

HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

Libraries of Hope Newsletter

“TELL ME AND I
FORGET, TEACH ME
AND I MAY REMEMBER,
INVOLVE ME AND I
LEARN.”

--BENJAMIN
FRANKLIN

--I hope you have all been enjoying your summer vacations and made some happy memories. Are you ready for a new school year? Some of you like to start in mid-August. Others of you like to wait until after Labor Day. If you are using the rotation schedule, you'll notice that Month 1 has more topics than any other month. If you start in August, you might consider starting in countries you usually don't get to. Maybe you can spend more time Down Under in Australia or the South Seas or India or other countries in Asia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--I am super excited for year two of Belle Ame at Home. Many moms have told me this has been a game changer for their families. It's not meant to replace you—only help ease your load so you can do the things that matter most.

I just created a new 7-minute video that sums up the changes and the new classes coming your way. You can view it here: <https://youtu.be/PjacobqDn-QQw?si=3Cyy3HEbnb3-ciHi>

I hope you saw we dropped the price to just \$59/month for the entire family for the Premium level or there is a basic level for \$29/month. It's the best value for your money around. Or if you opt for the annual option, all the classes are available to you all the time.

I keep hearing comments from moms who think that Belle Ame at Home is only for little kids. It's not at all!

There is something for everyone. I can't think of a single thing in there that hasn't taught me something. I am learning to draw, to paint, to crochet and knit, and sew and dance and create. I didn't get a chance to do the quilt blocks last year, but after seeing the beautiful finished product, I'm excited to work on those in the coming year. I'm getting my sewing machine all

serviced, dusted off and ready to go. The music is training my musical ear.

I'm looking forward to this year and learning more about the Majesty of Math and the wonder of science. I plan to engage in more Nature Journaling with John Muir Laws.

I'll be diving deeper into art and music appreciation in the Inspiration stations. I'll be reading the Nature series aloud to share with your family.

There are more fun foods to taste from around the world.

And that leaves me plenty of time to continue to learn about our amazing world as we take another tour around the world. There is no end of interesting things I want to learn more about--Old friends I want to revisit and new friends I want to make.

My daughter just told me Sally Clarkson recently did a podcast. Her children are all grown up and so accomplished as writers and such. Someone wanted to know what curriculum she used.

She said none. She said they basically read great books together and talked about them.

Looking for some great book ideas? Biblioguides is there to help you! It's an incredible resource, included in your membership.

Learning does not have to be complicated to be effective. The Arts are not the fluff part. the arts are what give life to all the rest of the learning. Like Dr. Melheim said--it's like you are creating a ten-lane highway of learning instead of a single lane.

I hope you will consider joining our [Belle Ame at Home](#) community of learners. It's like having a whole roomful of teachers on call to come and help inspire your children so the full load doesn't fall on your shoulders alone. You are still in charge. Come along and enjoy the fun!

And there are teen and tween clubs where friendships are being made which can carry over to a live campus experience, which you are helping to build.

--I meant to respond to someone's question and now I can't find it again. The gist of it was she was asking whether

Art credit: Interesting Reading by Theodor Kleehaas



"Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. And all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you."

--L.R. Knost

Art credit: Das Missgeschick
by Julius Friedlander



we have gotten away from the core message here that moms are the most important part and that they can feel confident that they have what they need to be able to teach their own children? Why am I bringing in BAAH and all these other resources that seem to go counter to that? And why the push for community and the Belle Ame campus?

My answer is the core message is still there. This is an inside-out methodology. We use the symbol of the cedar of lebanon for us as mothers of influence.

The mother sinks deep roots. As she tends to her own heart, she blesses the lives of her family. Everything that is being provided through BAAH and other resources are simply helps for her to do what only she can do.

As she reaches higher, she starts sending her branches outward in an encircling reach. Her influence doesn't stop with just her family. She links arms with other moms as they provide support and strength to each other in blessing the whole world.

That has never changed.

The Belle Ame campus is part of that encircling reach. Without strong mom hearts at its core, it won't fulfill its purpose.

Remember the difference between the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee. They both are fed with the same waters. But the Dead Sea holds on to its water. the Sea of Galilee has an outlet.

The spirit of Belle Ame provides an outlet; a blessing beyond just your own family.

--We just welcomed our 15,000th member to our WEH Facebook group! To celebrate, we ran a contest. Everyone who answered this question was entered in a drawing: "What have you started doing differently in your home because you have 'caught the vision' of a well-educated heart?"

