

HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

Libraries of Hope Newsletter

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MONTH 6 OVERVIEW

Are you ready to move on to Month 6 topics?

The American Revolution is over—America is free! But now she enters an even more dangerous time. Read the **Story of Our Constitution** in My America Story Book and discover the miracle of that incredible document. It is scary to think where we would be without it. And do check out Volume 6 of the Freedom Series where you will find a book that walks your young people through the Constitution line by line.

Now we are truly a new nation. It’s a month to celebrate! Pull out the red, white and blue. Check out the ideas on the Enrichments pages for craft ideas. **Sing our songs.** Teach your children the story behind our national anthem. Does the flag still wave o’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

The connecting link to our World Study of the Holy Land is that the Bible tells of another ‘chosen people’ who lived free—for a time—under God. We have much to learn from them: that ‘righteousness exalteth a nation’ and under the Hand of Providence, all things are possible, which our early founders fully believed. Patrick Henry taught, “It is when people forget God that tyrants forge their chains.” The Bible is the rock upon which our Republic was founded, as much as today’s voices would tell us otherwise. I’m sure you study the Bible year round, but Month 6 gives you a chance to focus even more on what it has to teach us. Do check out the Holy Land Landing page for some suggestions to get started with.

In connection to a study of the people of the Bible, we get to take a look at the Middle Eastern countries that surrounded it. Many of the conflicts still going on can be traced to biblical times. At some point, if you haven’t done it, make sure that your kids understand the modern equivalents to ancient time, i.e., Iraq is Babylon, Iran is Persia, etc.

Some moms trade Month 4 and Month 6 world topics around and study the Bible during Christmas season and take a look at Greece and Rome this month, which is perfectly fine. Our Founders also drew much on what they learned from the Greeks and the Romans (*cont. on next page*)

“IT IS WHEN PEOPLE FORGET GOD THAT TYRANTS FORGE THEIR CHAINS.”

(Month 6 Overview cont.) about governance. It's a huge topic—it may spill over into one of the open summer months.

In our Nature studies, we are now turning our attention to the world of little creepy things—the world of Bugs. Do check out the Nature page that will not only give you ideas of books to read, but will offer some music to listen to—kids love *Flight of the Bumblebee!*—and crafts to make.

Finally, our Mother's University topic is my personal favorite: Storytelling! And the Bible offers some of the greatest stories ever told to share 'by heart.' If you want to read the books I have read from that Golden Age of Storytelling, you will find a list in the back of *Restoring the Art of Storytelling in the Home*. All the books can be accessed on Internet Archive. I printed them out and put them in 3 ring binders. They are loaded with WEH principles—they were my primary teachers.

Happy exploring!



"The substance of education is not a body of facts but of truth; not agility of mind, but richness of mind; not a knowledge of the physical aspects of the world only, but a sense of its wonderful beauty and variety." -- Hamilton Wright Mabie

Art Credit: Girls Picking Anemones and Primulas by H.A. Brendekilde

A huge thank you to the National Center for Constitutional Studies and Freedom Factor, who donated a large quantity of pocket constitutions! We will include one in every shipment that goes out during the month of February (or until they run out).

Also, to those of you who are subscribing to our Sunshine Series, you will be receiving a **free copy of a wonderful biography** of Gene Stratton-Porter with your order. The next 5 books in the series are authored by her--when you read her story, I think you will see why we included them. Her life teaches so many WEH principles. I am excited to be able to offer you a copy of it in print. If you are not a subscriber and would like to receive it, you will be able to purchase it in our store or read it online on our Forgotten Classics page.

The new Month 6 books are in the [store](#):

-Our Little Norman, Frankish, Saxon, and Carthaginian Cousins.

A look at life in long ago days.

-In My Youth, the autobiography of James Baldwin who (cont. on 3)

RECENT PODCASTS

[Podcast #193](#)

While I was gathering stories for next month's My America Story Book, I stumbled onto a chapter about Dorothy Canfield Fisher, who wrote *Understood Betsy*, our first book in the Sunshine Series. When I read it, I knew I had to share it with you. She talks about the art of living happily and the 'adventure' of everyday living. Very WEH-y.

A couple of other interesting things about Dorothy Canfield Fisher--she is the one who introduced the Montessori method to the United States. The school in *Understood Betsy* was based on the method.

