

HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

Libraries of Hope Newsletter

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“WE CANNOT FORCE
SOMEONE TO HEAR A
MESSAGE THEY ARE NOT
READY TO RECEIVE,
BUT WE MUST NEVER
UNDERESTIMATE THE
POWER OF PLANTING
A SEED.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--**And just like that...**here we are to March. Our Month 7 topics are all about Expansion. In American History, we take a look at the Westward Expansion. It’s a month for studying the Wild West, Cowboys and Pioneers. It is also a sad part of our story as we see what happened to the Native Americans and we read of their tears. They have much to teach us. 19th Century America was also an age of expansion of ideas and innovations, which always happens in the atmosphere of freedom.

The idea of Expansion also connects us to our world topic of Arabia and the rise and expansion of Islam. You may want to bring in a study of the Crusades as we see Islam’s spreading influence begin to clash with the Christian world. When those Crusaders made it to Jerusalem, it wasn’t what they expected! More lessons for us in learning to live together in diversity.

In Nature, we now turn our attention to our little feathered friends. After our cold winter days, I am enjoying the return of their songs when I am out on my walks.

And our Mother’s University topic is all about expanding our Imaginations.

Happy exploring!

--NEW PODCASTS:

A new podcast just got posted: [Podcast #202: Doing Your Due Diligence](#)

Just had some thoughts on my mind I wanted to share. The secret to WEH isn’t found in notebooking or the rotation or the new website or databases of books. I hope most of you know the secret, but just in case...

(cont. on next page)

(Announcements cont.) [Podcast #201: Holy Hannah and the Power of the Poet's Pen.](#)

Her story is a testament to the power of art to transform the world.

--EXCITING CHANGES ARE IN THE MAKING

We are happy to announce some big changes in our librariesofhope.com website. While our current site will continue to house Well-Educated Heart training and the Mother's University as well as the current LOH library, we are transitioning over to a new design centered around the Forgotten Classics Family Library. You can learn about those changes here: [Libraries of Hope Video](#).

We hope to have everything in place by the start of the upcoming school year in September. Don't worry—we'll offer lots of help to make the transition as simple as possible. It's not meant to complicate your life—we hope it will make your life much simpler!

If you would like to learn more about how WEH and [Biblioguides](#) will work together, please mark your calendar for March 11 at 1:00 PM for a Zoom Meeting with Tanya Arnold and Sarah Kim. I'll post links in the FB page and also it will be on the WEH landing page. This will give you a chance to ask your questions.

You will also find some instructional videos pinned at the top of the FB group.

--New Coordinated CTV Checklist

I have the most wonderful daughters. Shannon just went through all my presentations, podcasts, Catch the Vision intro course and reference bundle take 5s etc. and put them into a [coordinated document](#) to help you bring together all the pieces as you are learning.

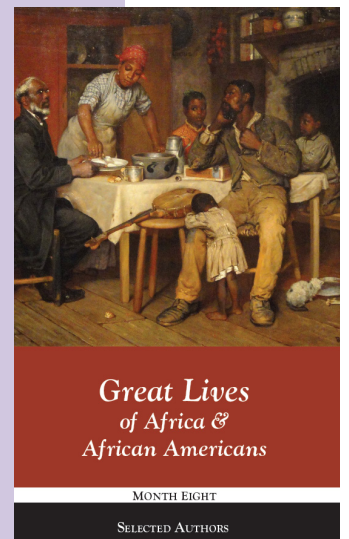
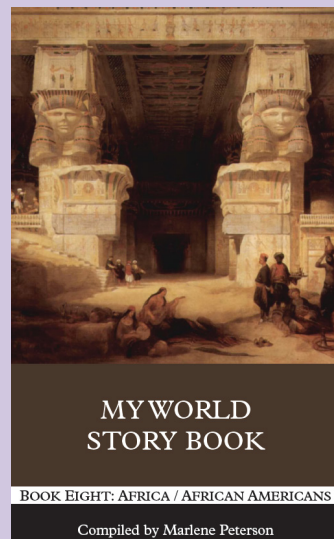
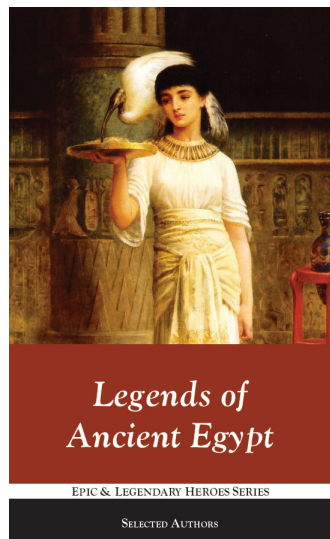
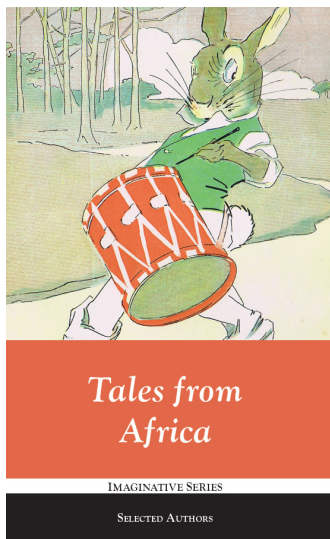
I've had a pdf of the reference bundle, but this adds into it the videos and such in the intro course so you don't miss those and combines everything by subject. It will alert you to where there is a video or an audio or a text.

