

HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

Libraries of Hope Newsletter

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“NO BARRIER OF THE SENSES SHUTS ME OUT FROM THE SWEET, GRACIOUS DISCOURSE OF MY BOOK FRIENDS.”

--Helen Keller

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--We had some requests for an announcement when the transition to the new printer would be complete. So here you go! All (well, almost all... see the caveat below) orders will now be going through the new printer. When your order ships, you will get an email from stamps.com that says “Libraries of Hope has sent you a package.” This will contain tracking information. This includes monthly subscription orders. If you do not receive an email and you think you ought to have (like if it’s been two weeks from your order date, or after the 25th for subscription orders), check your spam mail. If you still can’t find it, contact us at orders@welleducatedheart.com so we can get it straightened out.

All subscription orders this month went through the new printer EXCEPT anyone who is receiving the Delphian course with your subscription. Those with Delphian books this month will still come from Amazon, but all future orders should go through the new printer.

Caveat: If you are having books shipped outside the U.S. (e.g., to an APO/FPO), those items will still be shipped via Amazon.



“I DON’T THINK OF ALL THE MISERY, BUT OF THE BEAUTY THAT STILL REMAINS.”

--Anne Frank

Art credit: Junges Mädchen auf einer Wiese by Adolf Echtler

**“YOU DON’T HAVE TO BURN
BOOKS TO DESTROY A
CULTURE -- JUST GET PEOPLE
TO STOP READING THEM.”**

--Ray Bradbury

Art credit: Two Young Girls Reading by Renoir



MARLENE’S MUSINGS

--We have been looking for quite some time for a way to have our books printed by someone other than Amazon, for a lot of reasons. Although my head has said Amazon would never censor books like ours, my heart has been telling me nothing is impossible. And given the cancel culture out there and the censorship unfolding before our very eyes, I am happy to tell you we have found another option.

We have now transitioned to a small family-owned printing business who just bought equipment to accommodate our needs. We have been pleased with the quality so far. I hope you will be patient with us as we work through any bugs.

When I woke up early this morning, I was reflecting on the very moment--in the shower of all places!-- when Libraries of Hope was born. Many of you have heard the story. The impression I had was to create a small library of books that would offer hope. I had a sense challenging times were coming, and I am seeing the fulfillment of many of the things I ‘saw.’ My guiding thought was to create a library that, if these were the only books which you had to teach your children from, it would give them everything that was essential to understand how to live peaceably and to live happy lives. And especially to maintain hope in a world gone crazy. Which meant they would be filled with stories of Faith, Family and Freedom.

It has been quite the journey to assemble this library. I’ve mentioned to some of you there are just a few more series to go and I feel like this particular library will be complete. We are working so hard to make that happen.

Fifteen years ago, I couldn’t have imagined how expressions of faith, family and freedom would be seen as ‘dangerous.’ Nor could I have imagined libraries closing down and freedom of speech--the freedom to express one’s own opinion and engage in civil dialogue--to be shut down, even neighbor to neighbor and friend to friend. That is the saddest part of all.

Having immersed myself in these stories has filled my heart with hope. I’m not afraid. We can do hard things, ‘in the strength of the Lord.’ That is the blessing I hope this Library of Hope will bring to you, as well.

If we should lose contact with each other through Facebook, I opened a Well-Educated Heart group in Heroes.app that operates outside Google and Apple, if I understand correctly. I’m not doing anything there right now...I’m just keeping options open. Also, do sign up for this newsletter. Our website will also be a way to keep current on things we are doing if you check the Announcements.

And if you didn’t know, all the audio stories on My America Story Book are also posted in [BelMonde](#).

(Marlene's Musings cont.) If you can, I encourage you to get hard copies of the Freedom Series and My America Story book or at least download them somewhere. And hold on to them. The World Freedom Series would also be very important to hold on to. The principles of liberty are woven into the stories.

And I would also say collect books like you will find in the Sunshine Series that show families engaged in working together in loving homes and environments as well as children overcoming challenges in difficult circumstances.

Biographies have the power to teach us how to get through anything and everything. You can't store up enough stories of lives. We are in the process of reorganizing the Great Lives series by the monthly rotation as another option for these books. That will be announced when they are ready.

