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**Special Obama Inaugural Poster Pages
Inside This Issue ~ See Pages 2, 3, 12**



Advocate 2009 Obama Inaugural Poster Page
MILLIONS ATTEND

Crowds of people gathered to watch the Inauguration ceremony January 20, 2009 in Washington, DC. Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States, becoming the first African American to be elected President of the U.S. (Photo by Mark Wilson/Getty Images)



Advocate 2009 Obama Inaugural Poster Page
First Day On the Job

In this handout from the White House, U.S. President Barack Obama talks on the phone in the Oval Office of the White House in the morning January 21, 2009 in Washington, DC. This is the first complete day of Obama's administration. (Photo by Pete Souza/White House via Getty Images)

WE'RE SOMEPLACE WE'VE NEVER BEEN:



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and the New America*
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EUGENE ROBINSON

Popular Syndicated Columnist, The Washington Post and Political Analyst

At a time when America has embarked on a new era of race relations—given the historic presidential election—Gene Robinson provides a compelling look at race relations and diversity today. The author of *Coal to Cream: A Black Man's Journey Beyond Color* to an *Affirmation of Race*, Robinson explains why old conceptions of race in America are obsolete.

ABOUT EUGENE ROBINSON

Gene Robinson is one of the most prominent print journalists and commentators in the country, writing a twice-weekly column that runs in 145 newspapers across the country. Robinson brings audiences a tested perspective on today's headline news.



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President Barack Obama's Inaugural Address

My fellow citizens:

Delivered January 20th, 2009 in Washington, D.C.

I stand here today humbled by the task before us, grateful for the trust you have bestowed, mindful of the sacrifices borne by our ancestors. I thank President Bush for his service to our nation, as well as the generosity and cooperation he has shown throughout this transition.

Forty-four Americans have now taken the presidential oath. The words have been spoken during rising tides of prosperity and the still waters of peace. Yet, every so often the oath is taken amidst gathering clouds and raging storms. At these moments, America has carried on not simply because of the skill or vision of those in high office, but because We the People have remained faithful to the ideals of our forbearers, and true to our founding documents.

So it has been. So it must be with this generation of Americans.

That we are in the midst of crisis is now well understood. Our nation is at war, against a far-reaching network of violence and hatred. Our economy is badly weakened, a consequence of greed and irresponsibility on the part of some, but also our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age. Homes have been lost; jobs shed; businesses shuttered. Our health care is too costly; our schools fail too many; and each day brings further evidence that the ways we use energy strengthen our adversaries and threaten our planet.

These are the indicators of crisis, subject to data and statistics. Less measurable but no less profound is a sapping of confidence across our land - a nagging fear that America's decline is inevitable, and that the next generation must lower its sights.

Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real. They are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America - they will be met.

On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord.

On this day, we come to proclaim an end to the petty grievances and false promises, the recriminations and worn out dogmas, that for far too long have strangled our politics.

We remain a young nation, but in the words of Scripture, the time has come to set aside childish things. The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit; to choose our better history; to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea, passed on from generation to generation: the God-given promise that all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness.

In reaffirming the greatness of our nation, we understand that greatness is never a given. It must be earned. Our journey has never been one of shortcuts or settling for less. It has not been the path for the faint-hearted - for those who prefer leisure over work, or seek only the pleasures of riches and fame. Rather, it has been the risk-takers, the doers, the makers of things - some celebrated but more often men and women obscure in their labor, who have carried us up the long, rugged path towards prosperity and freedom.

For us, they packed up their few worldly possessions and traveled across oceans in search of a new life.

For us, they toiled in sweatshops and settled the West; endured the lash of the whip and plowed the hard earth.

For us, they fought and died, in places like Concord and Gettysburg; Normandy and Khe Sahn.

Time and again these men and women struggled and sacrificed and worked till their hands were raw so that we might live a better life. They saw America as bigger than the sum of our individual ambitions; greater than all the differences of birth or wealth or faction.

This is the journey we continue today. We remain the most prosperous, powerful nation on Earth. Our workers are no less productive than when this crisis began. Our minds are no less inventive, our goods and services no less needed than they were last week or last month or last year. Our capacity remains undiminished. But our time of standing pat, of protecting narrow interests and putting off unpleasant decisions - that time has surely passed. Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America.

For everywhere we look, there is work to be done. The state of the economy calls for action, bold and swift, and we will act - not only to create new jobs, but to lay a new foundation for growth. We will build the roads and bridges, the electric grids and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together. We will restore science to its rightful place, and wield technology's wonders to raise health care's quality and lower its cost. We will harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories. And we will transform our schools and colleges and universities to meet the demands of a new age. All this we can do. And all this we will do.