This was no small task!! Thank you, Shannon! I'll link it [here](#) and then I'll give it a permanent home somewhere on the Catch the Vision course. This is going to be so helpful.

--NEW BOOKS FOR MARCH

My World Story Book: Includes many stories of the work of many men and women in Africa.

Great Lives: Here are inspiring stories of many African-Americans who overcome challenges most of us can't imagine.



(Announcements cont.) Imaginative Series: This month's volumes includes folk stories from Africa, many of which made their way into the folk history here through Uncle Remus stories.

Epic and Legendary Heroes: I did a little shuffling around. In the original World History book, I included parts of a book called Legends of Ancient Egypt: Stories of Egyptian Gods and Heroes. I have now moved the entire book to the Epic and Legendary Heroes book. There wasn't a single hero figure that could be identified for Egypt, so this gives a strong overview of their gods and heroes. In its place in the World History book, you will now find an interesting look at Egypt through its stories. This is a really fascinating look at how we piece together what a people were like through the stories and images they left behind.



“WASH THE PLATE NOT
BECAUSE IT IS DIRTY,
NOR BECAUSE YOU ARE
TOLD TO WASH IT, BUT
BECAUSE YOU LOVE
THE PERSON WHO WILL
USE IT NEXT.”

--Mother Theresa

Art credit: A Young Woman Washing Dishes
by Camille Pissarro

WEH IN ACTION

--We've been trying to follow a WEH lifestyle for at least 5 years now. This past spring/summer my son wanted to try something more streamlined. So I let him try a popular curriculum that was “all in one,” open and go.

I understand his wanting to make it easier because I work full time. But I told him he had to still go through the rotation in his reading time.

Just a few days ago he asked if he could just go back to the rotation full time. He started listing all the wonderful things he's learned recently. Then I said ... what about your other curriculum that you wanted? You just finished Africa .. tell me what you learned.

“Mom, honestly? Nothing. I can't remember a thing about all that stuff I read (curriculum style reading). I learned more about Africa by reading 'The Boy who Harnessed the Wind.' In fact, I need to make a notebook page about that book.”



Art credit: The Kitchen Hands by Pierre Jacques Dierckx

(WEH in Action cont.) I'm not quite ready to show him the new website yet but I have a feeling that it's going to work really well for him.

Our WEH journey has carried us through many of life's coasters. And trust me, we've been on some really big coasters. I'm so thankful for Marlene and her daughters. They put so much work into this to make it more simple for us.

Sometimes you might wander away to try something else because it seems easier. But we have found nothing that works better than this approach.

--I had a realization yesterday while making cookies with my kids for poetry tea time. My daughter asked why we were adding salt to the cookies we wanted to taste sweet? I tried to explain to her that if all we put in the cookies was sugar, we wouldn't taste the sweetness as much.

And then like a lightbulb went off that's how heart warming education is.

I tend to think I need to provide just the beautiful, sweet, and goodness. I long to make my children happy

and avoid those stories that teach important lessons but make us all sad. But just like a cookie, those salty stories provide just enough to be able to truly enjoy the sweetness. But if you add too much salt or even equal amounts to sugar, you wouldn't have cookies, you'd have something else entirely and probably less pleasant.

--Glancing down at the sprouting seeds in my backyard, I felt some anxiety melt away, for I sensed, somewhere deep within, the promise of new life, of growth, of new beginnings, and aren't these the exact things we need more of in our world today?

My garden was full of life lessons this morning, and I was grateful. Take the bean plant, for instance. A few pods, now withered on the vine, had twisted (in such a fascinating way!) and were pushing the dried beans out of the pods where they would land softly onto the rich brown soil below. Given the right circumstances, these dried bean seeds will grow into bounteous, life-giving vines. Life begetting life, the way nature intended.

