

HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

Libraries of Hope Newsletter

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Announcements.....1

WEH in Action.....2

Marlene’s Musings.....4

WEH Group
Recommendations.....5

MOI Minute.....6

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--It has taken us awhile to find our rhythm in how often to deliver these newsletters, but we have decided to do them monthly going forward. Starting in December, your newsletters will come in the beginning of each month.

--The popular Gordon Neufeld presentation in Section One of Catch the Vision is now unavailable. While he has many other worthy talks you can listen to and books you can read, this one was particularly good. The Neufeld Institute is trying to track it down and another member of our group is in contact with someone who may be able to help us. Fingers crossed that we’ll be able to make it available for you again in the near future.

--The new Month 4 books are now in the [store](#):

Imaginative Series includes stories of Greek and Roman mythology, Aesop fables as told by popular folklorist, Joseph Jacobs and legends from Italy as told by Amy Steedman. I don’t differentiate between Greek and Roman--that can be a fun activity for you and your kids to determine if the Greek or Roman mythological name was used.

My World Story Book continues to share stories of lives of familiar as well as lesser known men and women--all with the purpose of inspiring worthy attributes in your own lives. Just like Plutarch.

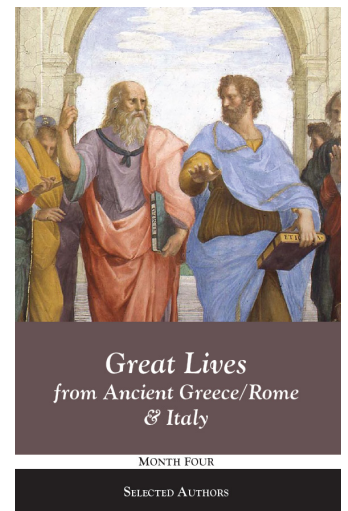
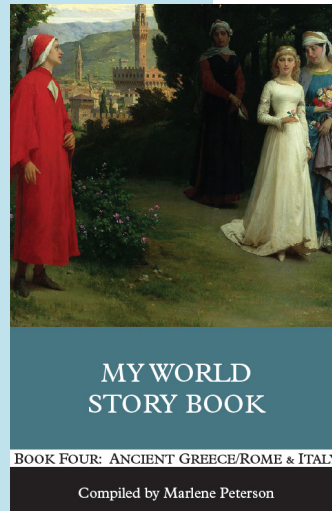
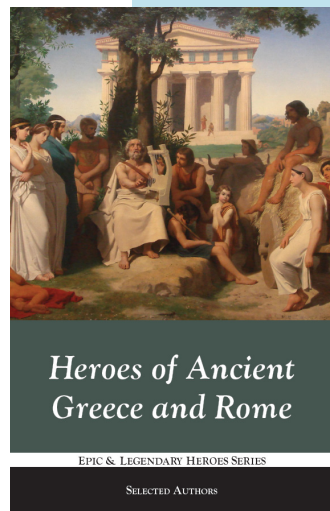
Epic and Legendary Heroes: I packed a lot in this book. You will find re-tellings of The Iliad, The Odyssey and The Aenied by master storyteller, Alfred Church, all written with young listeners in mind. Also, there is a retelling by Mary MacGregor of Charles Kingsley’s The Heroes, introducing your young children to Perseus, Jason and Theseus. Mary’s style is very similar to H.E. Marshall, who I know many of you are familiar with.

“WE LEARN MORE BY
LOOKING FOR THE
ANSWER TO A QUESTION...
THAN WE DO FROM
LEARNING THE
ANSWER ITSELF.”

--LLOYD ALEXANDER

(Announcements cont.) Great Lives rotation revision includes Plutarch's Lives as retold by F.J. Gould as well as a few other stories of great Italians and other Month 4 topics.

As per usual, these books are NOT designed to be read cover to cover in a single sitting. Rather, there is much to layer in over the years. Lots of opportunity to revisit and review.



WEH IN ACTION

--**“Steady Devotion is better** than periodic exhaustion.” I heard this quote a while ago and have often thought of it, especially when thinking about all of you mothers trying to implement a Well Educated Heart lifestyle in your home. I think when we are introduced to the WEH, our hearts sing and we want to do it ALL RIGHT NOW!! We want to completely revamp our entire lives so it includes all the wonderful things. But if we do this, instead of steady devotion, it will be a period of exhaustion and you will burn out quickly. It will feel overwhelming and unrealistic, or as Marlene often puts, like a firehose! You will drown yourself in your own guilt and feelings of failure if you try too much too soon and can't keep it up. The plethora of resources on the website NEED to be there, but I don't believe Marlene intended you to take it all and implement it all at once!