Now, there are some who question the scale of our ambitions - who suggest that our system cannot tolerate too many big plans. Their memories are short. For they have forgotten what this country has already done; what free men and women can achieve when imagination is joined to common purpose, and necessity to courage.

What the cynics fail to understand is that the ground has shifted beneath them - that the stale political arguments that have consumed us for so long no longer apply. The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small, but whether it works - whether it helps families find jobs at a decent wage, care they can afford, a retirement that is dignified. Where the answer is yes, we intend to move forward. Where the answer is no, programs will end. And those of us who manage the public's dollars will be held to account - to spend wisely, reform bad habits, and do our business in the light of day - because only then can we restore the vital trust between a people and their government.

Nor is the question before us whether the market is a force for good or ill. Its power to generate wealth and expand freedom is unmatched, but this crisis has reminded us that without a watchful eye, the market can spin out of control - and that a nation cannot prosper long when it favors only the prosperous. The success of our economy has always depended not just on the size of our Gross Domestic Product, but on the reach of our prosperity; on our ability to extend opportunity to every willing heart - not out of charity, but because it is the surest route to our common good.

As for our common defense, we reject as false the choice between our safety and our ideals. Our Founding Fathers, faced with perils we can

scarcely imagine, drafted a charter to assure the rule of law and the rights of man, a charter expanded by the blood of generations. Those ideals still light the world, and we will not give them up for expedience's sake. And so to all other peoples and governments who are watching today, from the grandest capitals to the small village where my father was born: know that America is a friend of each nation and every man, woman, and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity, and that we are ready to lead once more.

Recall that earlier generations faced down fascism and communism not just with missiles and tanks, but with sturdy alliances and enduring convictions. They understood that our power alone cannot protect us, nor does it entitle us to do as we please. Instead, they knew that our power grows through its prudent use; our security emanates from the justness of our cause, the force of our example, the tempering qualities of humility and restraint.

We are the keepers of this legacy. Guided by these principles once more, we can meet those new threats that demand even greater effort - even greater cooperation and understanding between nations. We will begin to responsibly leave Iraq to its people, and forge a hard-earned peace in Afghanistan. With old friends and former foes, we will work tirelessly to lessen the nuclear threat, and roll back the specter of a warming planet. We will not apologize for our way of life, nor will we waver in its defense, and for those who seek to advance their aims by inducing terror and slaughtering innocents, we say to you now that our spirit is stronger and cannot be broken; you cannot outlast us, and we will defeat you.

For we know that our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness. We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus - and non-believers. We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this Earth; and because we have tasted the bitter swill of civil war and segregation, and emerged from that dark chapter stronger and more united, we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass; that the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve; that as the world grows smaller, our common humanity shall reveal itself; and that America must play its role in ushering in a new era of peace.

To the Muslim world, we seek a new way forward, based on mutual interest and mutual respect. To those leaders around the globe who seek to sow conflict, or blame their society's ills on the West - know that your people will judge you on what you can build, not what you destroy. To those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history; but that we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist.

To the people of poor nations, we pledge to work alongside you to make your farms flourish and let clean waters flow; to nourish starved bodies and feed hungry minds. And to those nations like ours that enjoy relative plenty, we say we can no longer afford indifference to suffering outside our borders; nor can we consume the world's resources without regard to effect. For the world has changed, and we must change with it.

As we consider the road that unfolds before us, we remember with humble gratitude those brave Americans who, at this very hour, patrol far-off deserts and distant mountains. They have something to tell us today, just as the fallen heroes who lie in Arlington whisper through the ages. We honor them not only because they are guardians of our liberty, but because they embody the spirit of service; a willingness to find meaning in something greater than themselves. And yet, at this moment - a moment that will define a generation - it is precisely this spirit that must inhabit us all.

For as much as government can do and must do, it is ultimately the faith and determination of the American people upon which this nation relies. It is the kindness to take in a stranger when the levees break, the selflessness of workers who would rather cut their hours than see a friend lose their job which sees us through our darkest hours. It is the firefighter's courage to storm a stairway filled with smoke, but also a parent's willingness to nurture a child, that finally decides our fate.

Our challenges may be new. The instruments with which we meet them may be new. But those values upon which our success depends - hard work and honesty, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism - these things are old. These things are true. They have been the quiet force of progress throughout our history. What is demanded then is a return to these truths. What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility - a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task.

This is the price and the promise of citizenship.

This is the source of our confidence - the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny.

This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed - why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent mall, and why a man whose father less than sixty years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath.

So let us mark this day with remembrance, of who we are and how far we have traveled. In the year of America's birth, in the coldest of months, a small band of patriots huddled by dying campfires on the shores of an icy river. The capital was abandoned. The enemy was advancing. The snow was stained with blood. At a moment when the outcome of our revolution was most in doubt, the father of our nation ordered these words be read to the people:

"Let it be told to the future world...that in the depth of winter, when nothing but hope and virtue could survive...that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet [it]."