The lesson from the tomatoes was no less profound. Carefully pulling

the red fruit from the vine, I observed that a few ripened tomatoes had fallen to the earth below. I smiled, knowing that after rotting and fermenting on the ground for a time, the tomato seeds would gather strength from the nutrient-filled soil surrounding it and sprout heavenward, its purpose to produce enough fruit and seeds to last for years to come.

The life lessons were clear to me: Be a seed. Fall. Make mistakes. Repent. Ferment in the difficulties of life.

Be buried in darkness, but then look towards the light and begin your ascent heavenward.

Grow, fight off disease (both spiritual and physical), and produce fruit that will bring forth seed for years to come.

Don't think you can make a difference in the world? Consider the lettuce seed. Barely visible to the naked eye, it spreads far and wide with only the gentlest of breezes before creating new life wherever it lands. Be like a seed.

--Just an example of how we go with the flow. No curriculum needed. We

(WEH in Action cont.) read in “Little Jewish Cousins” today. It talked about porter’s. Each of the kids got to try what it might be like. Tomorrow we will bake some challah. This evening the kids wrote of their own accord. They had the dog choose between two treats. Each treat was in a circle that they wrote on like, do you prefer red...or pink? etc. They giggled and had so much fun, oblivious to the fact that they were spelling and writing! My older children read books on their own and my daughter wrote in her journal. We all went on a walk and played outside. We read poems from My Book House and did yoga moves that went along with the story of Noah and the ark. I loved the bible poems and the poem about Mary Singing. I read then while my kids drew.

--**I’ve been reading** “Reading Lolita in Tehran.” My mother-in-law gave this to me at least 10 years ago, and I’ve tried multiple times to get into it, but couldn’t. The other night I picked it up and couldn’t stop reading. It’s about a group of eight women in Iran who meet regularly to talk about literature (reminded me of a MOI group). On page 18, the book says the purpose was, “to read, discuss, and respond to the works of fiction. Each would have a private diary in which she should record her responses to the novels, as well as ways in which these works and their discussions related to her personal and social experiences” (notebooking!)

In the book, she describes that this is how they survived the oppressive regime they were living under. “There in that living room, we rediscovered that we were also living, breathing human beings, and no matter how repressive the state became, no matter how intimidated and frightened we were, like Lolita we tried to escape and to create our own little pockets of freedom....We felt when we were together that we were almost absolutely free” (p25-18). This reminded me of Marlene’s [Podcast #200](#) about “The Way Through the Days Ahead.” These MOI groups really can create a community to help us through whatever is happening and will happen in the future. They are so valuable!

--**I’ve been studying** The Mothers University for a few years, each year adding another layer like Marlene suggests, but this year along with my study of The Mothers University I decided to read through The Great Lives of Wives and Mothers. I have been loving learning about Motherhood and becoming a better wife. It seems like the world puts so much emphasis on learning other things, there really needed to be a Mothers University, many don’t find the true value on becoming an amazing Mom and wife. Today as I read the story of Julia Ward Howe, the writer of “The Battle Hymn of The Republic,” I was impressed how most of these mothers were stuck deep in motherhood, and some pretty deep trials, yet they were still able to fulfill their roles as Mothers and make an impact on the world, by just doing what they could, when they could be using their talents to not only bless their families but also bless others. I love the quote at the beginning of Julia Ward Howe’s story. “..she was asked what was the ideal aim of life? She paused and replied ‘To learn, to teach, to serve, to enjoy!’” I love learning about Motherhood and learning from Mom’s past and present who have blessed my life. Thank you Marlene for helping us find the purpose and joy of Motherhood, it has been such an amazing journey. Just my testimony that as you study The Mothers University each year you learn and grow into the person and Mother you were meant to be, it is where you can find so many answers, even if you only have time to watch a video or 2, you learn so much.

**“YOU CANNOT DO ALL
THE GOOD THE WORLD
NEEDS, BUT THE WORLD
NEEDS ALL THE GOOD
YOU CAN DO.”**

Art credit: The Thorn by James Clark Hook



WEH GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

--[The Importance of Imagination](#)

--[The Circe Institute](#) has so many wonderful articles. Just had to share this one. “When we read aloud to our children, we cannot see what is happening in their imaginations...When we memorize poetry, we cannot see a love of beautiful words developing. Much of our job does not generate measurements. Much of the work of a child cannot be measured. -Jessica Burke”



“STUDYING GOES
DEEPER THAN MERE
READING. THERE ARE
SURFACE NUGGETS TO BE
GATHERED, BUT THE
BEST OF THE GOLD IS
UNDERNEATH, AND IT
TAKES TIME AND
LABOR TO SECURE IT.”

