

HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

Libraries of Hope Newsletter

“THE GOAL OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION SHOULD
BE TO ACTIVATE THE
CHILD’S OWN NATURAL
DESIRE TO LEARN.”

--MARIA MONTESSORI

--A NEW YEAR

Are you ready to take another tour around the world? We always start with Exploration and Discovery because that describes the kind of learning we do around here. We visit China and India because that’s where Christopher Columbus was heading. What was the attraction? We’ll find out. Of course, before Columbus were the Vikings which leads us to visiting the Scandinavian countries that was home for them. And then we stop in the South Seas to see what the explorers discovered as they started making their way around the world. It’s a month of stories of great daring and adventure.

For nature, we take a look at the Stars.

And our Mother’s University topic is A Mother’s Influence.

I was in some meetings this week with an educator who is trying to change the face of higher education and I loved a term that was used. He identified three missing things in current educational trends: “soul formation,” cultivating self-governance in learning and preserving faith and family. I love the idea of “soul formation.” Belle Ame means beautiful soul and that’s exactly what we are trying to do—build beautiful souls because beautiful souls will build a beautiful world.

You don’t get there by focusing on information and facts and learning through compulsory means. And you certainly don’t get there by leaving God out. We can’t copy what is going on in public schools and expect different results.

You will frequently hear us say that WEH is different. Because it is. If you haven’t yet gone through the free Catch the Vision course, I encourage you to do so. And I strongly recommend joining our Belle Ame at Home and Mothers of Influence communities. There are some incredible things

happening behind the scenes that will continue to unfold in the months ahead. We can do more together than we can independently.

You can change the world. You are changing the world by small and simple means right within the walls of your own homes.

I recently listened to and was inspired by the speech delivered by Robert F. Kennedy when he announced he was discontinuing his run for president. He has a passion for protecting the health of our children and he said he has prayed every morning for 19 years to be placed in a place where he can truly effect change. He said he is 70 years old and figures he has 10 good years left for the fight.

That really resonated with me. I have a passion for protecting the hearts of our children and I, too, have prayed for 19 years for doors to open to spread those things I have been learning. It has been a miraculous journey. I'm also close to 70 years. I like to hope that much can be done in the next 10 years.

The man who presented at the meeting I just referred to can see how we can change the face of higher education in the next 10 years.

I'm committed to doing all I can to move that change along if God will grant me those next ten years. Who is with me?

Art credit: Grace Before Meal by Franz von Defregger



ANNOUNCEMENTS

--I need to make an announcement that I don't want to make. It was in the previous newsletter, but I have been reluctant to make it more public.

The Forgotten Classics Family Library is one of the most important resources we offer to nourish the hearts of your children. These books were written in the Golden Age of Children's Literature between around 1880 and 1923. They are what Charlotte Mason would call Living Books.

While we make digital copies of all of them available for free and I have even recorded many of them which you can access for free, I have encouraged you to get hard copies if you are able to. This is an important way of preserving a culture of faith, freedom and family and a love of the good, the true and the beautiful.

Over the years, we have offered a bonus. For anyone who purchases five series or more, either at once or by subscription, we have given you the entire Mother's Learning Library for free as well as these bonus books: *Story Bible*, *Restoring the Art of Storytelling in the Home*, *Mara Pratt's American History Stories*, *Poetry for the Well-*

Educated Heart, and My Reading Record.

It's over a \$200 value.

Since Covid especially, costs have risen considerably, both paper costs and shipping costs. The last couple of years, we have absorbed those rising costs. We simply can no longer do that.

Rather than raise the price of books again, we have decided we need to discontinue offering so many free books. So, effective September 30th, the bonus books offer will go away.

We will continue to honor it for those of you who subscribe to five series over the course of the coming year. For those of you who are working up to five series, you will need to do that by the end of September.

On a personal note, our only income comes from the sales of the Forgotten Classics. It is through those sales that we are able to offer so many things for free. All of the profits from Belle Ame at Home go back into the campus. So we truly appreciate those of you who support our work through purchasing the Forgotten Classics library.

We hope you are enjoying the stories you find there as much as I have enjoyed gathering them for you.

I wish prices would somehow go down for all of us everywhere! Thank you for your understanding.