I am no expert and am still figuring it out myself, but I do have an idea I'd like to share. Start with ONE thing. Keep doing what you're doing, and maybe change or add ONE thing. Perhaps you read a poem at lunch, memorize a folk song during your morning basket/time, read a fairy tale after lunch, listen to a classical music piece while brushing teeth, etc. Just do ONE thing different for a month. Then, after it's become a normal part of your day, add or change ONE more thing. Make sure you're replacing the things you want less of as you go so you're not adding more to your plate, just changing them. And if a month is too short, give yourself some grace and more time. Then after an entire year you will have a handful of new practices that will bring life and beauty to your home. As you enter another year, do it again.

What's amazing is that over time, you won't need so much of a formal adding and taking away. Your heart and mind will mold to this lifestyle and it will feel natural to see and pull in the languages of the heart each day. I'm still learning myself, but after a few years, I am finally seeing this happen in my own life. Good luck Momma!

--**After reading a cute little** story called Stone Soup that was accompanied by a recipe, my twins had a great time learning about and trying to find a 'non-porous' rock, that's nigh unto impossible around here, and making dinner tonight. It was a delicious and fun way to study about rocks.

--**We read about Knights** of the Round Table out of My Book of Delights today. We read about Pilgrims on the Mayflower and at Plymouth. We read about the river of sand in California in the Rocks book (Nature series). Once again, imaginations have been captured. One child is vanquishing the enemy's armies (via cardboard box), and another is getting out her rock collection in preparation for a Geology unit. For the thousandth time I am thankful for heart-based learning and for Marlene who selflessly gives this info away for free. If it had cost money, I would not have discovered it.

Hiraeth

n. (Welsh) A spiritual longing for a home which maybe never was. Nostalgia for ancient places to which we cannot return. It is the echo of the lost places of our soul's past and our grief for them. It is in the wind, and the rocks, and the waves. It is nowhere and it is everywhere.

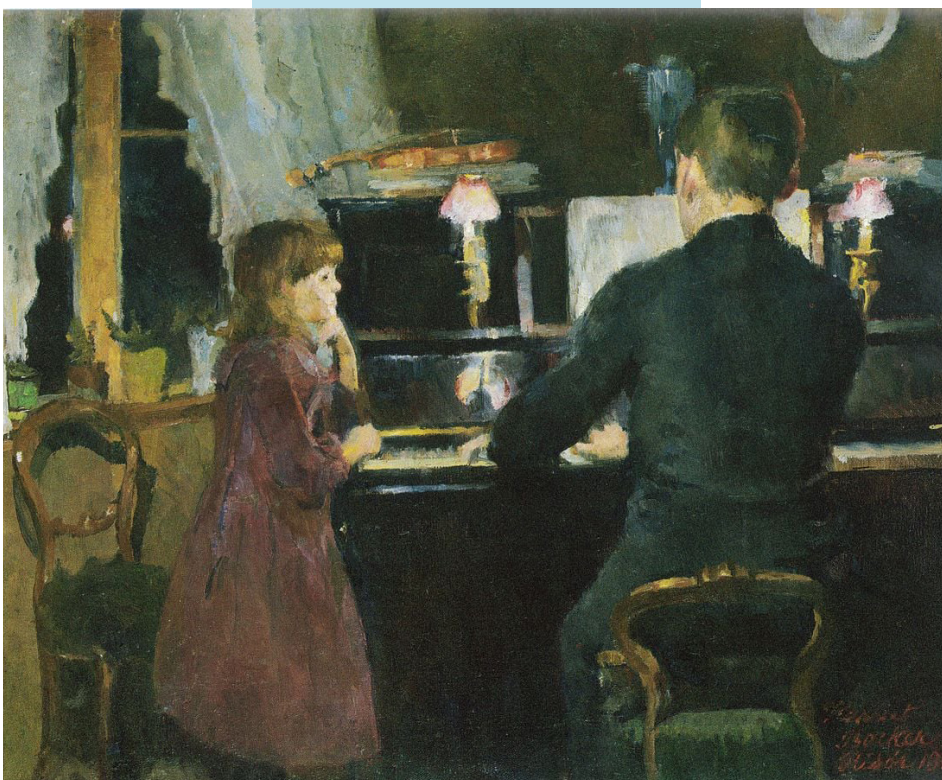


Art credit: The Course of Empire by Thomas Cole

(WEH in Action cont.)--A little plug for layered learning.