America. In the face of our common dangers, in this winter of our hardship, let us remember these timeless words. With hope and virtue, let us brave once more the icy currents, and endure what storms may come. Let it be said by our children's children that when we were tested we refused to let this journey end, that we did not turn back nor did we falter; and with eyes fixed on the horizon and God's grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations.

LOCAL NEWS

Edison High School Ranks Top in Valley on Newsweek U.S. High School Ranking

Newsweek has ranked Edison High School 586 out of the top 1,300 high schools nationwide in its annual American high school ranking.

"This is not only higher than last year, but ranks Edison High School above all other high schools in the Valley," said Fresno Unified School District Superintendent Michael Hanson. "I commend the Edison High School staff, students, and parents for their outstanding work."

Public schools are ranked by Newsweek according to a ratio of the number of Advanced Placement, Intl. Baccalaureate and/or Cambridge tests taken by all students at a school divided by the number of graduating seniors.

Advanced Placement courses are being expanded at all high school and middle

schools in Fresno Unified School District with a \$2.9 million grant recently awarded to the district by the U.S. Department of Education. The three-year grant will boost the development, expansion, and alignment of Advanced Placement and pre-AP courses at FUSD high schools and middle schools.

The grant activities will also include study trips to universities and colleges for middle school students and their parents, College Board workshops, and after-school and weekend study sessions for students in AP courses.

"Expanding course offerings to our students and exposing them to college opportunities will give more of our students a direct link to their post-secondary education and have a significant impact on our community," Hanson said.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

What's Going On in Our Community

Drinking Water for Homeless

Drinking water donations needed for the Fresno homeless population. Call 559-251-0540 or 559-270-1023 for water pick-up arrangements. Project contact persons: Dr. Jean Kennedy and Ms Rene Zeno. Need volunteers.

Student Art Exhibition

Student Art Exhibition/Reception (Reception 4:00PM / Program 5:00PM). Location: Fresno Metropolitan Museum, 1515 Van Ness Ave. Honoring student speech, essay, and art winners from Fresno and Clovis Unified, and other Fresno County School Districts. Art on display January 27-February 22, 2009. Contact: Shirley Hargis (559)265-3060.



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Thursday, February 12, 2009 - Student Art Exhibition/Reception (Reception 4:00PM / Program 5:00PM). Location: Fresno Metropolitan Museum, 1515 Van Ness Ave. Honoring student speech, essay, and art winners from Fresno and Clovis Unified, and other Fresno County School Districts. Art on display January 27-February 22, 2009. Contact: Shirley Hargis (559)265-3060.

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Advocate Founder Les Kimber



Fresno City Council President Cynthia Sterling



Museum Executive Director Ray Johnson



Museum Board of Director Vice-President Julia Dudley Najieb



Valley Black Talk Radio Jean Kennedy

'We Are the Change' Celebration

at the African-American Museum mobilized diversity and solidarity in greater Fresno on Obama's inauguration day

FRESNO – January 20, 2009 – As the nation prepared for a historical presidency on Tues., January 20, 2009 – 44th US President Barack Obama – a diverse, Fresno community came together to celebrate his inauguration under the previous campaign message matured, “We Are the Change,” at the African-American Museum of the San Joaquin Valley.

Valley Black Talk Radio, the African-American Museum and the Southern Christian Leadership

Conference, (founded by the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.) pulled key Fresno community organizations together to help co-hosts this grand affair which garnered over 1,000 spectators through the African-American Museum's doors on Tues.: California Advocate Newspaper, Fresno West Coalition, Good Citizens Inc., City of Fresno Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Committee, and Fresno City College Black Faculty & Staff.

Coupled with sponsored food and entertainment, the festive celebration included not only a replay of the inauguration ceremony from earlier that day, but a powerful program which began with a historic invocation led by California Advocates' Les Kimber, followed by inspiring speeches by community leaders such as Fresno City Council President Cynthia Sterling, event organizer & Museum Board of Director Vice-President Julia Dudley Najieb, Museum

Executive Director Ray Johnson and Southern Christian Leadership Conference Fresno Chapter President Rev. Leonard Adams.

Jackie O led an invigorating, multicultural, and proud crowd to sing with her the National Anthem and Black National Hymn. Prominent activist and Fresno City College professor, Kehinde Solwazi closed out the celebration by inspiring hope because of the new installation of the Obama Administration.

Also the African-American Museum collectively created an “Obama Ambiance” amongst the arts community so that citizens could travel between the different festivities to continue celebrating at Arte Americas, Downtown Community Arts Collective and the Fresno Metropolitan Museum.

