

# Community opinions

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## Vote-training the grands

It's never too early to teach children about the world of politics and rallies, says **Nell Anne Hunt of Irving**

One of life's most perplexing passages is that of grandparenthood. When I first learned of an impending grandchild, I was totally in shock because that designation was something that belonged to my parents' generation.

With 60 being the new 40, I did not feel at all qualified or ready for such a happening. I could never imagine myself boring my friends and stopping people on the street to show volumes of baby pictures and tell grandchild stories of exploits that no one else thought was funny except for me, the doting grandparent.

Then it happened. The baby was born, and I have never been the same since. Not that I stay home and baby-sit constantly. Because I am the Thoroughly Modern Millie grandmother, I work full-time, which really interferes with my grandmother time.

I have never thought moms should work, but the fact that grandmothers must work is really disgusting. With limited time to spend, I have prioritized the memories I want to create in my expanding flock of little munchkins.

I have determined that I want

them to learn to pray, to vote, to enjoy the arts, to experience the joy of learning and to want always to bring happiness to others. I have tried to work on these potential memories in a collage of adventures, but the last two months I have been concentrating on getting them prepared to vote.

Luckily for me and the grands, Texas did have a say in the presidential election, and it afforded many opportunities for the 4-year-old and 7-year-old grands to make the scene for numerous political events. Their mother taught them a song naming all the presidents, and I explained to them the political process, and we made sure they had a red, white and blue wardrobe for the primary season.

We started with the Barack Obama rally at Reunion Arena. Lily, the 4-year-old, really enjoyed it because everyone got up and cheered so often. We even got to do the wave while we were waiting for Mr. Obama to arrive. Lily really liked him and thought she might be an Obama princess, but I told her to wait and hear from all the candidates and weigh all the issues before making a final decision.

Then we witnessed two Hillary Clinton events in parks with husband Bill climbing onto the back of a pick-up and telling why Hill should move back in the White House. Lily liked the yard signs we

got there, and Reed, the 7-year-old, kept asking questions about health care costs. They both enjoyed the mariachi band, but it was cold standing outdoors, and we were all ready to leave and get warm.

Then Reed, the 7-year-old, went to John McCain's victory party at the Fairmont. (Lily had to skip that one since it was past her bedtime, but Reed briefed her on it the next day.)

Then last weekend, we went to Washington, D.C., saw all the monuments and went to the White House Easter Egg Roll. Lily actually shrieked with delight and amazement when she climbed the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and looked up at the astounding statue Abraham Lincoln.

Only after all that did I ask the critical question: "Who do you want to be the next president?"

Lily is still one of those undecided "voters." She is vacillating between Obama and Hillary, but Reed is totally committed. He has decided to be "a McCainiac because he was a really good soldier, and his rally had good food and a place to sit down."

Not a bad start for their first presidential campaign.



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