

Area Dems party it up at Clinton inaugural

By ZINA KRAMER
SPECIAL WRITER
WASHINGTON D.C. — The nation's capital was awash in sunshine Wednesday for the inauguration of William Jefferson Clinton and Albert Gore Jr.

Sworn in at noon, Clinton immediately made a speech setting the stage for legislation he hopes to enact as president. The country's founding fathers, he said, "knew that America, to endure, would have to change."

Invoicing the name of former president Thomas Jefferson, Clinton said the former "believed we would need dramatic change from time to time."

Clinton also said the country is in bad shape, "but we can fix it," and that he and other Washington officials should "give this capital back to the people to whom it belongs."

Local participation

The Michigan group began the day with a strong sense of excitement about what the next few hours would bring.

U.S. Sen. Carl and U.S. Rep. Sander Levin hosted a breakfast in the Russell Senate Office Building. Among the group all bundled up in their outdoor attire were Mariann and Gary Zamani-gian; Barbara and Michael Kratchman (he was celebrating a big birthday today); Michigan Bell Pres. Robert Hurst and his wife, Joyce; Detroit Edison CEO John Lobbia; Richard Cole of Blue Cross/Blue Shield; and Leon and Heidi Cohen.

Also attending the breakfast were Rabbi Daniel Pollak and his new bride Cantor Gail Hirschensch-fang; Curtis and Susan Blessing; Tom and Kathy Lewand; S. Martin Taylor; Judge Anna Diggs Taylor; and Sidney and Diane Lutz.

After sipping coffee and eating doughnuts, the group left to witness the inaugural ceremony.

The day before, many Oakland County residents were among al-

Many Oakland County residents were among almost 700 Michiganans at a Tuesday breakfast hosted by Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara and his wife, Lucille, at a Georgetown restaurant.

most 700 Michiganans at an early morning breakfast hosted by Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara and his wife, Lucille, at the Cafe Milano in Georgetown.

'Dr. Ruth' attends

The unexpectedly large crowd was tightly packed into both the restaurant and an outdoor tent. One of the highlights of the morning was the arrival of David and Doreen Hermelin of Bingham Farms with "Dr. Ruth" Westheimer.

Area Democrats at the McNamara breakfast included Gail Nolin; Paul and Carolyn Borman; Hank and Sue Marx; and Denny and Marty Minano. The crowd buzzed with stories of inaugural activities.

The Emily's List fund-raiser on Tuesday had its own roster of both current and former Michiganans. Along with Blanche Dickman, Laurel Gabe, Kitty Thayer, Patti Knox, Marti Robinson and June Roselle, former Detroit-area residents Anne Fuchs Smith and Julie Ambender joined 4,200 women in the largest political fund-raiser ever held.

The group, which has raised more than \$750,000, was enthusiastic as members saw a filmed chronicle of the progress women had made in the political world. Crowd members were brought to their feet applauding the five women senators and the 34 congresswomen that Emily's List helped elect.

American Reunion

Sunday, the great "American Reunion" had begun the Inaugural Week with 300,000 people par-

ticipating.

As James Earl Jones with his distinctive resonating voice began by saying: "We cannot erase history, a deafening silence came over the crowd. What followed was an emotional program of words and music blended together to remind us all that we are one unified country."

As the replica of the Liberty Bell was rung by the Clintons and the Gores and the fireworks began, the inaugural activities were officially ushered in.

Michigan reunion

Monday's activities began with a brunch including numerous Michigan political aficionados such as Jim, Janet and Joy Blanchard, Ron and Kitty Thayer, Patti Knox, Tom and Kathy Lewand, Dennis and Trudi Archer, Robert and Anita Natfaly, S. Martin Taylor and Ralph and Erica Geason.

There was much discussion of the activities to come and who would be attending the next day's events.

Monday evening was highlighted by a cocktail party hosted by Jim Blanchard's Washington law firm, Verner, Lippert, McPherson and Hand, at the Russell Senate Office Building. George Mitchell and Thomas Foley spoke to the group, which included such Michigan notables as Jim, Janet and Joy Blanchard.

Zina Kramer is a Bloomfield Hills resident and president of Events Marketing in Bingham Farms. She is active in the Democratic Party. Assistant managing editor Susan Rosiek contributed to this report.



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Packed: Two hundred were expected but nearly 700 showed up at the McNamara breakfast in Georgetown's Cafe Milano.

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Powerful trio: Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara (left), Michigan Blue Cross/Blue Shield president and CEO Richard E. Whitmer and Michigan Sen. Carl Levin exchange pleasantries.



Hosting: Lucille McNamara smiles at a friend while husband, Ed, talks with Ron Thayer, his Wayne County assistant executive and organizer of Tuesday's event.