

LeapFrog Plumbing



Got gas? Many people think plumbers deal only with water and sewage. Not true! We install and repair all types of gas lines and fixtures too.



Mo's sizzling summer specials...

- Outdoor kitchens
- New gas lines for cooktops and dryers
- Fire pits & patio heaters
- Pool heaters & hot tubs
- Natural gas barbecues

We're poly-pipe certified, (better than iron)
Approved vendors of PG&E



LeapFrog Loot
\$25 off

Any plumbing job*

LeapFrog Loot
\$100 off

Gas line installation over \$600*

LeapFrog Loot
\$100 off

Tankless water heater installation*

*1 coupon per service, exp. 7/31/19

We Hop To It!

Family-owned and serving Lamorinda since 1993

green solutions!



(925) **377-6600**

www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com



A bitter subject at Sweet Thursdays author talk



Julia Flynn Siler, Author

By Garrett Leahy

The topic at June's Sweet Thursdays author talk at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center was anything but sweet. New York Times best-selling author and Wall Street Journal reporter Julia Flynn Siler discussed her new book, "The White Devil's Daughters," which chronicles the stories of several young Chinese women sold as sex slaves in San Francisco's Chinatown throughout the 19th century, including after the abolition of slavery.

These women escaped their owners and sought refuge at the Occidental Mission Home on 920 Sacramento Street, which served as a sanctuary for trafficked Chinese women forced into prostitution. There, the mission home's superintendent, Donaldina "Dolly" Cameron, a Scottish immigrant, and her assistant and Cantonese interpreter, Tien Fuh Wu, would care for between 50 and 60 girls behind barred windows and brick walls, keeping their former masters from reclaiming their human property, with Cameron's success earning her the moniker "White Devil" by the slaves.

Siler's book is a shocking account of a dark aspect of San Francisco's past, where Chinese young women, aver-

aging between the ages of 8 and 14 years of age and sold by their families in China, were sold again as prostitutes, only to be left on the streets to die of disease as soon as four years after their sale.

For Siler, "The White Devil's Daughters" is about the friendship between Cameron and Wu, who despite coming from vastly different backgrounds, one a well-to-do Scottish missionary, and the other a victim of sex trafficking, ended up depending on each other to run the home, ultimately to be buried in the same family plot in Evergreen Cemetery.

Siler closed the event with what she believes we should take away from her book: the desire to help others in need, to treat immigrants with dignity, and to support women. "Stepping back, this book is about how we treat immigrants, its a book about radical empathy and that moment that people take the leap to care for the other in their communities - the same kind of empathy that fueled the abolitionists, [and] an inspiring story about women helping other women," she said.

Siler's book chronicles the Occidental Mission Home's operation from 1874 until the 1930s, but the subject of the book continues to have relevance today. Over 5,400 human trafficking cases nationwide were reported in 2018 to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, a 24-hour hotline for victims of human trafficking or those concerned to report cases and tips about cases of human trafficking, while 1,758 calls about human trafficking and 760 human trafficking cases in California were reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline

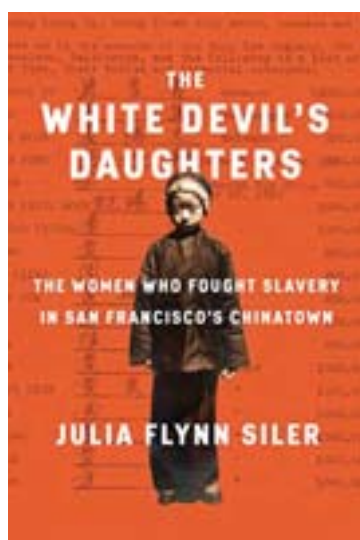
during the first seven months of 2018.

HEAT Watch, an award-winning program run by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, states that California has more human trafficking victims than any other state in the U.S. and describes the San Francisco Bay Area as a "hotspot" for human trafficking. The median age for trafficked girls is between 12 and 14 and the median age for trafficked boys and transgender youth is between 11 and 13, according to HEAT Watch.

Although these statistics can demonstrate the scope of the issue of human trafficking, some warn that they may underestimate the number of victims and who they are.