For more information on how to obtain Obama paraphernalia or pins, or upcoming events, please call the museum at: 559-268-7102.



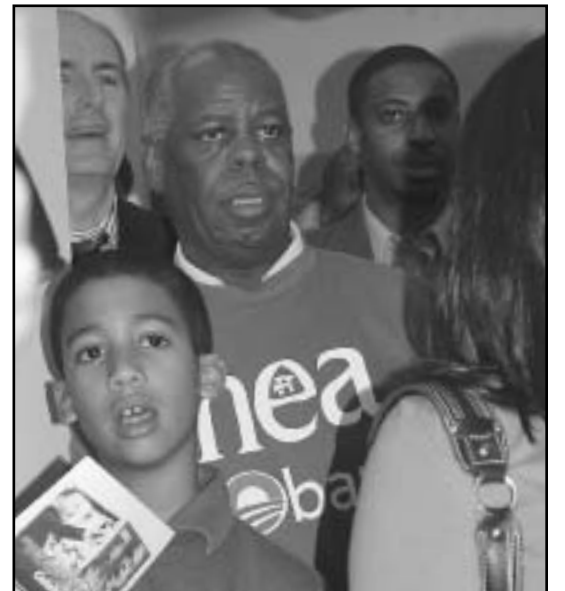
Christian Leadership Conference Fresno Chapter President Rev. Leonard Adams



Jackie O



(Left) City College Professor Kehinde Solwazi



Obama Sworn in 44th United States President

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama became the 44th president of the United States on Tuesday afternoon, banishing forever more than 200 years of history during which the office passed from white hands to white hands.

Under the Constitution, Obama became president at noon ET, even though he had not formally been sworn in with the inaugural ceremonies running behind schedule. Using his full name, Barack Hussein Obama, the new president took the oath of office at 12:05 p.m. from Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, whose nomination to the court he opposed as the junior Democratic senator

from Illinois.

Clasping hands with his wife, Michelle, Obama smiled and waved to the crowd of as many as 2 million people who jammed the National Mall.

Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens swore in former Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware as vice president at 11:57 a.m. ET before as many as 2 million people who swarmed the National Mall. They were there to witness Obama's banishing forever more than 200 years of history during which the office had passed from white hands to white hands.

Obama and Bush arrived together at the Capitol, riding in a motorcade from the White House, where Bush

and his wife, Laura, hosted Obama and his wife, Michelle, along with Biden and his wife, Jill.

The ceremony got under way at 11:45 a.m. ET with a welcoming message from Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., chairwoman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies.

The invocation was delivered by the Rev. Rick Warren, the pastor of the evangelical Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif.

Warren's selection created controversy among some of Obama's supporters because of his opposition to homosexuality, but he delivered a nonsectarian message celebrating Obama's "in-

auguration as the first African-American president of the United States."

Warren said all Americans were "united, not by race or religion or by blood."

Obama, who is known as an inspiring speaker, was to deliver his first address as president at about noon, an 18- to 20-minute speech that aides said would balance a serious and somber tone with a "dose of hope and optimism."

Obama will lay out the challenges facing the country, reassuring Americans that he believes the challenges will be met. He will call for a "new era of responsibility" and describe the price of citizenship.

For Older Blacks, Inauguration a Dream Fulfilled

BY ERRIN HAINES

ATLANTA (AP) —

As she watched Barack Obama descend the steps of the U.S. Capitol to be sworn in as the 44th president of the United States, 107-year-old Ann Nixon Cooper leaned forward in her seat, grinned and let out a contented sigh.

One of her grandsons asked, "How do you feel about having a black president?"

"Well," Cooper said at her home on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Atlanta, "I helped put him there."

And so she had.

It was not just Cooper. It was all the men and women of the black generations who endured the cruelties of Jim Crow, who knew the indignity of separate drinking fountains and the terror of snarling dogs. They fought back with sit-ins and boycotts and ballots.

On Tuesday, with weathered hands and an excitement that belied their age, they applauded Obama -- and the role they played in sending one of their own to the White House.

"I was hoping for a great change that would happen in my day," said Cooper, whose story was highlighted in Obama's speech the night he won the election. "I put my thoughts into ideas pointed towards better days for our people."

Mary K. Jones, a 78-year-old retired university professor in Detroit, has come a long way from the sweltering heat and segregation of Arkansas. She grew up there, along the banks of the Mississippi River, on the same 40 acres her great-grandmother -- a former slave -- received from the U.S. government.

"Jim Crow and segregation were something we were born into. It was just a way of life," Jones said Tuesday. "We lived in a certain area. We all knew where we could go or couldn't go. You stayed where you were. But they (whites) were in their place, too."

