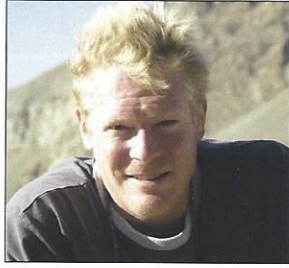


# OAKLAND SPEAKER SERIES 2011-2012



SPENCER WELLS

September 20, 2011

Tuesday, 8:00 pm

Spencer Wells leads the Genographic Project collecting and analyzing hundreds of thousands of DNA samples from people around the world in order to decipher how our ancestors populated the planet. He is explorer in residence at National Geographic, authored three books and appears frequently on PBS and the National Geographic channel. "If humanity has a historian-in-chief, his name is Spencer Wells." – *The Economist Magazine*



THOMAS FRIEDMAN

October 18, 2011

Tuesday, 8:00 pm

Thomas Friedman is a *New York Times* columnist, author of numerous best sellers, Middle East expert and authority on the economics and social impact of the "new" world. He will be returning for a second visit and will talk about his most recent book which will be published shortly before his appearance, which defines America's need to reinvent itself to remain the world's leader.



DAVID BROOKS

November 8, 2011

Tuesday, 8:00 pm

David Brooks returns after last year's wildly acclaimed appearance. Putting aside politics, David will discuss his findings from four years of research resulting in his latest book *The Social Animal*, a landmark sociological explanation of how we make decisions, how the subconscious mind drives our lives and why some succeed and others don't.

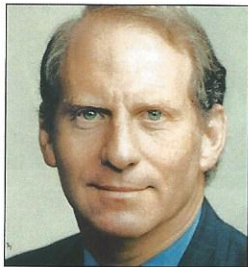


DAVID AXELROD

November 29, 2011

Tuesday, 8:00 pm

When President Obama chose a top aide to guide the strategy and communication efforts of his administration through the first two years, he turned to David Axelrod. A respected journalist, political strategist and award-winning ad-maker, Axelrod was the architect of Obama's improbable, four-year march from the Illinois State Senate to the White House. Mr. Axelrod will review the accomplishments, lessons learned and way forward for the Obama Administration as it heads into the 2012 elections.



RICHARD HAASS

January 10, 2012

Tuesday, 8:00 pm

Formerly a senior aide to Secretary of State Colin Powell and before that to President George H. W. Bush, Richard Haass is the President of The Council on Foreign Relations. Haass is the author or editor of eleven books on American foreign policy. Dr. Haass will provide us with an insider's view of the administration's foreign policy, particularly how President Obama is handling an increasingly volatile war in Afghanistan, and the still developing situation in the Middle East.



MICHELLE RHEE

February 7, 2012

Tuesday, 8:00 pm

Former chancellor of Washington D.C. public schools, subject of cover stories in *Time* and *Newsweek* and a prime subject of the movie "Waiting for Superman", Michelle Rhee is considered by many to be the catalyst for change needed in the American education system. She will give us her insight into bringing change to the D.C. school system and her new venture in effecting change through the political process.



ALAN SIMPSON and  
ERSKINE BOWLES

March 6, 2012

Tuesday, 8:00 pm

Appointed by President Obama to co-chair the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles will provide a candid, bipartisan discourse on what America's leaders must do to confront the largest and most critical economic, social, business and national security threat that the country faces. From taxes and spending to entitlement and Social Security reform, Simpson and Bowles offer an enlightening discussion on solutions for bridging America's deficit, debt and interest gap.



GORDON BROWN

April 3, 2012

Tuesday, 8:00 pm

Gordon Brown served as Prime Minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from June 2007 to May 2010. Prior to serving as Prime Minister, he had served as Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1997 until 2007, making him the longest active Chancellor in modern history. Mr. Brown will give us his insights on the world economy, his observations of then current world events as well as sharing his experience of leading through the financial crisis.