My daughter was finishing up reading from the My Book House second book today. Towards the end of the book, she came across a poem. Immediately, she recognized the poem as one we had memorized last year from My Book of Delights. In the Book of Delights, there is only the beginning of the poem - but she broke out into a smile as she discovered there was more! This experience spans a whole year, and I love the slow simmer this layered learning takes. She was so happy to come across something loved and familiar, and then to discover there was even more to build upon it!

--The more I immerse myself in the patterns of heart-education and the rotation, the more deeply I feel this!! It brings up many emotions for me, but mostly wanting to learn more and to go deeper.



“THE EDUCATION OF HEROES SHALL BE GYMNASTICS FOR THE BODY AND MUSIC FOR THE SOUL. BEGIN THE EDUCATION WITH MUSIC.”

--Plato

Art credit: Big Brother Playing by Harriet Backer



MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--**This is the result** we are aiming for from applying the Pattern for Learning we are exploring:

"[Children] felt their own power, and the tediousness of the ordinary school-tone vanished like a ghost from my rooms. They wished, tried, persevered, succeeded: and they laughed.

"Their tone was not that of learners; it was the tone of unknown powers awakened from sleep; of a heart and mind exalted with the feeling of what these powers could and would lead them to do."

(from the writings of Pestalozzi)

--**I have been asked** why I would include stories of different religions in the Great Lives Series. The answer is that it helps us to understand one another. The faith--and lack of faith--of individuals and civilizations shape lives. In the original series, the stories were all contained in one volume, *Stories of Great Spiritual Leaders*. Now I have spread them out in the new Great Lives

Series according to where they fit in the rotation.

Conflicts between faiths have caused much bloodshed and divisions. Our nation was founded on the belief --although it took a bit to get there--that every man should be allowed to worship according to the dictates of his own conscience. Yet, we continue to see prejudices and divisions at work, much of it based in ignorance.

The stories I include come from a book called *Had You Been Born in Another Faith* by Marcus Bach. In the intro, he writes: "...we understand others best when we understand what they believe, and ...we can never truly enter into their belief until we stand for a little while where these people stand... since we must learn to live together or none of us will live, what else is there to do?"

So he traveled all over the world to 'stand for a little where these people stand' and wrote about what he learned.

In his conclusion, he quoted a Gandhian phrase: "If a man reaches the heart of his own religion, he has reached the heart of others, too."

I continue to be amazed at how much the world's religions share in common, if you get past the outward rituals and practices and reach the heart of the faiths. To me, it's evidence of God's love for all His children.

We could make the world a better place if we would follow the wise words of Albert Schweitzer: "Impart as much of your faith as you can to those who walk the road of life with you, and accept as something precious that which comes back to you from them."

I believe a general understanding of all religious faiths is important for Well-Educated Hearts. I leave it to your discretion as to when and how you might unfold the study with your own children.

Art credit: *Evening Prayers* by Jean-Leon Gerome

WEH GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

--The Making of Illuminated Manuscripts (YouTube): <https://youtu.be/PF2nmSLjPG8>

--Excellent explanation of the difference between Greek learning and Hebrew learning. Both have a place--but WEH is focused on the Hebraic way. (YouTube): <https://youtu.be/RcyAOBMndRA>

--Compassion Parentings TED Talk (YouTube): <https://youtu.be/JowYFJW934A>

--On my walk this morning, I listened to [Read Aloud Revival Podcast #192](#) about narration. The conclusion sounds like things that have been said on WEH over and over again.

“I want this to be just a reminder, not to let any method or any tool or any philosophy override your own instinct. You are your child’s mother or father so you notice what lights them up, what works for them, what causes them undue angst. We want to keep the curriculum we use, the methods we use, in their place. They’re tools. There’s nothing magical about them. There’s nothing magical about narration either.

“It’s just a tool. If it’s a tool that works for you and your kids, that’s great. But if not, you don’t need to feel like a failure or a Charlotte Mason dropout, or that your kids aren’t getting the best homeschool education they could. You are paying attention to your students and what they need and that is what good educators do. Any method, any tool, you make it serve you. You try to make it work in a way that fits your family, not making your family fit the method. You know your kids, you are the expert. Use tools, whether that be narration or open-ended questions or something else entirely, as they serve you. Use them to help you with your real goal, because your real goal isn’t to do narration or to ask open-ended questions after each book your child read. YOUR REAL GOAL IS TO ENLIVEN THE HEART AND THE MIND OF YOUR STUDENTS. You can do that with any tool you like, any tool that works best for you.” *(emphasis added)*

--For Rock Study (Website): https://metamorage.mine.com/product-category/mining-rough-bags/?fbclid=IwAR3edYFE-Ta_pV6vUmoNcnGCEMFI1gkubj2bZ_bsOzSGSqVV2UaqE4IVoTA

Wealth is health, a cheerful heart,
An ear that hears the robin’s song,
A mind content, some treasured
friend,
And fragrant memories lingering
long.

