

# Joseph Sohm

## VISIONS OF AMERICA

PHOTO HISTORIAN – PUBLIC SPEAKER



*It's time to feel good about America again.*

### KEYNOTE PRESENTATION FEATURES

- ★ Internationally published photo-historian Joseph Sohm
- ★ Featured narration by Clint Eastwood
- ★ HD blue ray music videos
- ★ Venues scalable from lecture to concert hall
- ★ Non-partisan inspirational keynote address
- ★ Published 50,000 times worldwide press
- ★ Original VOA music
- ★ Award winning tabletop book with optional book signing
- ★ Celebrity and political endorsees
- ★ Digital press kit
- ★ Promotional access to music videos, images, music and reviews
- ★ Multi-media enhanced website for promotion
- ★ Q & A optional
- ★ Photo-Workshop optional



*“Let us dare to read, think, speak and write . . . in a word, let every sluice of knowledge be opened and set a-flowing.”*

—John Adams

# Joseph Sohm VISIONS OF AMERICA

*Painting a Portrait of the American Story  
In Sight, Sound and Words*



*So how do you  
Photograph Democracy?*

**ONE** image at a time

**ACROSS** fifty states

**OVER** thirty years

## KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

HD-Blue Ray Video Projection

*Narrated by Clint Eastwood*

*“As I remarked to you then, I really enjoyed your speech –  
maybe you should spend some more time on the other side of the lens!”*

—Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, New York City

Steeped in American History, Sohm’s talk interweaves his story with the American story. To reach a larger audience, Joseph enlisted American icon Clint Eastwood. The result is a rich multi-media tapestry of images, ideas and music designed to inspire Americans of all ages. Across America, Joseph has made keynote presentations for colleges, universities, trade associations, festivals, special events, performing arts series, fundraisers and museums. From lecture to concert hall, Sohm’s venues are as large or small as the video projection system and screen. Whether keynote or luncheon address, Joseph’s non-partisan presentations remind Americans of what we cherish about America.

Drawing upon his Gold Medal winning tabletop book, Sohm escorts’ audiences on a 50-state quest for his portrait of Democracy. Each presentation is customized for the specific audience and event theme. Drawing upon a series of HD-Blue Ray music-videos that capture slices of

Democracy, Joseph explores a variety of subjects, including icons, Main Street, Native America, African-Americans, farms, cities, sports, military, transportation, environment, presidents (both parties), landscapes, history, 50-state capitols and people.



Presentations conclude with Mr. Sohm posing his audience for a final portrait of “*We the People*.” Considering his talks are more about you than him, Sohm’s Portrait of Democracy would be incomplete without a picture of “*We the People*”! While taking the image, Joseph reminds audiences that each generation of Americans are called upon to

renew the American Dream. As his camera shutter fires, the presentation segues into the “Visions of America” theme song, which showcases Sohm’s greatest images taken over a lifetime. (This portrait of the audience can be projected onto the screen for the final image.) As time and circumstances allow, Mr. Sohm can host a Q & A session as well as an optional book signing following his presentation.

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## PHOTO HISTORIAN – STORY TELLER – PUBLIC SPEAKER

“... *the moment I heard of America, I loved her.*”

—Marquis Lafayette, 1776

Joseph Sohm reminds us of all that is good about America.

Published more than fifty thousand times, Sohm exports a portrait of America to America and the world. Presidents Clinton and Bush have drawn upon his iconic American imagery to capture the American Spirit. Internationally published by *National Geographic*, the *NY Times*, *London times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Esquire*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Sports Illustrated* and *Vogue*, Sohm's photography has also appeared in Al Gore's Oscar winning film, *An Inconvenient Truth*, in *Night of the Museum 2*, Bill Maher's "Real Time," CNN's "Road to the Whitehouse" and PBS's "Frontline." His fine-art prints are displayed in nine American Embassies worldwide.

