



## Hill Notes Rotary Club of Philmont, NY

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### LAST WEEK

There is no better way to summarize last week's program on Autism than in the words of the children themselves:

Hi my name is Elena Lacramaiora Campion. I am 9 years old. I go to school at the children's annex. All of the kids there have autism. At the annex we learn to read, do math and work together. We are doing the play the wizard of oz and since I am the only girl in the class i get to be Dorothy. At home I like to play with my dolls, watch Hannah Montana and ride my bike. In the summer I like to go to Cape Cod with Nama and Poppa.

When I grow up I want to be a teacher.

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Hi my name is Robert Joshua Campion. I am 10 years old. I am in Mrs Grazianos class at Germantown Central School. Elena and i have autism but we are just like other kids.

I like to play bug, play with my weed eater and my chain saw. I also like to watch weather and go to Williams and visit Nama and Poppa. My favorite thing of all to do is play the drums.

This poem is about me

As long as I live I shall always be myself and no other just me.

Thank you.

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Hello my name is Florentina Ofelia Campion and I am the oldest of the three Campion children. I would like to tell you about our story – about how my Mom and Dad teach my brother, sister and me, everyday, how to make lemonade when life gives you lemons.

Our story began in Romania where we were living in an orphanage. One by one Mom and Dad worked really hard to bring us home to the

United States to start our new family. Here we have the chance to have healthy happy lives.

What Mom and Dad didn't know then, but they sure do now, is that the hard work was just beginning. Joshua, Eelena and I look very cute but some days some of the things we do aren't so cute! You see each of us was born with our own special challenges that can make life pretty difficult.

Mom and Dad have had to learn all about FAS, ADD, PDD, ODD and OCD. They go to school to meet with the CSE to talk about IEP's. To help us learn and grow, some of us get PT, OT and SED. Mom and Dad go to board meetings like CARD and the MRDD to learn about ways to help us and other children like us.

Wow, that list was long but it helps you see what my Mom and Dad do for our family. What is really special about my Mom and Dad is that they teach us to understand what all those words and letters mean and to help us to not be ashamed of who we are.

Remember in the beginning I told you that Mom and Dad are teaching us how to make lemonade when life gives you lemons? Here are some examples of how they do that:

Let's start with Joshua – if you spent any time in our house you would soon find out that Joshua was born with perfect pitch and he uses it to imitate any sound around our house like the furnace, the coffee grinder, the grass trimmer and helicopters when they fly over. The problem is he could do this all day long and it gets pretty annoying. So Mom and Dad decided to help Joshua better use his musical talent by buying him a drum set and we discovered that he's a really great drummer!

Then there's my sister, Elena, she loves to imitate and pretend she's different animals or cartoon characters. She is really good at memorizing lines and actions from movies and she likes to do them over and over which can get pretty annoying in a restaurant or church. So Mom and Dad take her to dance classes and plays at Sunday School so she has a chance to get on stage and be a star.

Then there is me. Being the oldest is often hard because I get jealous and annoyed by all the extra attention my brother and sister get – but most of the time I just get worried because I want to fix everything and make life perfect for Joshua, Elena and me. So Mom and Dad have encouraged me to use my love of words and books to keep a journal about my family. I write about the ups and downs, the things that make me cry and the things that make me laugh.

This is the way I learned to make lemonade!

I want to end by saying thank you to my Mom and Dad and also to Granma and Popa for helping the three of us to find our special gifts and for standing up for us until we are big enough to stand up for ourselves.

## CLUB STATS

**MAKE-UPS:** None reported

**GUESTS:** Mrs Calvin,  
The Champion family

**50/50:** Mitch to golf

## 2008 SCHEDULE of EVENTS

5/18 Brunch@Vanderbilt  
5/21 Students  
5/26 Memorial Day Parade  
5/30-6/1 District Conference  
6/4 No meeting  
6/6 Open House  
6/7 Habitat Woman's Build  
6/14 Flag Day Parade  
6/29 Installation of Officers

## MAY CELEBRATIONS

May 1 George Cornell's 90th  
May 24 The Knoll's Anniversary  
May 25 The Ostrander's Anniversary  
May 28 Past Pres Dennis' Birthday

## CLUB CONTACTS

**President-Carol Ann Armstrong**

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**Secretary-Jack Armstrong**

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## DISTRICT CONFERENCE

There is still time to sign up and openings for the District Conference at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs the weekend of 5/30-6/1.

The Calvins and Armstrongs are already scheduled to attend.

## Menus

5/14 Shepard's Pie  
5/21 Alfredo  
5/28 Fish-Marci's choice  
6/11 Pork Dijonnaise  
6/18 Chicken with lentils  
6/25 Drunken steak  
6/29 Salmon with Dill sauce

If you need an alternate meal please see Marci or our waitress when you arrive.

## FOUR WAY TEST

**Of the things we think, say or do:**

- 1) Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2) Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3) Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4) Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

## IN MEMORIAM

In is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of our dear friend PDG Hal Mahwiney of Northern Columbia. Funeral services were scheduled in RI but a memorial service will be held here in the County. Details will be in the bulletin.