Also, she authored two of the Landmark books--*Our Independence and the Constitution* and *Paul Revere and the Minute Men*.

Her only son died in battle in 1945 in the Philippines. His dying words were, "Did we get them out?" I think that is the fruit of having been raised with a Well-Educated Heart.

Finally, do take a few minutes and read an essay written by her that has been republished in her novel *The Homemaker*. It's called Marital Relations. It doesn't just apply to marriages. It applies to your homes and the choices you are making about where and how to educate your kids and all the choices we face.

(*Announcements cont.*) was a prolific writer of children's books in the Golden Age of Children's Literature. It is the sweet story of a Quaker boy growing up in rural Indiana in the mid-19th century.

-Famous Men of the Middle Ages and Modern Times. The last two books of the popular Famous Men series by Haaren and Poland.

-My America Story Book: A New Nation. It includes Eva March Tappan's Story of Our Constitution--very relevant to today.

I hope that those of you buying our books know that, when you order 5 or more series, either by subscription or all at once, we will send you the **12-volume Mother's Learning Library for free** as well as 5 bonus books: Story Bible, Restoring the Art of Storytelling in the Home, Poetry for the Well-Educated Heart, American History Stories, and Restoring Our Garden of Liberty.

What may not be clear is that you don't have to order them all at once. Say, for instance, you ordered two series a couple of years ago and another one the next year and now you're up to five, you are still entitled to the free books. We try and catch it, but sometimes we miss it. So if you fall in that group, don't hesitate to give us a gentle nudge and we'll take care of it.

WEH IN ACTION

--"As we did our American Storybook entry today, I saw many parallels to today. We are working our way through the colonies, and hearing of Roger Williams, Anne Hutchinson and finally Sir Harry Vane, a particular line stood out to me today. 'Defeat left the people thoughtful.' I definitely think in this current war of parties, thoughts and words, we are (hopefully) becoming a more thoughtful people. This thoughtfulness brought about great change for the WORLD, by creating our great nation founded on freedom. I know this last year has brought about great change in my own thoughts, in my home and in my family. I have HOPE! Thanks Marlene Peterson for creating such an uplifting place to be. And for helping us all see the BIG PICTURE!"

--"Isn't WEH so wonderful?! It's like having Christmas all year! I have been using WEH for about four years now. In those four years I have looked forward to each month with excitement. With the rotation we have beautiful music, inspiring stories, new things to discover in nature, and meet people that lived great lives. Each month we learn new things and add to

the layers of our learning. Our hearts grow stronger and we grow closer to God. It is wonderful to learn new things each month, but it is even more refreshing to go back to the familiar things. I have grown a greater love for all people around the world, because of WEH. I love trying different foods and having new experiences with all cultures. All my life I have been taught God loves all his children, but now I understand it on a deeper level more than I ever have before. He loves all people that live now and people that lived in the past. He has never forgotten His children throughout all of history."

--"The rotation is SO HELPFUL and has my daughter EXCITED about learning! We have spent the day getting lost in family history and learning about our ancestors in the American Revolution. One of them was a loyalist in the French-Indian War and he died before the AR. One of his sons was also in the French-Indian War and was the predecessor to George Washington for that war! His sons then became patriots and fought for the Americas. We also watched some of the enrichment videos and learned about our ancestor that did

drum & fife in the AR. It has been a wonderful day of discovery here at our house! My favorite part was when my daughter asked it was "ok" to be focusing on our family history stories instead of doing the assignments I had planned. Um, Yes! Marlene Peterson, how grateful I am for you to follow the Spirit in bringing these stories to us. If you have not checked out the enrichment links, be sure to do so!"

--"We are pretty new to the My America Story Book but today we were listening to the story about Cabeza de Vaca. As soon as we finished, my kids jumped up and said, "We can't stop there! There is so much more to know!!" We live in Texas and apparently he played a pretty big role here. They went and grabbed their notes from Texas history to fill things in on their journal pages. It was so fascinating! One of our most exciting reads! Thank you for getting the stories started so we can make them what resonates with each of us!

"Now that we are a week into the WEH rotation...

"13 girl: 'Mom, I think history is becoming my favorite subject. I am really enjoying it!'"

MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--I think if there is one comment I get the most when people look at the resources on LOH, it's "overwhelmed." There are a lot of choices, for sure. And some moms are afraid of making a "wrong" choice.

