

5TH ANNIVERSARY
BAY AREA
BOOK
FESTIVAL

MAY 4 + 5, 2019
DOWNTOWN BERKELEY
225 AUTHORS • 100 SESSIONS
FREE OUTDOOR FAIR



FOR TICKETS + INFO:
BAYBOOKFEST.ORG

Captivity and Freedom: Talks on Slavery

Saturday, May 4

1:30 - 2:45

Prophet of Freedom: Frederick Douglass (Chronicle Stage)

David Blight interviewed by Otis R. Taylor Jr.

Frederick Douglass was arguably the most important African American of the nineteenth century, an escaped slave who became the greatest orator of his day and one of the leading abolitionists and writers of the era. Join David Blight, American history scholar and author of the new, definitive biography "Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom," selected as a Top Ten Book of 2018 by the New York Times and numerous other outlets. San Francisco Chronicle columnist Otis R. Taylor, Jr. interviews Blight and helps uncover this towering figure that Blight calls "thoroughly and beautifully human."

Sunday, May 5

1:30 - 2:45

From Captivity to Power: A Remarkable Story of Women Rising Up (Brower Center, Tamalpais Room)

Julia Flynn Siler interviewed by Lauren Schiller

In her third book, journalist Julia Flynn Siler shows that women have always fought for each other, even a century before #MeToo. In "The White Devil's Daughters: The Fight Against Slavery in San Francisco's Chinatown," Siler profiles the women who surmounted racial and class barriers to free sex-trafficked Chinese immigrants at the end of the nineteenth century. Grounded in historical research, the book is an exhilarating tale of raids, bomb threats, and the 1906 San Francisco fire. Siler will be interviewed by Lauren Schiller, host of Inflection Point, the weekly radio program and podcast from KALW and PRX about women rising up. Co-presented with Inflection Point.

1:30 - 2:45

The Business of Brutality: Slavery and the Foundations of Capitalism (Shattuck Plaza Hotel, Shattuck Ballroom)

David Blight, Stephanie Jones-Rogers, Caitlin Rosenthal, moderated by Jennifer D. King

Look around. How much of our infrastructure—from roads and bridges to factories and food supplies—was built on the backs of American slaves? Three writer-researchers examine how the brutal history of slavery laid the foundation of American capitalism and shaped today's racial and economic inequality. In "They Were Her Property," Stephanie Jones-Rogers reveals the active role that white women played in the American slave economy. In "Accounting for Slavery," Caitlin Rosenthal examines how elite planters turned their power over enslaved people into a productivity advantage. In "Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom," David Blight investigates the legacy of the escaped slave and abolitionist, who wrote, "The white man's happiness cannot be purchased by the black man's misery." Sponsored by the Stephen M. Silberstein Foundation.