When Obama took the oath of office, Jones sat up in her chair, clasped her hands to her chest and smiled.

"There is still integrity. It's not lost," Jones said. "I feel very full."

Sam Cain stood up and threw his hands in the air, tears streaming down his face after Obama took the oath of office. The 61-year-old South Carolina native was born in the midst of Jim Crow's heyday, barred from eating and drinking with his white neighbors in his Bishopville hometown.

"From the time you're 2 or 3, you know your place," Cain said, though he said he now believes life has changed for his family, his race and all Americans with Obama's election.

"I do believe in my lifetime he can bring this country together," Cain said.

In his inauguration speech, Obama looked to inspire the nation with a "new era of responsibility" and a recognition of how far the nation has come.

"This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed -- why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent mall, and why a man whose father less than 60 years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most

sacred oath," Obama said.

Obama then led an inaugural parade that paid further homage to pioneers in the fight for equality. Reenactors from a black Civil War regiment, World War II's surviving Tuskegee Airmen and Freedom Riders who battled for civil rights followed the new president's limousine down Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol to the White House.

In Birmingham, Ala., where protesting blacks faced fire hoses and police dogs in the 1960s, thousands gathered in historic Boutwell Auditorium to view the inauguration on a huge video screen. The old hall had the feel of a church revival, with gospel songs and flags waving.

"I never thought it would ever come," said 77-year-old Ted Roberts, who marched in civil rights demonstrations in Birmingham when segregationists held power.

At the historically black Alabama State University in Montgomery, Tonea Stewart was among those brought to tears watching the new president take office.

The 60-year-old chair of the theater department grew up in Greenwood, Miss., worked in the civil rights movement and campaigned for Obama. "I knew it would happen, but to see it happen in my lifetime is so powerful and so significant for this whole nation," Stewart said.

In Fresno, Calif., the Rev. Joseph and Jewellene Richardson watched the ceremony in their apartment at an assisted living facility. Married 63 years, the two met while attending a segregated school in Boynton, Okla.

The reverend's wife, her cane propped on her knee, wore an Obama T-shirt with the words, "In our lifetime." She watched the coverage on the edge of her seat, smiling broadly.

"Through the years we've been saying, 'We shall overcome,' and we overcame," she said. "We are in the winter of our country's history, so there's spring to come."

For those who lived through such trying times, Obama's inauguration was an important link to the past and a moment to reflect on those who didn't live to see this day.

Mississippi state Sen. David Jordan, 75, a longtime voting-rights advocate who has vivid memories from his childhood in the segregated South, said prior to the inauguration that he wished he could speak with his late father.

"The first thing I would say is, 'Daddy, we have an African-American president,'" Jordan said. "He would shout to the top of his voice."

Michelle Obama Shines on Inauguration Day

Obama surprises with choice of emerging designers; no Pinto

BY WENDY DONAHUE

Twitters in fashion circles began long before Inauguration Day: With her gumball pearls, flip hairstyle and chic dresses, could Michelle Obama be the next Jacqueline Kennedy for stylephiles?

As Obama's husband's campaign picked up speed last summer, though, Obama declared her fashion independence, culminating in an Election Night stunner: a volcanic red-and-black dress from designer Narciso Rodriguez, with a cardigan, flats and dangly Loree Rodkin earrings.

By Inauguration Day, the populace was ready for just about any fashion curve ball Obama could throw. And curve she did, in a lemongrass wool lace sheath and coat for day by Isabel Toledo, paired idiosyncratically with patent green Jimmy Choo pumps and green J. Crew gloves.

In her first dance with the white-bowtied president that night at the Neighborhood Ball, she appeared in a white one-shoulder gown from Jason Wu that earned less-glowing reviews. In so choosing, Obama affirmed that some Kennedy comparisons were not misplaced. Most obviously, Jackie Kennedy also wore white for her inauguration gown. Beyond that, Obama possesses a similarly keen grasp of the most fashion-forward designers of her time.

"Already, she has generated the sort of fashion excitement that one hasn't seen since Mrs. Kennedy," said Hamish Bowles, European editor at large for Vogue who curated the "Jacqueline Kennedy: The White House Years" fashion exhibit, which made its final stop at the Field Museum in Chicago four years ago. "Her choice of designers like Isabel Toledo signals a real engagement with the more exciting names in American fashion."

Both inauguration choices skirted the jewel tones she was expected to wear at some point.

The lemongrass color for day radiated optimism as Obama walked the parade route. The ensemble also distinguished Obama in the pantheon of first ladies as one of the few who could carry off yellow against midwinter skin.

"It suggests the promise of spring, doesn't it?" Bowles said. "It's a bud-colored green-tinged yellow, a hopeful color that is suggestive of rejuvenation."