Let me reassure you--there are no "wrong" choices. You may make a choice that isn't a right fit for you right now, and it's perfectly fine to put it "back on the shelf" for another day and try something else.

I hope you can look at it as a big buffet. Your first trips to the buffet, you are going to take little tastes, little samples, so that you can see what tastes delicious to YOU and your children. When you find your favorites, those are the 'foods' you'll take a larger helping of next trip to the buffet. It's an ongoing process--this tasting and feasting. You may never get to some of the "foods" on the buffet--but the option is always open to you. What may not appeal to you at first may look more appealing as your tastes refine and broaden.

The menu choices change each month as you move through the year. One month has a South Sea or Asian flavor. Another month, Italian. Another month, French cuisine. Another month, Mexican food. Always a variety of new foods to choose from!

It's an all you can eat buffet! And the good news? You won't gain a single pound.



--We are publishing several Gene Stratton-Porter books as part of our Sunshine series, and I thought you would appreciate this description of her mother--a mother of 12 children!--especially in our focus on Gardening this past month.

"...her great gift was...to be the making of things to grow. At that she was wonderful. She started dainty little vines and climbing plants from tiny seeds she found in rice and coffee. Rooted things she soaked in water, rolled in fine sand, planted according to habit, and they almost never failed to justify her expectations. She even grew trees and shrubs from slips and cuttings no one else would have thought of trying to cultivate, her last resorting being to cut a slip diagonally, insert the lower end in a small potato, and plant as if rooted. And it nearly always grew!

"There is a shaft of white stone standing at her head in a cemetery that belonged to her on a corner of her husband's land; but to Mrs. Porter's mind her mother's real monument was a CEDAR OF LEBANON which she set in the manner described above. The cedar topped the brow of a little hill crossing the grounds. She carried two slips from Ohio, where they were given to her by a man who had brought the trees as tiny things from the Holy Land. She planted both in this way, one in her doorway and one in her cemetery. (cont. on 5)

(Marlene's Musings cont.) The tree on the hill stands thirty feet tall now, topping all others, and has a trunk two feet in circumference."

I hope you know that we have adopted the Cedar of Lebanon as a symbol for Mothers of influence. A mother shared this scripture with me this week: Ezekiel 17:22-24. I'll let you look it up. The subject heading in my scriptures says: "Yet the Lord will bring forth in the last days a goodly tree from the Cedars of Lebanon."

I believe that is referring to you!



**"VERY LITTLE IS
NEEDED TO MAKE A
HAPPY LIFE. IT IS ALL
WITHIN YOURSELF,
IN YOUR WAY OF
THINKING."**

--MARCUS AURELIUS

Art credit: A Walk by the River
by Alfred Augustus Glendening, Jr.

QUESTION: Hello, I'm trying to find where Marlene talks about the importance of History books before the 1920s. I don't remember where it's at and I don't want to miss anything as I explain it to others. Thank you for your help!

ANSWER:

I believe I talk about it in the rotation, but here's my top 10 reasons to use pre-1920s history books:

1. They are in the public domain so you can access them for free.
2. History for children no longer sells. They aren't even doing many history textbooks any more (thank goodness! It usually makes kids hate history!). So this gives you an abundant source to draw from.
3. Written by gifted storytellers who were also scholars. They appeal to the imagination and the emotion, while weaving in the facts. Loaded with ideas to think about.
4. Rich vocabulary and sentence structure. Yes--that is a good thing. But plenty of simple text available as well to whet the appetite. (cont. on p 6)

(Answer cont.) 5. A perfect foundation of understanding to build upon. Consider what those writers had to draw upon--it was mostly original sources. Today you get historical writings that are based on the conclusions of earlier historians who based their conclusions on earlier historians. Water is purest the closets to its source--it gathers a lot of debris downstream.

6. Contrary to popular opinion, I find the writers to be very balanced. They tell the good and they aren't afraid to tell the ugly, either. There were cruel Whites and cruel Native Americans; but there were honorable and kind Whites and honorable and kind Native Americans. No single story here.

7. The American history writers actually loved America. Our hard-won freedom was fresh on their minds. They wanted to teach the young people to love their country and how to hold on to their freedom so they wove principles of liberty into their writings.

8. They are so interesting!

9. As students read the older texts and the modern texts, they are likely to bump into contradictions, which leads to questioning and critical thinking. Best way to learn. But you have to have the comparisons. You can't lay out a single narrative.