The answers have been inspiring. Applying the principles can make a profound change in your home. I grabbed a couple of them here:

- "So many things have changed over the last 4+ years that I've been studying WEH, but I would say the most significant and unintended consequence is how I view my children. I have never had a big temper, but I did yell at my kids on occasion when they weren't listening or seemed to be disobeying. Recently I was in a room with a mom yelling at her child and it made me really uncomfortable, which caused me to reflect on that. I

remembered that I used to yell too, but cannot for the life of me remember a day when I consciously decided not to any more. It's been a few years since I can remember yelling at my kids though, so I would attribute that to the change in how I view motherhood and my children and my stewardship over them. WEH has made my children people to love and nurture more than objects to coerce and mold, and naturally that spills over into every part of our home."

- "I've slowed down to help myself and children notice the beauty around us. If we take time to paint or do a craft, we can enjoy it instead of me feeling stressed about my perception of our productivity. We've spent more time in nature and collected nature treasures. We notice the birds, the clouds, the sunset and sunrise colors, and details in nature we would have not spent time noticing before. I feel more connected with my kids and only wish I'd Caught the Vision before my older ones had left home. Fortunately, I still feel like I can share with my older ones."
- "I'm returning to the joy of my youth. I was always a naturally WEH-type person as a child. Over the years, the things WEH emphasizes got snuffed out by other activities and business and struggle, and I found myself overstressed with poorly functioning body systems and the inability to feel love and joy. WEH opened my eyes to the things I had been neglecting that I so strongly need. I have a long way to go, but I'm on the path to healing with good books, art, music, poetry, and nature as my gentle companions."
- "Perhaps unconventional, but when I caught the vision, I began setting boundaries and ending abusive relationships and cycles that have been part of my life since the beginning. Catching the vision meant I could see motherhood in its pure form and could be the mother I hoped I could despite any predisposition or generational trend. When we started applying my want for a different life, it was a little at a time and we began with music. Dinner time was difficult so I played beautiful classical music (which wasn't my favorite) so when my husband came home, it was playing and there was a distinct difference that I could feel in our evenings. I was able to navigate a very challenging season with the threatened loss of my sweet baby in pregnancy and then a very deep walk through the depths of post-partum depression and associated suicidal and homicidal thoughts. It's hard to talk about but is my reality. The Well-Educated Mother's Heart podcasts were my lifeline.

"And I survived! I fed my heart and learned a new language, a new way to live, and gained a new appreciation for and a healthy associated expectation for family relationships as I caught the vision. My children and I enjoy all of the elements: story, music, nature, art, and poetry. We journal differently than I ever imagined I or we would. My husband has caught the vision without actively "doing CTV" by being immersed in a home full of heart food available for the taking.

Art credit: Hope by Pierre Puvis de Chavannes



“In short, catching the vision changed everything in our home and has given us strength, courage, and direction to break generational cycles and heal trauma.”

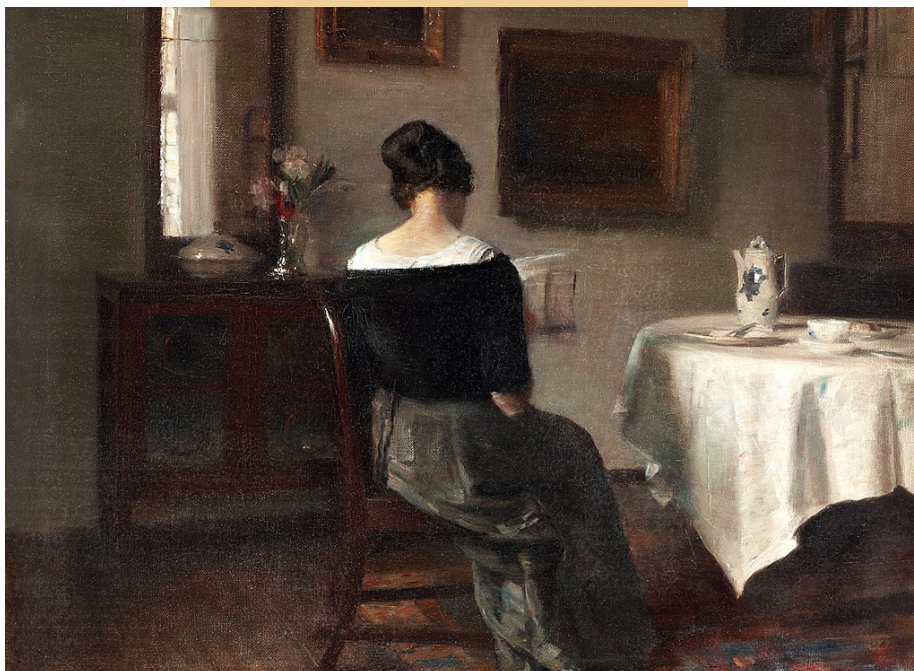
MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--I just started reading a book that was recommended to me: *To Know As We Are Known: Education as a Spiritual Journey* by Parker J. Palmer.