Millions witnessed his breakthrough Presidential Inaugural Music-Video that aired on MTV worldwide television and thirteen Presidential Balls. "Portrait of Change" combined Michael Jackson's, "Man in the Mirror" and Sohm's imagery. For NBC's 9/11/02 "Concert For America" at the Kennedy Center, his photography was projected throughout the national broadcast, which featured President Bush, Tom Brokaw, Aretha Franklin, James Earl Jones, Kelsey Grammer and the National Symphony Orchestra. The *Washington Post* reported: "Among the evening's most stirring moments were the sublime landscape shots projected over the National Symphony Orchestra."

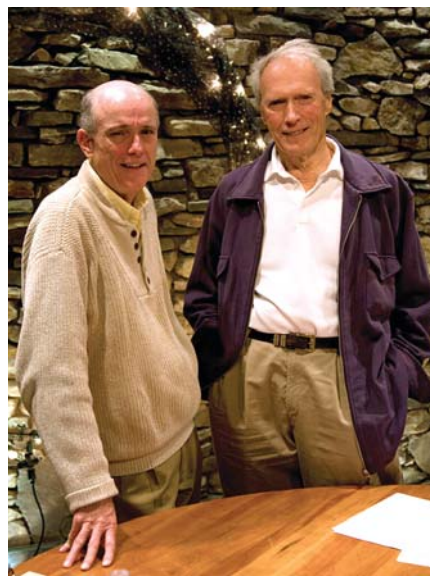
In Philadelphia, for a Presidential Inaugural Celebration for the People, Sohm premiered his Photo Symphony at the Kimmel Center Concert Hall under the direction of



Peter Nero and the Philly Pops Orchestra. In five sold-out concerts to more than 12,000 people, "Visions of America" showcased the original music of Grammy winning Roger Kellaway and the lyrics of Oscar-winners Alan and Marilyn Bergman. With songs performed by Grammy winning artist Patti Austin, Sohm's journey to "Photograph Democracy" is told by Oscar

award winner, Clint Eastwood.

Thousands of textbooks and books feature Joseph's images, including President Clinton's *My Life*, President Reagan's *The Great Communicator*, John Grisham's *King of Torts* and Marianne Williamson's *Imagine – America in the 21st Century*, a book he conceived and photographed. In 2009, he published the Gold & Silver Medal (IPPY &



Nautilus Book Awards) winning tabletop book, "Visions of America," which features a forward by Paul Theroux and twenty-one essays and thirteen hundred images by Sohm. C-SPAN's "Book TV" aired Joseph's keynote address from the National Press Club. His book has been featured at the Newseum in Washington D.C. and Independence Hall in Philadelphia and his video based upon the book won a Bronze TELLY Award. Owners include Presidents Obama and Clinton, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Senators John Kyle and Barbara Boxer, Republican Congressman Elton

Gallegly, the Reagan Presidential Library, Lee H. Hamilton co-chair of the 9/11 Commission, Barbra Streisand, Clint Eastwood, Prince of Wales, Ted Danson, Mary Steenburgen, Deepak Chopra, John Williams, Peter Bogdanovich, Bill

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Moyers, Alan and Marilyn Bergman and Frank Rich.

American History teacher turned Photo-Historian and Public Speaker, Joseph's multi-media presentations have been presented more than one-hundred times across America, including: the National Press Club in Washington D.C., C-SPAN "Book TV", the Newsum in Washinton D.C., Channel

City Club in Santa Barbara, the Museum of the City of New York (following Mayor Michael Bloomberg), "Inside Edge Speakers Series", Marquette University, Rutgers College, Gettysburg College, University of Florida, Texas A&M, Close



Up Foundation, Freedom Festival, National Bank Trade Advisors, Savings Banks Association of Maine, Brooks School of Photography, "We the People" Celebration for the Bicentennial of the US Constitution and many more.