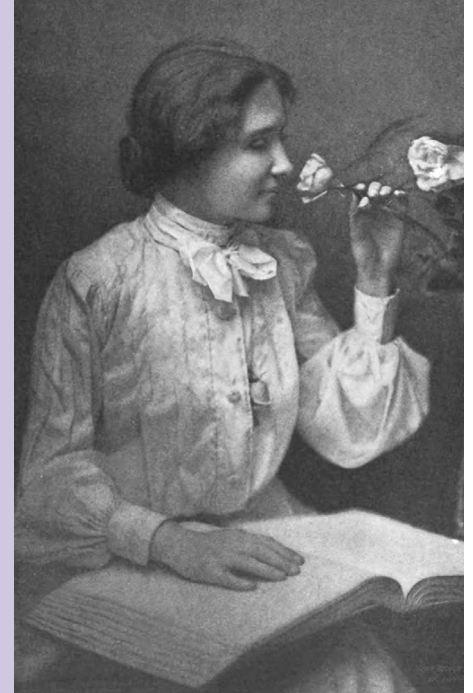
There's so much more I could say....but I'll stop for now.

I'm so grateful for my association with all of you! Just passing along some random thoughts this Sunday morning.

--I'm reading about Helen Keller. While it is easy to pity her for her blindness, "again and again one realizes in reading her thoughts how far more unfortunate than herself she considers those who are intellectually and spiritually blind.

"In two gifts, Helen Keller has been exceptionally rich--books and friends. She wrote, 'No barrier of the senses shuts me out from the sweet, gracious discourse of my book friends... My spirit reverently follows them into regions where Beauty and Truth and Goodness are one.'

"Great poetry needs no other interpreter than a responsive heart. Would that the hosts of those who make the great works of the poets odious by their analysis, impositions, and laborious comments, might learn this simple truth."



"If all thy mortal goods thou
art bereft
And from thy slender store two
loaves alone to thee are left,
Sell one, and with the dole
Buy hyacinths to feed thy
soul."

--Saadi

Art credit: Hyacinths and a Butterfly
by Alfrida Baadsgaard

WEH GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

GENERAL:

Videos of how to deal with books you print out yourself:

[Video 1](#)

[Video 2](#)

BIRDS:

[*The Tune is in the Tree*](#) by Maud Hart Lovelace

I realize bird month is almost over, but I just had to share this delightful book! I found out about it a few years ago but it was very out of print and well over \$100 for a copy! This publishing company has a limited run of them and it was well worth the wait!!! By the author of Betsy Tacy and as she says, “just the sort of a story Betsy used to tell Tacy.” We read it last year in our co-op and all ages LOVED IT!! It’s a great way to learn more about birds, you’ll never forget about the perfidious Mrs. Cowbird!

[YouTube video](#) with birds and relaxing, peaceful music.

[Big Bear Bald Eagle Cam](#)

[How to Sketch a Bird](#)

[The Amazing Lyre Bird](#)

ISLAM:

[*Muslim Child: Understanding Islam Through Stories and Poems*](#)
by Rukshana Khan

[A Muslim’s view](#) of the western world.

IMAGINATION:

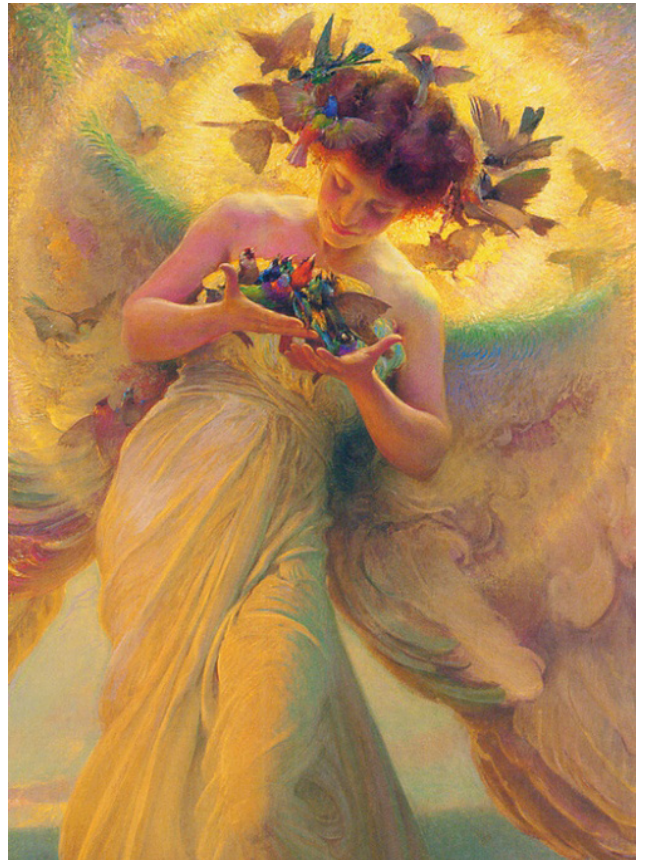
If you haven’t yet listened to Angelina Stanford talk about fairy tales, I hope you will take the time. I’ve linked a few of her podcasts in the [Listen section of Imagination](#) in the Mother’s University. You may recognize her use of “I notice, I wonder, that reminds me of” in teaching her children. But mostly it’s a matter of letting the stories do the teaching. The fairy tales or wonder tales are the gospel story, told in a way that make deep impressions on the heart. We are surrounded by Truth once we can ‘peel back the veil,’ as she describes it, and see it.