--Moody

Art credit: Reading by Renoir

MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--So I've been thinking more about this inspire vs. require discussion that has been going on.

Would it be correct to say that it's the 'Mind' things that you are feeling you need to require? Math, grammar, writing, --the academics. When you talk about music, it's the 'skills' part--the practicing--that you are most concerned about. Which I also place in that 'mind' category. And you feel like like you need to make sure that happens. You can't afford to wait until the child 'feels' like doing it because they may never feel like it. Same with household chores.

In the Pattern for Learning, it's Heart first then Mind. Both are necessary. Mind is the academics part. Mind is the skills part of the Pattern.

Using the music comparison, I liken the heart to melody, the mind to the rhythm or beat and the harmonies to the spiritual creation--. It's in the harmony of music that the deepest feelings are felt. The beat is what keeps the music moving forward. It maintains the order. It's necessary.

But if the beat ever becomes dominant, it drowns out the melody which means the harmony will never happen. You can synchronize a beat, but you can't harmonize it. Strong, repetitive beat actually deadens and numbs us. Think of what happens when you count sheep.

So--perhaps there is a bit of 'require' necessary for the 'mind' part of learning--the handwriting skills, the math skills, daily practice on an instrument, etc., It may not happen otherwise.

(Marlene's Musings cont.) But it seems traditional education has allowed the 'beat' to dominate. And would you agree it has killed a love of learning in our kids?

So is the answer perhaps to put just enough 'require' to keep the academics moving forward, but allowing plenty of freedom, time and space for melody and harmonies to happen?

And WEH is all about using the Arts to inspire and awaken desires through the heart. It is concerned with the Melody and the Harmony.

The same applies to spiritual things. If you ever allow the 'rituals' or the rules dominate, it can shut down feelings. The heart has to be fed, but not in the absence of the 'rituals'.. Maybe I'll do a podcast on that...I discovered something interesting in my reading of the early Christian church that is about this very thing.



Art credit: Children's Concert by George Jakobovits

--**"Each true life, whether** public or private, which any woman of the century has lived, goes to make up the character and glory of the land and the age."

Said by Phebe Hannaford, Daughters of America 1884 -- a book dedicated "to the women of future centuries of the United States of America. This record of many women of the first and second centuries whose lives were full of usefulness, and therefore worthy of renown and imitation, is now enscribed."

She is talking to you and me. :)

--**In the preface to an 1884** book, Daughters of America, there is mention of a Scottish woman who visited America and that which she most enjoyed "was the sense of freedom."

"It seemed to me that by that freedom I was lifted up to a larger and diviner life, and a tender and reverent expectation of glorious possibilities..."

An atmosphere of freedom in our homes has the same happy outcome.



“SOME OF THE MOST GENEROUS PEOPLE HAVE NO MONEY. SOME OF THE WISEST PEOPLE HAVE NO EDUCATION. SOME OF THE KINDEST PEOPLE WERE HURT THE MOST.”

--Steve Wentworth

Art credit: Blind Christian by Michael Peter Ancher

MOI MINUTE

I just had a recent experience that I wanted to share that really helps to support the idea that Mother's of Influence can start with you and just one friend. This is how I started my very first MOI group, though I didn't know it when I started.

I had been getting to know the resources of Well-Educated Heart and found myself bringing it up as much as I could with my best friend. Eventually she looked into it herself (she always tells me how much she admires me while also being a little mad that I didn't push her more to look into it haha) and we began having more and more uplifting and beautiful conversations. Now fast forward to close to 2 years, and she and I are sharing with each other daily. We just recently talked about involving our kids with our conversations and doing some kind of sharing with each other (a piece of art that our kids made, a song, story, or poem they love and want to share, or something cool they found in nature). The most powerful realization I have had is that because I love and know her, I also have a love for her children, I want them to feel special and loved and capable and I know she feels this way about my children. It feels so good to be loved and accepted, and by connecting with just one other woman, we have created this special place for us and our children to grow and feel loved in the process. This is just one example but I know that if you are searching for that love and connection, it is waiting for you! Maybe you have already started your group!

“DON'T JUDGE EACH DAY BY THE HARVEST YOU REAP BUT BY THE SEEDS THAT YOU PLANT.”

--Robert Louis Stevenson

Art credit: Young Woman in the Flower Garden by Victor Gabriel Gilbert