I think I'm going to like it... Here is the first paragraph:

“Many of us live one-eyed lives. We rely largely on the eye of the mind to form our image of reality. But today more and more of us are opening the other eye, the eye of the heart, looking for realities to which the mind's eye is blind. Either eye alone is not enough. We need ‘wholesight,’ a vision of the world in which mind and heart unite ‘as my two eyes make one in sight.’ Our seeing shapes our being. Daily as we see whole can we and our world be whole.”

That pretty up sums up the reason why WEH exists--to open up the sight of the heart. That's why our focus is different. As Dr. Rich Melheim says, when you learn the languages of the heart--music, art, poetry, story--it's like you are opening up a ten-lane highway of learning rather than a one-lane highway.



“[W]orld crises multiply and everybody deplores the shortage, or even lack, of ‘wise’ men or women, unselfish leaders, trustworthy counselors, etc. It is hardly rational to expect such high qualities from people who have never done any inner work and would not even understand what is meant by the words.”

--E.F. Shumacher

Art credit: At the Breakfast Table
by Carl Holsoe

--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. 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?

--The word is getting out about Well-Educated Heart! [Watch here](#) to see the Harmon brothers talk about WEH in their lives.

--The apprentices at Belle Ame are still having a wonderful time and a unique experience. We would love to have more apprentices join us! Your young adults can [apply here](#).

Here are what some of the apprentices have to say:

- Being an apprentice at Belle Ame is hard work! This week we finished patching and painting the basement walls, and it took a lot of us, as we were cooped up in the basement for hours on end... So what did we do when we finished? Take a guess! I'll just say that at Belle Ame, we learn how to work hard, and have some fun while we are at it!
- While on this apprenticeship we have had the privilege to read The Chosen by Chaim Potok together. Every couple of days we discuss a few chapters, and oh how awesome those discussions have been! They bring out great thoughts and I love to hear the insights of the other apprentices. This is just one of the great things here



at Belle Ame.

- I don't normally "horse around" when it comes to performances, but I had to make an exception as an apprentice at Belle Ame! Because the horses loved the music just as much as me! What a beautiful moment. The picture doesn't show it, but the horses all came down the hill from the barn, and stood right behind me for a while as I played! I've played cello for 10 years, and never had an audience like that. Only at Belle Ame!!



- "Beautify it!" says Tim Hall, Belle Ame Campus director. So we apprentices have been working to do just that. Collecting rocks, and landscaping with them. Preparing plaster mud, primer, paint and slapping, smearing, and splashing the stuff all over the newly re-finished basement walls (AKA adding texture). This describes a few of the seemingly mundane tasks that occupy our days. They have been anything but mundane, though. I have had so much fun working alongside my fellow apprentices to bring about the beautification of Belle Ame. And the results were well worth a little sweat. The campus becomes more beautiful every day, and I believe that the spirit of Belle Ame also becomes more beautiful with every difficult task worked through with friends.

--**One more announcement:** During Covid, our costs of printing the Forgotten Classics books increased drastically, and have (perhaps predictably) not gone back to what they were. We absorbed as much of that increase as we could for as long as we could. However, that has become more difficult as time has gone on. As such, we have the unfortunate task of informing you that we will have to discontinue the free bonus book offer, effective September 1, 2024. If you sign up for a subscription with five or more series (or culminating in five series with previous purchases) by the end of August, you will still receive the full bonus throughout your subscription. For purchases or new subscriptions after September 1, however, we will no longer be able to offer those books for free.

"Loneliness isn't the physical absence of other people, it's the sense that you're not sharing anything that matters with anyone else. If you have lots of people around you - perhaps even a husband or wife, or a family, or a busy workplace - but you don't share anything that matters with them, then you'll still be lonely."

--Johann Hari in "Lost Connections"