Living is an inward art
All lasting wealth is in the heart.

--Alfred Grant Walton

Art credit: The Daisy by Johann Sperl



MOI MINUTE

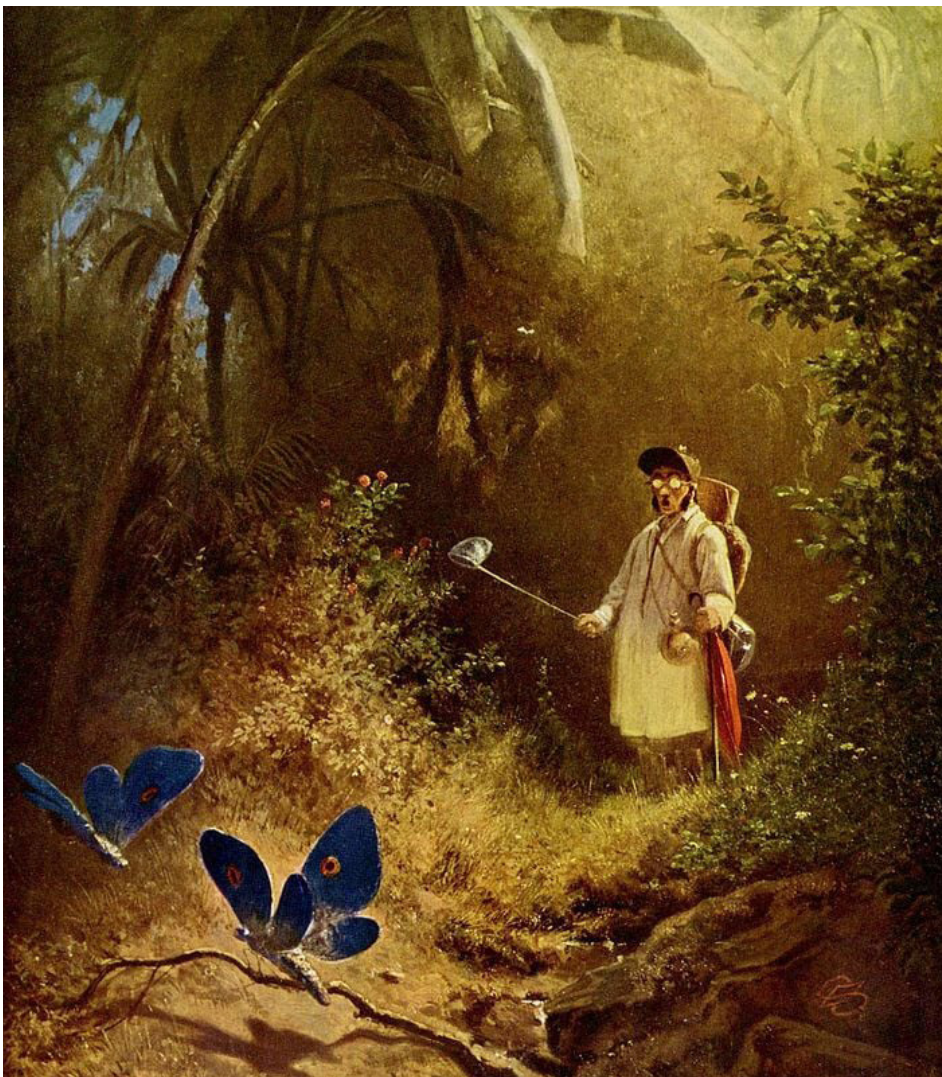
“Mothers of Influence is like a quilt -- we’re all pieced together with this common thread of what we’re trying to do.”

I know it’s long. It’s so hard to stop once we get started...but there are so many gems in this conversation with Lindsay Watkins and Lori Gabbitas. During the first 20 minutes Lindsay tells how she set out to explore the WEH and nurture her own heart. The last 20 minutes we talk about the strength of MOI groups.

<https://www.mothersofinfluence.org/post/lindsay-s-story?fbclid=IwAR03RD6WH7K6Nn8oKakb-DWsaygatAZGed-21ehmI-may48-IwHOg4xIH9Xw>



Art credit: The Old Quilt by Walter Langley



“SOMEWHERE,
SOMETHING
INCREDIBLE
IS WAITING
TO BE KNOWN.”

--Carl Sagan

Art credit: Der Schmetterlingsjager
by Carl Spitzweg