He has been profiled in hundreds of newspapers, magazine articles and television interviews,

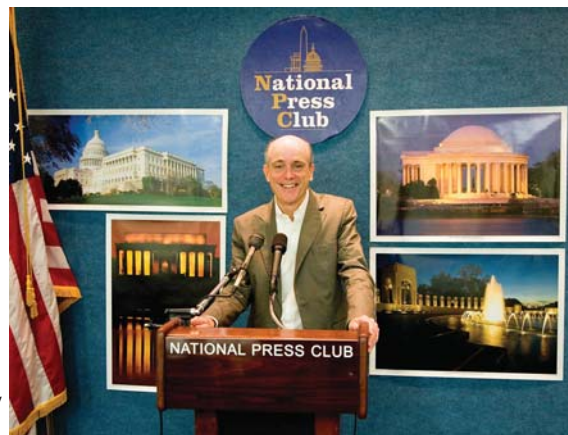
including: PBS "Newshour," *Esquire* magazine, *USA Today*, *LA Times*, *New York Times*, *The San Francisco Examiner*, C-SPAN, *Lexus* magazine, etc. Joseph is a winner of the Gold Medal in the NY International Film Festival and a Bronze TELLY Award.

***"I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of know way of judging the future but by the past."***

—Patrick Henry

## "PHOTO SYNTHESIS" WORKSHOP

Master photographer, Joseph Sohm has perfected many photographic-styles while compiling his 50-state portrait of America, including: landscapes, people, events, sports, presidential campaigns, cityscapes, aerials, icons, travel and "street-photography." Whether film or digital, his "Photo Synthesis" workshop covers photo-essentials, including proper use of lenses, tripods, polarizer, natural lighting, night-shooting, framing, panoramic, aperture vs. shutter priority and when to override auto settings. He explores visual composition and



juxtapositions that make images compelling. In publishing over 50,000 times in the worldwide press, Joseph's photographic success depends upon travel timing and location scouting. He discusses *anticipating photo ops*, so that the Photo-Gods of lighting, location and weather smile on you. He focuses on marrying photo skills with personal passions so that your

images reflect who you really are. While Sohm presents his work, the emphasis is on *you* and how you can become a better photographer.

***"For three decades, Sohm has been photographing you. Thus, his presentations are more about you than him."***

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## WHAT CLIENTS & SUPPORTERS SAY



*“I liken myself to the wagon train scout who has been sent down the road to see what lies ahead. After 30 years of exploring the back roads of the fifty states, I submit my report back to the wagon master.”*

—Joseph Sohm

*“As I remarked to you then, I really enjoyed your speech – maybe you should spend some more time on the other side of the lens! That said, I thank you for your book of photographs, really wonderful; enough to make a fellow want to hit the road and see this great country of ours. Where’s a 57 Chevy Convertible when you need one?”*

—Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, New York City



*“We want to thank you, again, for your time and excellent presentation to members and their guest of the Channel City Club. It was a wonderful program for our holiday luncheon. Good luck as you travel across the country with your inspirational message and pictures.”*

—Judith Hill, Executive Director  
Channel City Club, Santa Barbara, CA



*“Just a note to express my sincere appreciation for your most professional presentation. I had many comments from those in attendance that it was one of the most elegant and thought-provoking presentations they had ever seen. Again, thanks and congratulations!”*

—Joseph E. Jones, V.P.  
Conference of State Bank Supervisors, Washington, D.C.



*“The Prince of Wales has asked me to thank you most kindly for your thoughtful gift of the book “Visions of America.” His Royal Highness would be grateful if you could pass on his especial thanks to Joseph Sohm. It is a wonderful volume which captures the spirit of all that is best about the United States.”*

—Benet Northcote for the Prince of Wales

*“I am writing to express my thanks and that of President Bush’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities for your wonderful and generous contributions to NBC’s “Concert for America.” Your stunning photographs evoked the richness and beauty of America complementing the words and music spoken and performed on stage.”*

—Henry Moran, Executive Director  
President’s Committee on Arts and the Humanities



*“Congratulations on publishing such a remarkable and truly beautiful collection of photography, powerfully capturing the vibrancy and richness of our country. I am so pleased to know it will be featured at the American Pavilion in Shanghai and send you my best wishes for a successful publication!”*