The ensemble featured a coat lined with pashmina cashmere for warmth. Vintage jewelry adorned the neckline—a sparkling flourish that some old-school matrons might frown upon before 5 p.m., but one that Bowles applauded as modern and as further evidence of Obama's self-assured style.

The Toledo pieces reportedly were purchased through special order from Ikram, Obama's favorite Gold Coast designer boutique. Its namesake, Ikram Goldman, is often credited with schooling Obama on unsung fashion talent, but has been immovably discreet about her role.

"The dress was a classic choice and pitch-perfect for the occasion," said Nicole Phelps, executive editor of the online fashion bible, style.com. "But leave it to Mrs. Obama to mix it up a bit—did you see those green pumps?"

Indeed, they were patent Jimmy Choos, the "Glacier" style, just olive enough to complement the yellow. They also came from Ikram and won the praise of both Bowles and Phelps.

The day before, at the Kids Inaugural concert, Obama hinted at the organic colors that were speaking to her. There, Obama evoked a summer sky in blue and yellow J. Crew, brightening her palette considerably after Sunday's elegant fawn and black Narciso Rodriguez ensemble. Bowles said that look was another fairly literal parallel to Kennedy, pointing to the Oleg Cassini coat that Kennedy wore for her husband's inauguration.

Although many had expected Obama to don Chicago-based Maria Pinto at some point on Inauguration Day, the choices of Toledo for day and Wu for night were no shockers.



Michelle Obama

Elevating Obama's status as a fashion sophisticate last June, Obama wore a Toledo black tunic and flaring pants, also purchased at Ikram, with a Tom Binns necklace at a Vogue event. She wore Wu in an interview with Barbara Walters in November.

An award-winning designer respected by fashion insiders, Toledo, born in Cuba, has worked for more than 20 years under her own name and also served briefly as creative director for the Anne Klein company.

Wu, born in Taiwan, launched his fashion label just three years ago. He has been embraced by fashion insiders but reviews of the gown for Obama fell short of a swoon; many have become more accustomed to more body-skimming, slimming silhouettes on her.

In keeping with tradition, the Wu gown will be donated to the Smithsonian.

"There was talk of [Obama] choosing a bigger-name designer, someone like a Ralph Lauren or an Oscar de la Renta," style.com's Phelps said. "Her choices show that she really stands behind the entrepreneurial on-the-rise American designer."

A side effect of Obama's choices will be to elevate Ikram's profile.

"Ikram's one of a handful of boutiques internationally that the fashion world watches very keenly because of its assured and visionary sense of what is and what will be fashionable," Bowles said. "It's extremely exciting that Ikram's working with Mrs. Obama."

Kicking up a little local controversy on inauguration morning was Jill Biden; there was some chatter on a Chicago radio station about her Milly dress being too short and, combined with the scarlet coat and tall boots, evoking a bit of a racy look. (Although her boots did look more youthfully casual than pumps would, the attention strikes us as a little "last administration." Remember the headlines when Condoleezza Rice started wearing tall boots on state visits?)

At the swearing-in ceremony, the first daughters charmed in a softened patriotic color scheme, both in coats from J. Crew's kids' line, Crewcuts. Malia Obama, 10, wore a deep periwinkle blue coat with black scarf and gloves and Sasha, 7, a guava-colored coat with orange scarf and gloves.

Michelle Obama's coat was pulled close around her with a ribbon closure. Her daughters also belted their coats with ribbons in a unifying tie to their mother.

Barack Obama wore a red tie and George Bush, blue. Laura Bush wore a suitably understated dove gray skirt suit.

Throughout the day, Bowles said, Obama was "tremendously sure-footed" in her choices.

"She has already defined an iconic look of her own."

THE CALIFORNIA
ADVOCATE

WHERE
EVERY
MONTH IS
BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH



PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Barack H. Obama is the 44th President of the United States.

His story is the American story – values from the heartland, a middle-class upbringing in a strong family, hard work and education as the means of getting ahead, and the conviction that a life so blessed should be lived in service to others.

With a father from Kenya and a mother from Kansas, President Obama was born in Hawaii on August 4, 1961. He was raised with help from his grandfather, who served in Patton's army, and his grandmother, who worked her way up from the secretarial pool to middle management at a bank.

After working his way through college with the help of scholarships and student loans, President Obama moved to Chicago, where he worked with a group of churches to help rebuild communities devastated by the closure of local steel plants.

He went on to attend law school, where he became the first African-American

president of the Harvard Law Review. Upon graduation, he returned to Chicago to help lead a voter registration drive, teach constitutional law at the University of Chicago, and remain active in his community.