You’ll also notice I’ve linked the Andrew Lang fairy books she refers to on the bottom of that same page.

The wonderful thing about fairy tales is that they can be enjoyed by all ages of children. They are a whole family opportunity to learn. Stories can save our world.

NATIVE AMERICANS:

I have really loved learning about the Native Americans this year. Each tribe was so unique. My kids and I had a fun time making dream catchers. We found [this video](#) on how to make them. Then later on, I found [this video](#) about the story behind dream catchers and how to make one from materials you find in nature. There are six more vides. I added them all to my playlist. I highly recommend them.



Art credit: The Angel of the Birds by Frantisek Dvorak

WEH IN ACTION

--**Just wanted to share** a story from today. I took my family to a farm nearby. We were looking at ducks in a pond. A lady wandered up and said, "excuse me, I am going to feed the ducks and just wanted you to know they will all come to this area." She had a bag of bird feed and put it out for them. Pigeons and ducks came to eat. We watched the beautiful birds up close. She then told us which geese were sitting on their nests, and where we can search to find more. My daughter said she had never seen an egg hatch. The lady pulled out a photo book of real pictures she has taken of hatched eggs and ducklings being born.

She said, "I am Mother Goose." She also showed pictures of foxes she has taken. She feeds them too. I asked her if it was a volunteer opportunity. She said she just loves the animals. She told us she grew up in southern Germany near the black forest and Switzerland. She said she spent all her days outside, that her upbringing was very different than if she'd grown up in the US. Wow! I told her I am trying to inspire children to love nature and to learn from it. We learned by watching the pigeons that one was the leader, and the other birds followed. They would fly and stay in sync with their leader.

This lady inspired me today! I thought it was WEH in action, and very fitting for bird month with our nature studies.

--**As I am leaving FB** this week, please let me share one last story of hope for your families. As some of you know, I have a son on the autism spectrum. He is 19 and for the past year has struggled with some health issues that kept him isolated from much of life, especially once Covid hit. During that year, his

health struggles has also made it difficult to spend a lot of time with the family in daily activities. Needless to say, he has been lonely. Recently I shared how his sister said she feels like her brothers have become her dearest friends. I credit living the WEH way of life to them becoming friends during a very difficult time. Today we witnessed his heart opening where there was once only pain and isolation. He is wanting to spend more time as a family rather than stay so much on his own.

This evening during dinner we got on the subject of fairy tales. I immediately snagged the opportunity and grabbed our Andersen's fairy tales book and we read a story from there, because it fit into our discussion. That invited more discussion. Afterward, we decided to read another fairy tale before watching a movie together. We chose "Little Red Riding Hood" and my son read it aloud...with voices that made us roar with laughter (especially when Red was a deep bass, the Woodsman was Kermit and Granny was Shaggy from Scooby Doo).

He has also been spending many hours everyday on art and painting, a passion he lost during this very difficult year. Today he set wonderful goals and is excited about accomplishing them. His light is returning and he is finding his smile again.

We ended our peaceful day by eating pie (because it's Pi day and traditions are important) while we watched a movie. It was my first time successfully making pie completely from scratch! What a wonderful, blessed WEH Sabbath Day!

--**We are reading *The Cabin Faced West*** and I came across a quote that reminded me so much of the path

of pursuing a life of WEH...it's a road instead of street.