—Hillary Rodham Clinton, The Secretary of State



*“Your presentation was superb! In fact, the Nabisco representative was just in my office and continued to rave about how fantastic the program was. The applause was spontaneous and the response was unanimously enthusiastic. “Visions of America” was without doubt the best program we have ever had.”*

—Jan Thurback, Executive Director,  
Freedom Festival, Evansville, Indiana



*“The premiere of your multi-media show was the high point of our firm’s participation in “We The People 200” celebration. The audience response was very enthusiastic. It was a marvelous show and a great way to entertain our clients.”*

—Ned Donoghue, Esq., Dechert Price & Rhoads, Philadelphia

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*"To Joseph Sohm with thanks for your photograph for my book (My Life) and photo contributions to the William J. Clinton Presidential Center. You've collected beautiful imagery of our country, and I hope it will inspire many people to travel throughout America."*

—President William Jefferson Clinton



*"Thank you for participating in "Inside Media" at the Newseum. Your comments at the "Visions of America" Program illustrated how your photographs capture the heart and soul of the nation. The images provided a wonderful backdrop for the program and on the atrium screen for Newseum visitors throughout the Independence Day weekend. We hope you enjoyed the program and look forward to working with you again."*

—Rich Foster, Program Director, Newseum



*"I got the book today and I can say without hesitation that it is simply extraordinary. It is clear that this book is a monument to your extraordinary photographic career. All of your friends at the Humane Society of the United States are so proud of what you've accomplished here."*

—Wayne Pacelle, President & CEO,  
The Humane Society of the United States



*"MTV was honored to play an important roll in the Presidential Election. The music-video you produced and photographed, "Portrait of Change," was an inspiring part of our coverage. (Your photography is particularly inspiring.) MTV aired "Portrait of Change" three times on Inaugural Day and was seen by several million people around the world. Thanks again to you and for providing us this outstanding video. Keep us in mind for any future projects you are developing."*

—Judy McGrath, Chairman and CEO, MTV

*"Thanks for your help with CNN's recent television show and home video: "The Road To The White House." Your photos of President Clinton and Vice-President Gore were a wonderful addition to a critically well-received tape and show. I wish you continued success on the White House road and off. Thanks again."*

—Glen Kesne, Production Supervisor, CNN Special Reports



*Both the technical quality of the presentation and the quality of the creative content make your program an invaluable addition to the national celebration in Philadelphia of the 200th anniversary of the United States Constitution."*

—Fred M. Stein, Executive Director  
WE THE PEOPLE 200, Philadelphia, PA



*"Joseph Sohm has an unblinking eye and a gift for summing up a whole complex mood in a single shot. There is a great deal of love in his photographs, but dedication too. The hardest landscapes of all to photograph – or to write about – are those that are familiar to us. There are many great travel books about Africa and India – far fewer about the United States. I was moved by the intensity of the color and light throughout, and began to think how America is a destination, not a stepping-stone or a passageway, but a place people seek, to stay for good, to raise families and vow never to leave. Studying these iconic images, it is easy to see why this is so."*