President Obama's years of public service are based around his unwavering belief in the ability to unite people around a politics of purpose. In the Illinois State Senate, he passed the first major ethics reform in 25 years, cut taxes for working families, and expanded health care for children and their parents. As a United States Senator, he reached across the aisle to pass groundbreaking lobbying reform, lock up the world's most dangerous weapons, and bring transparency to government by putting federal spending online.

He was elected the 44th President of the United States on November 4, 2008, and sworn in on January 20, 2009. He and his wife, Michelle, are the proud parents of two daughters, Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7.



FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA

When people ask Michelle Obama to describe herself, she doesn't hesitate. First and foremost, she is Malia and Sasha's mom.

But before she was a mother – or a wife, lawyer, or public servant – she was Fraser and Marian Robinson's daughter.

The Robinsons lived in a brick bungalow on the South Side of Chicago. Fraser was a pump operator for the Chicago Water Department, and despite being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at a young age, he hardly ever missed a day of work. Marian stayed home to raise Michelle and her brother, Craig, skillfully managing a busy household filled with love, laughter, and important life lessons.

A product of Chicago public schools, Michelle studied sociology and African-American studies at Princeton University. After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1988, she joined the Chicago law firm Sidley & Austin, where she later met the man who would become the love of her life.

After a few years, Michelle decided her true calling lay in encouraging people to serve their communities and their neighbors. She served as assistant commissioner of planning and development in Chicago's City Hall before becoming the founding executive director of the Chicago chapter of Public Allies, an AmeriCorps program that prepares youth for public service.

In 1996, Michelle joined the University of Chicago with a vision of bringing campus and community together. As associate dean of student services, she developed the university's first community service program, and under her leadership as vice president of community and external affairs for the University of Chicago Medical Center, volunteerism skyrocketed.

As First Lady, Michelle Obama looks forward to continuing her work on the issues close to her heart – supporting military families, helping working women balance career and family, and encouraging national service.



WHITE HOUSE HISTORY

For more than 200 years, the White House has been more than just the home of the Presidents and their families. Throughout the world, it is recognized as the symbol of the President, of the President's administration, and of the United States.

About the Building

For two hundred years, the White House has stood as a symbol of the Presidency, the United States government, and the American people. Its history, and the history of the nation's capital, began when President George Washington signed an Act of Congress in December of 1790 declaring that the federal government would reside in a district "not exceeding ten miles square...on the river Potomac." President Washington, together with city planner Pierre L'Enfant, chose the site for the new residence, which is now 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. As preparations began for the new federal city, a competition was held to find a builder of the "President's House." Nine proposals were submitted, and Irish-born architect James Hoban won a gold medal for his practical and handsome design.

Construction began when the first cornerstone was laid in October of 1792. Although President Washington oversaw the construction of the house, he never lived in it. It was not until 1800, when the White House was nearly completed, that its first residents, President John Adams

and his wife, Abigail, moved in. Since that time, each President has made his own changes and additions. The White House is, after all, the President's private home. It is also the only private residence of a head of state that is open to the public, free of charge.

The White House has a unique and fascinating history. It survived a fire at the hands of the British in 1814 (during the war of 1812) and another fire in the West Wing in 1929, while Herbert Hoover was President. Throughout much of Harry S. Truman's presidency, the interior of the house, with the exception of the third floor, was completely gutted and renovated while the Trumans lived at Blair House, right across Pennsylvania Avenue. Nonetheless, the exterior stone walls are those first put in place when the White House was constructed two centuries ago.

Presidents can express their individual style in how they decorate some parts of the house and in how they receive the public during their stay. Thomas Jefferson held the first Inaugural open house in 1805. Many of those who attended the swearing-in ceremony at the U.S. Capitol simply followed him home, where he greeted them in the Blue Room. President Jefferson also opened the house for public tours, and it has remained open, except during wartime, ever since. In addition, he welcomed visitors to annual receptions on New Year's Day and on the Fourth of July. In 1829, a horde of 20,000 Inaugural callers forced President Andrew Jackson to flee to the safety of a hotel while, on the lawn, aides filled washtubs with orange juice and whiskey to lure the mob out of the mud-tracked White House.

After Abraham Lincoln's presidency, Inaugural crowds became far too large for the White House to accommodate

them comfortably. However, not until Grover Cleveland's first presidency did this unsafe practice change. He held a presidential review of the troops from a flag-draped grandstand built in front of the White House. This procession evolved into the official Inaugural parade we know today. Receptions on New Year's Day and the Fourth of July continued to be held until the early 1930s.