Visit our store at: <https://www.librariesofhope.com/store>

--**We've had several people asking** about whether we're set up with Utah Fits All. I think we finally got everything fixed and we now should be available for direct pay via ClassWallet. (This is for the books only, not BAAH. You might be able to get reimbursed for BAAH but we can't do direct pay for that.) It should be under Libraries of Hope.

--**I just got a hard copy in the mail** of the beautiful cookbook created by Trent Merrell (one of our academy teachers) that is organized by our rotation schedule.

I love it! Not only does he include tasty and simple recipes from around the world, he gives the "story" behind the recipe and even something interesting about the country.

BAAH members get a free PDF version, but the book is available in our store for anyone to buy. Here's the direct link: <https://www.librariesofhope.com/.../around-the-world-in...>

**"ENJOY THE LITTLE THINGS
IN LIFE, FOR ONE DAY
YOU'LL LOOK BACK AND
REALIZE THEY WERE THE
BIG THINGS."**

--Kurt Vonnegut

Art credit: Old Line's Birthday
by Hans Brendekilde





Art credit: An Archipelago Scenery by Lotten Ronquist

--Our newest club in Belle Ame at Home has just opened!

Your teens 13 and older are invited on a six-day adventure, sailing as a crew member on a tall ship off the coast of California. The club will meet once a month in BAAH (basic or premium level of membership) in preparation for the trip and to form friendships.

Look for Exploring with Kindle Garner in the Teen club space in belleameathome.org. You can watch the video [here](#).

P.S. We have room for 16 chaperones. :)

--I realized something. I opened this Facebook group almost exactly 10 years ago--August 5, 2014 to be exact.

That means that the original families who joined have kids that are likely all grown up and maybe even have children of their own. Ten years doesn't seem very long, but it's enough time to "grow a kid." It's about how many school years a child has.

Some of you may have been in Junior High school when this opened!

It also made me realize that sometimes I forget about talking about the basics in this group. So many of you have been around so long, I take for granted you know what we are all about here.

But I need to go back and make sure I spend more time talking about the basics of a well-educated heart. Things aren't as simple as they used to be....but the principles underlying all of this are still the same basic things:

Our objective is joy.

Our method is inspired by a phrase in Charlotte Mason: True education is between a child's soul and God.

I keep asking you to remember 5 things:

1. Freedom to discover is essential for growth and joy.
2. Mother-love plays a vital role in nurturing hearts.
3. The Arts are the keys to soften and open hearts.
4. Creation requires Heart and Mind acting in unison.
5. The direction of growth is inward-out.

The free [Catch the Vision intro course](#) will help you understand.

We welcomed our 15,000th member this month. It is a privilege to associate with all of you, no matter what level of WEH you choose to participate in.

Thank you for being here!

--Some people ask me if I'm ever going to retire. I'll be 70 next year... I just say that when I find another way I'd rather spend my time, I'll think about it. But for now, I love helping moms see how much they matter. And that they are doing great things through small and simple means.

You are making a difference. and our world needs all the help it can get. It's nice to focus my attention on positive things. don't you prefer that, too?



“THERE IS NO SUCH
THING ON EARTH AS
AN UNINTERESTING
SUBJECT; THE ONLY
THING THAT CAN EXIST
IS AN UNINTERESTED
PERSON.”

--G.K. Chesterton

Art credit: Springtime
by Johann Sperl

MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--My son-in-law gave me a little plant for my birthday over a year ago. I kept meaning to put it in a bigger pot, but I just never got around to it. I rarely remembered to water it. It never grew, and then the leaves started turning yellow and dropping off. I was afraid I had killed it.

So I finally took the time to put it in a bigger pot with better soil and gave it some nutrients and water (water is magical, isn't it?) and now it's thriving in just a few short weeks!

Whether you are growing plants or growing kids, the same principles apply. Kids need room to breathe and to grow and to sink deep roots into. And they need nutrients and Living Water. As you plan your new school year, be cautious of too tight of structure and pay attention to supplying enough nutrients. Stories, music, art and poetry--and nature--are the best delivery systems. Love is the Living Water.

And then trust the process. You can't force the growth. It will happen naturally.