—Paul Theroux, Best Selling Author

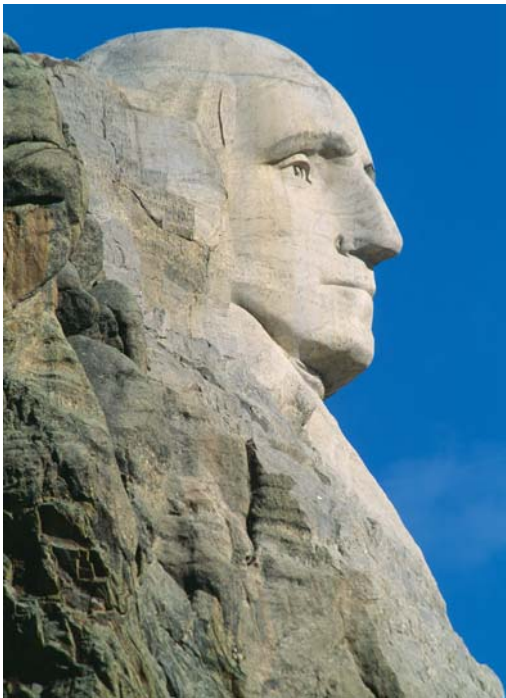


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*“So how do you photograph democracy? Well the answer provided by this book is that you set Joseph Sohm loose with his camera. Fifty states (and beyond) later, “Visions of America” is certainly a grand technical achievement, but it’s so much more than that as well. It’s all here — the beauty, the icons, the contradictions, the wisdom, and the yearning for that more perfect union. When you look at America through Sohm’s viewfinder you will see truths revealed. The dream of America and the promise of democracy come alive through images both new and familiar. This is a journey worth taking again and again. Dazzling, stunning, and profoundly American.”*

—John Milewski, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Television host for “Close Up on C-SPAN” and the Newseum’s “Inside Media”



*“Joseph Sohm has created an iconic portrait of this great nation. He captures our marvelous mosaic in timeless images that inspired our Founders as they inspire us today. Sharing his love for country, Sohm has delivered a glorious and moving tribute to America.”*

—Catherine Crier, Judge, journalist and best-selling author



*“Open this book and you are on your way to a most unique adventure. The road of America lies before you in picture, word and song. So turn the pages and treat your eyes, your hearts and minds to Joseph Sohm’s “Visions of America.”*

—Alan and Marilyn Bergman,  
Oscar and Grammy winning songwriters



*“The Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution has recognized your project to be of exceptional merit with national significance and substantial educational and historical value. You have our congratulations and our gratitude for exceptional involvement in the commemoration of the Bicentennial for the Constitution.”*

—Mark W. Cannon, Director  
Bicentennial of U.S. Constitution, Washington D.C.

*“America is the opening of a grand scene and design in providence for the illumination of the ignorant and the emancipation of the slavish part of mankind all over the earth.”*

—John Adams



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## JOSEPH SOHM SPEAKING PRESENTATIONS

### Colleges and Universities

Amarillo College, Amarillo, TX  
Brooks School Photography, Santa Barbara, CA  
Broome Community College, Binghamton NY  
Broward College, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Cal. Polytechnic, San Luis Bispo, CA  
Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY  
Clarion State College, Clarion, PA  
College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN  
Cornell College, Mount Vernon, IA  
Dakota State College, Madison, SD  
Dickinson State College, Dickinson, ND  
Duquesne University, Pittsburgh PA  
Florida, University, Gainesville, FL  
Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO  
Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA  
Grinnel College, Grinnell, IA  
Heidelberg College, Tiffin, OH  
Hinds Junior College, Raymond, MS  
Idaho, N. College, Coeur D'Alene, ID  
Johnson Cnty Col. Overland Park, KS  
Kearney State College, Kearny, NE  
Loyola Marymount University, CA  
Macon Jr. College, Macon, GA  
Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI  
Meramec Jr. College, St. Louis, MO  
Messiah College, Grantham, PA  
Mid-America Nazarene Col., Olathe, KS  
Middle Tennessee University, Murfreesboro, TN  
Mountain View College, Dallas, TX  
Navajo Indian Reservation, Red Mesa, AZ  
Normandale Community College, Bloomington, MN  
North Adams State College, N. Adams, MA  
Northern Colorado University, Greeley, CO  
Northwood Institute, Midland, MI  
North Texas State University, Denton, TX  
Ocean County College, Ocean City, NJ  
Phoenix College, Phoenix, AZ  
Rancho Santiago College, Fullerton, CA  
Rutgers College, New Brunswick, NJ  
San Antonio College, San Antonio, TX  
School of the Ozarks, Ozark, MO  
Southwest Missouri University, Springfield, MO  
Spartanburg Method., Spartanburg, SC  
St. Cloud St. University, St. Cloud, MN  
Texas A&M, College Station, TX  
Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX

