

EASY SPEAKIN'

OCF'S SPOKEN WORD LINEUP OFFERS ENTERTAINING INSIGHT.

Known for years as a three-day reunion of friends, family and fun, the Oregon Country Fair has recently taken a turn for the more serious, focusing much of the active energy of its participants into a dynamic discussion of world events and issues. This year's "Spoken Word" line up includes activists, musicians, poets and storytellers offering up their unique vision of our world. From silly to sublime, the featured speakers are bent on raising the awareness of their listeners, encouraging audiences to turn all that good-vibe energy into good works, and of course, it's all good fun. -Aria Seligmann

Alan Siporin was a civil rights and anti-Vietnam War activist in the '60s and continues walking his talk as an award-winning author and journalist. From 1983 to '93, Siporin was NPR's primary freelance reporter for Oregon and his commentaries aired on "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered." He has written for the *New York Times*, *Northwest Magazine* and *Eugene Weekly*. His first novel, *Fire's Edge*, was selected for *Readin' in the Rain 2003*. Siporin produces and hosts "Critical Mass," a listener call-in program on KLCC.

Anne Feeney uses music to carry the message of solidarity. A former attorney, Feeney exemplifies the spirit of the new/old guerilla minstrels working to build community, empower the people, and expose the

naked imperialist. Utah Philips and Peter Yarrow have declared Anne "the most important labor singer in America." Feeney performs with Chris Chandler in the Flying Poetry Circus.

Chris Chandler is a poet from Stone Mountain, Georgia. His work is disturbing, hilarious and provocative.

Dan Merkle is a Seattle-based attorney currently working on overhauling the criminal justice system, strengthening progressive and independent media and communications systems. He advises non-profits and community-based projects and is co-founder of the Center for Social Justice and the Independent Media Center.

Faith Petric was born in 1915 in a log cabin in Northern Idaho to an itinerant musical Methodist preacher. Petric has kept the faith as a touring folksinger, protesting against injustice and appearing at folk festivals and political gatherings around the world.

Gina Salá is a vocalist, instructor, workshop facilitator, composer and co-director of Sound Healers of Washington. With a repertoire of 18 languages, Sala has shared songs on stages, living rooms and huts throughout the world. She works with at-risk youth and leads workshops for adults. She was featured on the documentary *Sing: A Healing Community Celebration*, and leads monthly kirtans (participatory, multi-faith chanting evenings).



Dr. Joel & Michelle Levey are founders of Seattle-based InnerWork Technologies, Inc., which develops stress-management and psycho-physiological therapy programs. They have studied with numerous spiritual leaders. Some of their books include: *Living In Balance: A Dynamic Approach for Creating Harmony & Wholeness in a Chaotic World* and *Wisdom at Work: Simple Meditation & Relaxation*.

Joules Graves inspires people to sing and dance together, to find their unique voice and to unite in song and prayer. She'll be singing for the celebration of Life and the unified prayer for Peace.

Karen Mahon is the Executive Director of the Hollyhock Leadership Institute, which offers training and strategic support for those working for environmental and social change. She is the former managing director of Green Peace Canada, and led the successful action to protect the last 20 percent of intact ancient rain forest on Canada's west coast.

Kevin Danaher is co-founder and education director of Global Exchange and author of many books including: *Democratizing the Global Economy: The Battle Against the World Bank and the IMF*; *Globalize This!: The Battle Against the World Trade Organization*; and *Corporations are Gonna Get Your Momma: Globalization and the Downsizing of the American Dream*.

Kipchoge Spencer is a songwriter, musician, poet, and social entrepreneur with a degree from Stanford University in environmental economics, civil engineering and resource efficiency. Kipchoge hit the scene recently with a poem that he has performed for radio, TV and thousands live at rallies and festivals titled *How Much*, the subject of a forthcoming film intended to reach deeper into the hearts of those that have, and thus, have a choice.

Hilary Goldberg toured with Ani DiFranco as a documentary filmmaker in collaboration on the feature *Render*. Following the events of Sept. 11th, Goldberg found she had plenty to say. She started hitting open mics and coffee houses and has started a new documentary film chronicling independent artists and the current state of life in America.

Holly Near's career began with film, television, Broadway and eventually regional theaters, where she wrote and performed. In 1972, she was most likely the first woman in the U.S. to go "independent" when she founded Redwood Records, which became a major force in alternative music for almost two decades. Near's most recent recording is *Edge*.

Ina May Gaskin, CPM, is founder and director of The Farm Midwifery Center on The Farm in Tennessee, editor of *The Birth Gazette* and author of *Spiritual Midwifery* (into its fourth edition), *Babies, Breastfeeding and Bonding*, and her newest work *Ina May's Guide to Child Birth*. One of the most well known midwives in the world, her contribution to the culture of childbirth in the U.S. has been enormous.

Jim Page has 17 full-length recordings and still likes being a street musician — in addition to his concert hall gigs. His music is known for mixing humor, irony and lyrical brilliance to expose the outrages and absurdities of our times. The prolific performer will offer "unsung songs and attempted poetics" to fairgoers.



Alan Siporin



Faith Petric