

# Then and now: an inside look at Inauguration day

Donald Trump continues tradition of peaceful transfer of power

by Olivia Stensberg

Despite different parties, beliefs, and lifestyles, all presidents have had one thing in common: the inaugural ceremony.

Donald Trump's ceremony was held Friday, Jan. 20. In many ways, the ceremony has remained the same over time.

It always contains a speech, a ball, and a parade. In America it is a sign of democracy and demonstrates a peaceful transfer of power.

The first presidential inauguration happened in 1789 with George Washington. His celebration consisted of two ceremonies to celebrate (one in New York and one in Philadelphia). Washington was so poor that he had to borrow money to attend, according to History.com.

Washington's ceremony also didn't include an elegant ball. The first ball was in 1809 by James Madison.

Tickets for the ball sold for \$4, opposed to Trump's ball which had tickets that sold for up to \$1 million according to CBS MoneyWatch.

Despite the high ticket prices, admission to view the swearing in ceremony has always been free.

At this ceremony, the new president always gives a speech.

The shortest was Washington's with just 135 words, compared to Trump's 1,435 words.

The longest speech, however, goes to William Henry Harrison. Harrison spoke for two hours in 1841, delivering an 8,445 word speech.

The weather was terrible and Harrison ended up catching pneumonia from being outside, speaking for so long.

Harrison passed away exactly one month after taking office from the pneumonia he caught during his speech.

Despite many presidents giving speeches on Mar. 4, Franklin Delano Roosevelt passed the 20th amendment in 1933 which changed Mar. 4 to the current Inauguration day, Jan. 20.

Prior to the 20th amendment, there was another scheduling issue. The deeply religious Zachary Taylor didn't want to be sworn in on a Sunday due to the Holy Sabbath. The United States couldn't be president-

*In America it is a sign of democracy and demonstrates a peaceful transfer of power.*

less for a day so David Rice Atchison was president for Mar. 4, 1849.

Many historians argue whether or not Atchison should have been counted as the 12th president. If he was, that would make Taylor the actual 13th and Trump the 46th.

Atchison had a great sense of humor about the whole situation,



Abraham Lincoln's inauguration following the election of 1861 on the steps of the Capital. | Wikimedia Commons

with a marking on his grave stone reading "President of the United States of America for One Day." When asked about his day in office, he said he shouldn't be counted as the 12th president because he mostly slept all day.

Atchison's presidency was not the only disputed issue. U.S. History teacher, Kerry Hall, who has been watching inaugurations since 1976, explained that John Roberts messed up when prompting Obama, causing him to stumble during the ceremony.

Because the oath wasn't technically correct, it didn't count. A private ceremony was held in the White House the next day.

Despite the minor slip up Hall

said, "When Obama was first sworn in it was so different and so new and exciting to a lot of people."

Obama ended up being sworn in four times due to this slip up and then a scheduling mistake.

Obama wasn't the only president to not have all go as planned on Inauguration Day.

When Abraham Lincoln was sworn in for the second time, his vice president, Andrew Johnson was intoxicated.

"The inauguration went off very well except that the Vice President Elect was too drunk to perform his duties and disgraced himself and the Senate by making a drunken foolish speech," a Senator that was

present at the time wrote, "I was never so mortified in my life, had I been able to find a hole I would have dropped through it out of sight."

Lincoln defended his vice president and said, "I have known Andrew Johnson for many years. He made a slip the other day, but you need not be scared, Andy ain't a drunk."

Lincoln's loyalty is a perfect example of how the Inauguration ceremony and politics don't always create enemies, but also friends.

Hall continued, "It's an unappreciated tradition in our country that we peaceably transfer power from one party to the other because a lot of countries today and a lot of countries historically haven't done that."

## Radiothon goes live

The 13th annual Radiothon featured celebrity guests and student voices.

by Emily Wong

January 13 and 14, WNTH 88.1 hosted its 13th annual radiothon in an effort to raise funding for the station, featuring guests like Louis the Child, Rebecca Black, and Jared Haibon from The Bachelorette.

Every DJ is expected to choose someone who can give an engaging interview that will encourage listeners to tune in.

The Radiothon was first started in 2005 by the WNTH board, who founded the tradition of hosting a fourteen hour-long broadcast in which they interviewed various local and public figures. They then donated all the proceeds to an organization for the 2004 Indian Earthquake and Tsunami.

To pay for the station to run, all WNTH members used to have to raise money by selling citrus.

In recent years, the board decided to change the Radiothon to the station's main fundraiser, deciding that the event was more relevant to radio.

However, relying on money raised during the Radiothon can be stressful.

In 2015, they raised only \$2300 despite having many well-known, exciting guests. In order to outdo their last performance, the board decided that marketing needed to be a focus for this year's broadcast.