Texas University, San Antonio, TX  
Toledo, University, OH  
Weber State College, Ogden, UT  
Western State College, Gunnison, CO  
William Woods, Fulton, MO  
Youngstown St., University, Youngstown, OH



### Trade Associations, Festivals, Seminars and Museums

Arts Center & Theater of Schenectady, Schenectady, NY  
Bush Gardens, Williamsburg, VA  
California Mortgage Bankers Association, Palm Springs, CA  
Captain J. Cousteau Environmental Faire, Ventura, CA  
Creativity Conference, Buffalo, NY  
Democratic National Committee  
First Congregational Church, Fall River, MA  
Food Chain, Kansas City, MO  
Freedom Festival, Evansville, IN  
Horatio Alger Association, Washington D.C.  
Human Unity Conference, Long Beach, CA  
Inside Edge Speakers Series, Los Angeles & San Diego, CA  
Lincoln Planetarium, Lincoln, NE  
McDonnell Planetarium, St. Louis, MO  
Museum of City of New York – appearing with  
    Mayors Bloomberg & Kotch  
National Audio Visual Association (NAVA), Houston, TX  
National Bank Advisers Trade Association, Orlando, FL  
National Press Club, Washington, D.C.  
NEWSEUM, Washington, D.C.  
Ohio Art Education Association, Cleveland Heights, OH  
Planetwork International Symposium on Global Issues,  
    San Francisco, CA  
Savings Banks Association of Maine, Colebrook, NH  
Southwest Expo, Denver, CO  
We the People Celebrate America, Philadelphia, PA  
We the People Environmental Symposium, Sedona, AZ  
Winnipeg Planetarium, Winnipeg, CA



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## GOLD MEDAL WINNING TABLETOP BOOK



### Library Journal

*"This is more than an amazing book—it is an epic work so breathtaking that it is nearly beyond written description. Sohm brings more than 30 years of experience and devotion as a historian, teacher, photographer, and writer to bear on this monumental pictorial work capturing the breadth, depth, and subtlety of American culture. Clearly a labor of love for American people, places, and history, the book is the expression of a lifetime, both sprawling and intimate, spanning three decades, 50 states, and 1300 images of the people and places that constitute the very heart and soul of America, from its bustling cities to its smallest farms. VERDICT - An epic achievement not only in documentary photography but also in social and cultural history, this will be a delight for the general public, scholars, and photographers. Most highly recommended."*

—Raymond Bial, Urbana, IL

***"I like the dreams of the future more than the history of the past."***

—Thomas Jefferson

### Visions of America

Photographing Democracy addresses a single question: *How do you photograph democracy?* After all, democracy is an idea, and not something one can easily wrap one's lens around. But photographing democracy is indeed what Joseph Sohm has done in this epic journey across the fifty states. To capture this country's incredible diversity, Joseph Sohm framed his national work as George Seurat might a pointillist painting. With each photograph, an individual dot was applied to his American canvas. Spanning three decades, tens of thousands of images were assembled in what becomes a compelling mosaic. With a foreword by legendary travel writer, Paul Theroux, and lyrics by two of America's most distinguished songwriters, Alan and Marilyn Bergman, "Visions of America" is a work of historic value and significance. "Visions of America" is a perceptive work about both the photographer and the photographed. Reflecting on the wisdom of the founders, coupled with personal observations about American history, Sohm takes us on an insightful journey down the back roads and byways of the U.S., ultimately leading to a deeper understanding and appreciation of who we are as a nation and a people. "Visions of America" is a sweeping portrait of life in the American democracy, a portrait that shows us US, the United States.



### AWARDS

- ★ GOLD MEDAL "IPPY" AWARD – Best tabletop Book
- ★ SILVER MEDAL NAUTILUS BOOK AWARDS – Best Art/Specialty/Gift Book
- ★ BRONZE TELLY AWARD – Best Video