- There are 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms, and 6 levels in the Residence. There are also 412 doors, 147 windows, 28 fireplaces, 8 staircases, and 3 elevators.
- At various times in history, the White House has been known as the "President's Palace," the "President's House," and the "Executive Mansion." President Theodore Roosevelt officially gave the White House its current name in 1901.
- Presidential Firsts while in office... President James Polk (1845-49) was the first President to have his photograph taken... President Theodore Roosevelt (1901-09) was not only the first President to ride in an automobile, but also the first President to travel outside the country when he visited Panama... President Franklin Roosevelt (1933-45) was the first President to ride in an airplane.
- With five full-time chefs, the White House kitchen is able to serve dinner to as many as 140 guests and hors d'oeuvres to more than 1,000.
- The White House requires 570 gallons of paint to cover its outside surface.
- For recreation, the White House has a variety of facilities available to its residents, including a tennis court, jogging track, swimming pool, movie theater, and bowling lane.

Fresnan's Travel to Washington D.C. for Inauguration of Barack Obama

Saints Rest Pastor Shane B. Scott and Wife Allyson



Pastor and Lady Scott walking down Independence Avenue.



Pastor Scott at the Phi Alpha National Press Club.

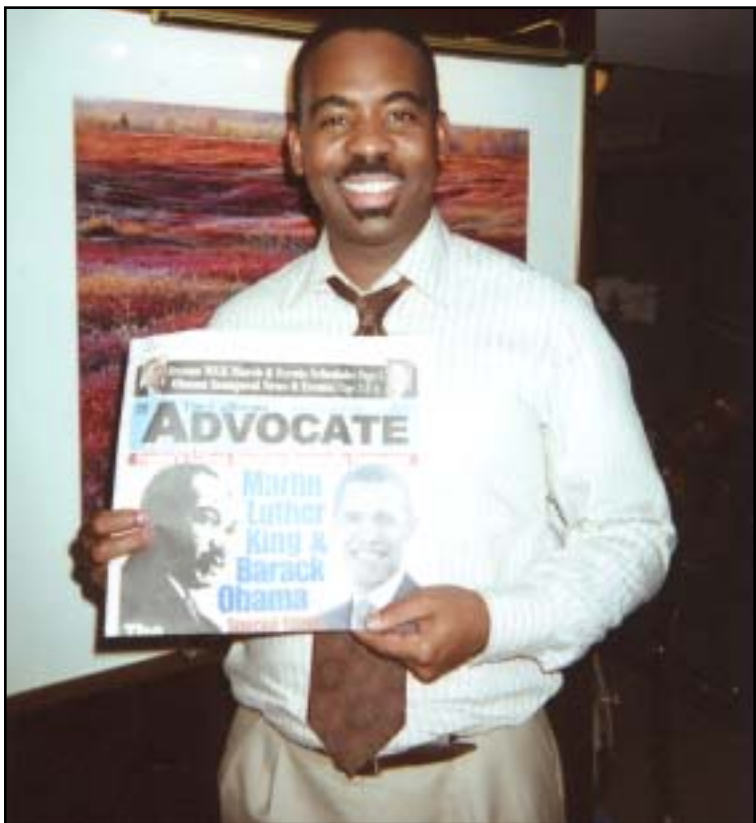


Pastor and Lady Scott in front of U.S. Capitol at 6am on Inauguration Day.



U.S. Capitol Building.

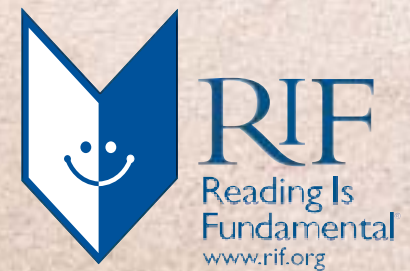
Fresnans Art & Pat Nolan



The Nolans visited numerous monuments while in Washington. They also met and shared a copy of the Advocate, their hometown Black newspaper, with Dr. Robert Blaine (above) Conductor of the Jackson State University Orchestra which performed for President Elect Barack Obama and Bishop Desmond Tutu at the Metropolitan A.M.E. Church in Washington, D.C.



He has a dream.



In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream that all Americans be able to reach their highest potential, Macy's and RIF are helping to make literacy a priority across the nation.

Every child has dreams. But without the fundamentals of literacy, those dreams are difficult to achieve. That's why Macy's is a proud supporter of Reading Is Fundamental's (RIF) Multicultural Literacy Campaign. Over the past four years, Macy's customers have helped raise over \$7 million through programs that help provide free books and literacy resources for children nationwide. For more information on RIF, visit RIF.org.





Advocate's 2009
Obama Inaugural
Poster Page

THE NEW FIRST FAMILY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Barack Obama (L) takes the oath of office as the 44th US President with his wife, Michelle, by his side at the US Capitol in Washington, DC, January 20, 2009. The Obamas were joined by their daughters Malia (2ndR) and Sasha. Chuck Kennedy/AFP/Getty Images