10. Again for American history, a lot of these writers were eye-witnesses to the events. And these are the stories that our young nation was raised on. To neglect them is to lose an important part of our heritage.

I'm sure there are more, but there's a start.. :)

**“I HAVE DECIDED
TO GO WITH LOVE.
HATE IS TOO HEAVY A
BURDEN TO BEAR.”**

**--MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR.**

Art credit: Blind Christian by Michael Ancher



MOI MINUTE

We have a sense of a safety net spreading over the earth. It is made up of homes where goodness and beauty are being nurtured and safeguarded in the hearts of the coming generations through art, music, poetry, and stories.

mothersofinfluence.org

My grandma wasn't a knitter or a fancy seamstress. She didn't make intricate sweaters or lacy doilies. She knew how to crochet one thing--an afghan with long straight rows of big open stitches and yarn fringes at the end. Sometimes she'd go crazy and use two different colored yarns. I felt especially proud when she handed me a giant plastic hook and showed me how to pick up sections from the previous row. She helped me

loop the new thread over the hook and then slide everything off in a magical twist of newly connected yarn.

Loving people was my grandma's forte and every loop and turn was fastened with the particular kind of connection she excelled at. The stitches she made so long ago still carry the traces of her influence even all these years later.

One day last year I woke up with the strongest impression that the safety net spreading over the earth is actually made by knitting our hearts together. That's the image I see every day when I think about the community we're gathering.

There are a thousand different ways to express "MOI" -- and we're excited to share some with you in the coming weeks. But you don't have to *start* a MOI to *be* a MOI. We hope you already see yourselves as Mothers of Influence and feel the strength of standing together.

Love,
Marley



**“THERE IS NO ACADEMY
ON EARTH EQUAL TO A
MOTHER’S READING TO
HER CHILD.”**

--SCUDDER

Art credit: The Reading Lesson
by Leon Augustin L'Hermitte

Loveliness, magic, grace,
They are here! They are set in the world,
They abide; and the finest of souls
Hath not been thrill'd by them all,
Nor the dullest been dead to them quite.

--Matthew Arnold

Art credit: A Meeting on the Bridge by Emile Claus



KRYSTAL-SPLAINING

I come today bearing a Latin lesson you never knew you wanted (or maybe don't want at all). *Non scholæ sed vitæ*. This phrase comes from Seneca the Younger's *Moral Letters to Lucilius* around 65 AD, according to my good friend, Wikipedia. The full phrase is actually *non scholæ sed vitæ discimus*, translated as, "We learn [such literature] not for life but for classtime." It was (in essence) a response to a student complaining that mastering literature was a waste of time and they should have a more practical education. Something that will help them get a job, I suppose. The mentor was saying, "Get a life on your own time, in school you learn about school things." (I'm paraphrasing, of course.)

"Why is this phrase the sub-title of Libraries of Hope's newsletter?" you may ask. "This sounds like the opposite of what Well-Educated Heart is trying to do!" To that I say--you're right. So let's take our Latin phrase history one step further. In the early 19th century, Hungary and Germany took the original up a notch and amended it to *non scholæ, sed vitæ discendum est*. "We must learn not for school but for life." They agreed with young Lucilius that school ought to teach you how to "life." So for better or for worse, that's what they did. A much more practical approach to schooling wherein everyone is given the tools needed to succeed in life. (Think compulsory attendance, standardized education, and national testing.)

"I still don't understand why you're telling me any of this," you say. Okay, okay. Hear me out. I think it's time this phrase takes another turn. The Hungarians and Germans did it, why can't we? Let's commandeer it for our own purposes. *Non scholæ sed vitæ*. "We do not learn for school, but for life." But not *that* kind of life. Not so I can get a better job and make more money (though there's nothing here stopping you from doing that, too). A better, richer, more beautiful life. The kind of life that helps you see the immense beauty in the world around you. To wonder, to imagine, to explore and discover. The kind of life that allows you to empathize with those you meet, from all walks of life. To see the vast array of richness in different cultures throughout history. The kind of life that lets you *feel*, not just go through the motions.

Yes, we also need to learn how to "life." Heart *and* mind, remember? But let's always strive to make sure our life-long learning is at least partly focused on that *other* kind of life. The heart life. Because hearts matter, too. And that's why we're here. To help you do just that. So...*non scholæ sed vitæ*.