. Jewish Community Center, 3200 California St., San Francisco. \$48-\$60. (Cost includes book.) (415) 292-1200, www.jccsf.org.

VALENTINE'S DAY

For the Love of Beer

This hoppy event starts with a panel discussion moderated by Kate Sofis of SFMade about why it's great to brew in San Francisco. Then sip, sample and snack while you chat with leaders from Fort Point Beer Co., Magnolia Brewing Co., Anchor Brewing and Local Brewing. Must be 21 to attend. The price includes four drink tickets. 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14. Commonwealth Club, 555 Post St., San Francisco. \$35-\$45. (415) 597-6700, www.commonwealthclub.org.

MUSIC

'Street Requiem'

The Choral Project performs remembrance of those who have died on the streets. The 50-minute concert featuring mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade is an offering of peace and hope that connects musicians with people struggling with homelessness, poverty, war, hate crimes and street violence. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15. Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph, 80 S. Market St., San Jose. 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18. Peace United Church of Christ, 900 High St., Santa Cruz. \$35-\$55. (408) 279-0161, www.choralproject.com.

BENEFIT

Heroes & Hearts

This luncheon supports San Francisco General Hospital and the Zuckerberg Trauma Center, and honors those who work to improve those institutions. Each year sculpted hearts from Bay Area artists are on display and then auctioned at the luncheon. Proceeds go to life-saving programs and initiatives. See the website for this year's gallery of hearts. 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 16. AT&T Park, 24 Willie Mays Plaza, San Francisco. \$300. www.sfghf.org/events.

PERFORMANCE

Clas/sick Hip Hop

The event opens with Amy Neal's "Opposing Forces," featuring break dancing, dance battles and duets. Then, 12 bands pay tribute to the acclaimed album "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill." "Clas/sick hip hop" refers to the influence of hip hop in music, movement and gender norms. "Opposing Forces": 7:30 p.m.; Lauryn Hill tribute: 9:30 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 16-18. \$20-\$30; 9:30 p.m. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St., San Francisco. \$20-\$40. (415) 978-2787, www.ybca.org.

ART

American Indian Art Show

This showcase draws artists, dealers and collectors from around the country. Includes American Indian, pre-Columbian and Spanish Colonial antique art, plus contemporary American Indian art. Browse or purchase jewelry, textiles, baskets, pottery, bead work, sculpture, books and more. The opening gala benefits MarinLink, a nonprofit group that helps community-based projects in the arts, education, environment and health. Gala: 5:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17; Show: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. next Sunday, Feb. 19. Marin Center Exhibit Hall, 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael. Gala: \$35. Show: \$18. (415) 473-6800, www.marincenter.org.

MUSIC

Lucero

The country-punk rock band brings a little bit of Memphis with it wherever it goes. When the band isn't touring, it's recording (11 albums since 1998). The music draws its big sound from guitars, drums, bass, piano, organ and accordion, and many of its lyrics from lead singer Ben Nichols. Nichols' songs on "All a Man Should Do" are like listening to his life story. Here's "Can't You Hear Them Howl": <http://bit.ly/2knenxi>. Joining them is singer-songwriter Esmé Patterson. 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18. Fillmore, 1805 Geary Blvd., San Francisco. \$29.50. (800) 653-8000, www.live.nation.com.

- Kathleen Dixon



Courtesy Lucero



The Memphis country-punk rock band Lucero plays the Fillmore on Saturday, Feb. 18.