Dr. Kimberly Chang, a physician and anti-trafficking activist at Asian Health Services, an Oakland-based clinic founded in 1974 whose mission is providing "health, social, and advocacy services for all regardless of income, insurance status, immigration status, language, or culture," explained the issues with reliance on statistics.

... continued on Page B8



ANTIGUA DOORS

ANTIGUADOORS.COM
925.283.8933

sales@antiguadoors.COM

Lynn's Top Five

Meaningful family gifting that won't break the piggy bank!

By Lynn Ballou CFP®

A lot has been written about how to get our adult children to launch, to stop living on our couches, and to get their stuff out of our houses, closets and garages already! But I don't think enough is written about next steps - how parents and grandparents can affordably help their successfully launched children and grandchildren in ways that are beneficial and enjoyable to both. If you have a little wiggle room in your budget, and you'd like to make a positive impact now and enjoy watching the results, here are five time tested ideas from my many years as a CFP® for your consideration.

Help fund their Roth IRA annually! Whether you add \$600 or \$6,000, I think we can agree that it adds up. In fact, if you help out by adding just \$1,000 per year to your working child's Roth, and it grows at 6%, that will be a nest egg of \$36,786 in 20 years. If they can't qualify for a Roth, think about a nondeductible IRA. Some clients have a matching program idea going on with their adult children by matching dollar for dollar money they invest.

Pay for travel. Another fun idea involves asking your grown children if they'd enjoy a vacation and fund it for them as their annual holiday, birthday or anniversary gift. You can be cost conscious by keeping it small such as paying for an overnight weekend in Monterey, all the way to a week-long Disney cruise, just for some examples. I know a lot of us will pay for our grown children and their families to accompany us on a trip, but perhaps they'd enjoy some family time on their

own. House and dog sit for them and give them the gift of time and the space to connect with each other.

Piano, ballet and soccer, oh my! Working parents in the Bay Area typically are on the tightest of budgets. Stepping in and paying for extras for their kids can be hugely impactful. Maybe you treat for a week at Space Camp? Or swim team, violin lessons or maybe gymnastics? Talk to your children about what they'd appreciate having help budgeting for. Many of us remember the deep enrichment program activities at the schools we attended as children. Most of those are add on costs these days. By stepping up and offering to pick up the costs (don't forget the uniforms and equipment!) you are helping recreate those same opportunities. No grandkids? How about treating your grown children to a gym membership, kickboxing class or adult softball leagues?

Babysit and underwrite Parent's Night or Weekend Out. It's an incredible gift for your children when you offer to take care of the grandkids for a night or even a weekend. But remember that often still leaves them short of funds to afford a nice dinner out and a movie. Be there with a gift certificate to their favorite restaurant and the movie theater they enjoy most. And for adult kids with no children, no problem, they'll also appreciate those gift certificates!

Estate Planning and Financial Planning - the Gift of Counsel: A session with a financial planner or an estate planning attorney is something very few adults can fit into their budgets, especially when just launching. What a positive impact you can make

on their lives by treating them to consultations with pros early on in their working years. I've never met anyone who says they wish they had waited longer to get their financial plan and estate plans set up. Be the hero in their lives and help them have a leg up with life changing advice.

Enjoy living your life even more by providing a small financial leg up to those who matter most to you. The joy of gifting doesn't have to involve enormous sums that sabotage your own financial future because as they say, it's the little things that count.



Lynn Ballou is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and Regional Director with EP Wealth Advisors, a Registered Investment Advisory Firm in Lafayette. Information used in the writing of this column is believed to be factual and up-to-date, however, we do not guarantee its accuracy. This column does not involve the rendering of personalized investment advice and is not intended to supplement individualized professional advice. A financial, tax and/or legal professional should be consulted before implementing any of the strategies directly or indirectly suggested and discussed. All investment strategies have the potential for profit or loss.

BAD INC. Bay Area Drainage, Inc.

Have You Checked Your Crawlspace Lately?

- French Drains
- Underfloor Drains
- Downspout Systems
- Subdrain Systems
- Sump Pumps
- Retaining Walls
- Pavestone Driveway & Walkways

**A General Engineering Contractor
Locally owned and Operated
Contractor LIC # 762208**

925•377•9209



visit our website

www.bayareadrainage.com