"It took months of planning," senior board member Ben McCormick said. "Especially rounding up all the DJs and acquiring interviews from various

famous and important people."

"It's up to them to find someone noteworthy," McCormick said.

Each show takes their own approach to this task. While some might decide to contact the star of an old television show, others may find a more local celebrity.

Senior Jackie Manchester, a DJ on the WNTH show "Pecan Pie," decided to interview her own dad.

"He owns a candy store, so we thought it'd be cool to talk about that. It's like being a kid in a candy store, but that's your job," she said.

Other shows followed the same idea and stayed close to home in finding an interview.

*"It gives students a chance to publicly discuss what they're interested in outside of academics."*

Senior Adam Clemmitt, from the radio show "Funk Trunk," decided to interview New Trier's Nathan Landes. "Our show chose to interview a New Trier music teacher because we wanted to learn more about the people behind our music program," Clemmitt said.

Other DJs were excited to converse with a better-known public figure.

Senior Katie Shia, from the show "TMI," interviewed youtuber and singer Rebecca Black.

"We tried to think of someone very reachable but also someone who would be well-known enough that people would tune in and donate," Shia said. "She has a really great taste

in music, so we thought it'd be great to share her interview with listeners."

Even without a connection to Black, Shia said that reaching out to her was easier than expected. "She had her manager's email in her bio on Youtube, so we emailed him," Shia said.

Although each interview aired for at least 20 minutes, most DJs didn't seem too concerned about having questions to fill up the time.

"Rather than having a large list of questions prepared beforehand, we were more interested in starting a conversation about all kinds of music and seeing where it took us," Clemmitt said about his show's interview with Landes.

Manchester used a similar strategy for her own interview.

"We had some questions set, like, 'What's it like?' or 'What's your bestseller?' Other than that, it was just a conversation," she said.

With all of WNTH radio's efforts, they reached their goal to raise more than last year.

"Radiothon was very successful this year," McCormick said. "We proved that we can raise enough money with one event to not need the citrus sale."

They ended up raising over \$5000, which is much needed funding for the program.

"This money goes toward equipment repairs, like new mics, a new soundboard, and hopefully an upgrade to the very, very slow automation computer," McCormick said.

WNTH members are excited that radio will be able to continue to broadcast to the school.

"It gives students a chance to publicly discuss what they're interested in outside of academics," Clemmitt said.

## A walk through the Baha'i Temple

The mystery and history of the Baha'i temple.

by Claudia Levens

Around three in the afternoon, Temple Guide, Rand, leads a group of visitors through a tour of the welcoming center's exhibits on the history of the temple.

An 11-year-old boy visiting with his family asked how the Baha'i religion is different from others. Rand explained that the Baha'i believe there is only one God and one religion.

Therefore, all monotheistic religions including Judaism, Christianity and Islam believe in the same God, but worship and interpret God's teachings differently. He summarizes this as "the oneness of God, the oneness of humanity, and the oneness of religion."

Rand had this to say to him as well: "the purpose of this Baha'i temple and any of the 7 other temples existing today in the world is to provide a place for people of all races, all genders and sexualities, and all religions to worship and find peace. We didn't build this place for ourselves. We built it for everyone."

Buddhists Wim and Willea, a couple visiting from the Netherlands, said the Baha'i Temple "seemed like a marvelous place to pray for a day."

Before actually going in the temple though, the two dropped in on Rand's tour to get some context about the place and even stayed after to converse with

other visitors including Aya and Sarah, from California. Though not religious, the two thought the temple would be a great place to meet up with their Chicago friends.

Like Aya and Sarah, many of the visitors at the Baha'i temple aren't there to pray. Regardless, both couples felt extremely welcomed by the temple and the people in it.

"The people here are really kind and willing to answer any questions you have."

College students Min and Amy spent their afternoon taking photos together on the steps of the temple. "We're just here to enjoy the Temple," Min said. He'd visited the Baha'i Temple two weeks prior for a school activity, and despite living an hour away, decided to come back.

Others have a more personal relationship to the temple. Mona, a woman who works at the front desk in the welcoming center, was born a Baha'i in Iran. She moved to the United States when she was 13, because Baha'is can't get higher education in Iran.

She said her move to Chicago was "one of the most important decisions" she'd ever made, because in Chicago, Mona was close to the temple, a larger community of Baha'is.

"For me, the temple is like a mother. I always feel as if it is guiding me through my life. Always ready to love me and everyone else that seeks it's love," she said.

Rand explained to his tour group that he'd become a Baha'i after returning from the Vietnam war.

"Something about the idea of oneness and intersectionality soothed the part of my soul that was still at war in Vietnam, and still at war with itself."