"The road had a dancing look to it today. Little spots of sunshine trickled through the trees and grapevines, and lay flickering on the road. Roads are different from streets, Ann thought. Streets are businesslike and only expected things happen on them, but roads have moods and mysteries and secrets to tell and promises to make around every corner...it had a way of saying 'Anything can happen here...you never know.'"

--**Post: How to help people understand this philosophy better** has been on my mind quite a bit recently. Yesterday, I was heavily thinking about creating something like a mentorship program where for six weeks with a small group, we'd deep dive into things. Maybe somehow I can still make it work, but last night I felt a need to relisten to the videos on the main page, first podcast, and the first video of the Catch the Vision course and it changed my mind. I came to this conclusion: learning about WEH is a very individual process, just as education for any person is a very individual process. Those first four audios/videos direct you to all that is necessary. From there, it is just a matter of exploration, discovering, and notebooking. Of course there may be questions along the way and it is always fun to discuss new ideas and the things you are learning with other people. I hope this group will be one of those places you'll consider sharing what you learn so we can all join in on this journey together.

Reply: It took me 2-3 years and going through the course multiple times to "get it" and the way I do it isn't the way you do it. It took doing

(WEH in Action cont.) all the other, what I deemed, “easier” or rigorous things to really get to a point where this spoke to me. And it is so individual. Like I’ll do MASB and maybe 1 or 2 other resources and all the Mother’s University stuff but another will not do those resources at all. It’s like an “ah ha” moment for most people when it just makes sense. Before that it’s a lot of “huh.”

Reply: I spent so much time in the early years of my journey wanting someone to show me how to do things, and I was always so disappointed that it wasn’t exactly what I wanted for myself and my family, it was a huge moment for me in the introductory course to realize that there’s not “supposed” to be one open-and-go book that contains all of education in one tidy little package. (I know, so tempting that such a thing could exist!?) But the journey really is the beautiful part for me, even when things are sometimes a bit messy or less organized than I would like (because life).

Art credit: Children's Concert by George Iakovidis



From today’s harp lesson: “It is not what you play in the moment, but where you go from there.”

There are no mistakes in music because of that. Maybe I should clarify that--when you are playing someone else’s music, you may not play it ‘right.’ But when the music is coming out of your own heart, like I am learning to do, there are no mistakes.

And the same thing applies to this WEH journey. Start where you are...and just keep playing.

MOI MINUTE

Shortly after Mothers of Influence was organized I came across the remarkable story of Mrs. Petty. In 1949 she and her husband traveled to the Holy Land and as they prepared for the return trip, she slipped two 7-inch cedar of Lebanon saplings into her purse. Somehow they managed to survive the entire 7,000-mile journey home! I read that the first tree was probably planted in her own front yard, and the other was given to the head gardener of her church temple grounds in Salt Lake City, Utah. That very tree is still growing there today and is a favorite at Christmas time when it is covered in tiny red lights. Of course, I can only guess at Mrs. Petty’s motives, but I like to imagine that she was determined to plant a piece of the ancient cedar forest as close to her own home as possible.

I often think about Mrs. Petty and her trees as I talk with other MOIers about deepening our roots, increasing inspired learning, and cultivating an encircling reach. In fact, I was just thinking about her two weeks ago. I was feeling a little sorry that I only knew her last name and that she might only be known to me as “Mrs. Petty.” I casually sent a thought to Heaven wondering about her a little more. I mused that someday maybe I’d find out her full name. Well, be careful what you wish for because this week Heaven answered back.

The answer came through two lovely twin sisters who have only known about the Well-Educated Heart for two weeks. Serendipitously they live not far from me and invited me to hear what happened to them. They came across the Cedars of God video through one of their daughters. The sisters liked it so much that they shared it with several people from their church congregation. One of those friends mentioned that the Cedar of Lebanon tree growing in Salt Lake City, Utah, came from her husband's great-great-grandmother. The twins were delighted to realize that their great-great-grandmother is Mrs. Petty's sister. These two neighborhood families are related and had no idea. Now they are exchanging genealogy, stories, and pictures and feel an even deeper friendship.

I'm smiling too, because not only did I learn Mrs. Petty's name, I also got a chance to read more of her history and life story. I'm so happy to introduce you to Maggie Cottam Petty. She looks just as you might imagine her on that airplane with her purse on her lap. But I especially love the second picture. I think it's more telling of the lovely woman and Mother of Influence she's been to her children, family, and even an entire community.

Sending Love,
Marley



Art credit: A Glade in Cadzow Forest by Alexander Fraser