

# HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

*Libraries of Hope Newsletter*

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“THE INVENTIONS OF  
MAN DIFFER WHOLLY  
FROM THE DEALINGS  
OF GOD.”

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

--New video added to A Mother’s Influence: [https://youtu.be/2\\_MrjhD-s7oQ](https://youtu.be/2_MrjhD-s7oQ)

--New Podcast: [The Courage of Anne Judson](#)

## MONTHLY TOPIC

It’s time to move to the next stop on our tour of the world: Holland and Spain. Our tie-in to American history is the story of the Pilgrims and the colonization of the New World. Before the Pilgrims came to Plymouth, they made a 12-year stop in Holland. The story of brave little Holland is important to us because they, too, had to fight for independence from Spain (which is why Spain is now added into our study). Holland was just ending her 200-year run of a Republic and there were many lessons in how to do it better that our Founders drew upon.

And then we tie in a study of the Spanish Main to our study of Spain—and it is the age of Pirates and sunken treasure. Some of the pirates may have been charming, but others were downright cruel. It seems everyone wanted a share in the gold coming out of the New World, so stealing it from each other was the name of the game for awhile.

It’s only fitting that we move onto a study of Oceans and Sea-life with all the ships sailing here and there.

In the Mother’s University, we’ll now take a look at Nature Study—a very good place to start. Adam and Eve’s story began in a garden. I think that’s a clue for the very best beginning classroom for our kids.

Where will your explorations take you?

## WEH IN ACTION

--**Thailand Week.** We learned about elephants and watched some virtual tours of famous sites in Thailand. Read an elephant story from the Junior Classics. Made some perler bead elephants. Made Pad Thai and Mango Sticky Rice. Watched Bridge on the River Kwai with my husband and a clip from The King and I with the kids. The food was so good!

--**A post about planning** as well as being spontaneous! Each night I try to gather what we need for the next day's learning. Books, craft supplies, etc. I have a general plan of what we can do. In the morning the kids choose between the activities. We learned about the Nordic Gods and Goddesses as we made power cards for each (kind of like Pokemon). Today my son picked which "Snip, Snap, Snur" book to read. He chose the gingerbread one. I told him when he finished it, we would make gingerbread. This was highly motivating and he finished the whole book and we made gingerbread cookies! For math we played Dragonwood, a really fun game that also uses addition. Plan-

ning can help the day go smoothly. Spontaneity can make it more meaningful! They can work together!

--**I think I'm having more fun** than my children since starting the Well-Educated Heart in September. Food is my love language, so it's been fun for me to spend my time preparing meals for family dinner.

I've focused our family dinners on the countries we have been studying the past ten days! Some things I purchased but a lot of it is from scratch. That's the part that is endearing to me--to learn their methods for food preparation. So many of your food posts have inspired me. So thank YOU!

Chinese food (chicken and broccoli stir fry, scallion pancakes, pork filled steamed dumplings, and Asian pears)

Japanese food (sushi, miso soup, hyoza, matcha green tea cookies)

Indian food (butter chicken, mulligatawny soup, spicy Indian basmati

rice and naan)

--**Mind blown! I'm working** my way through the Take 5s. #13 about Math. After listening, I clicked on the Mother's University: Math link and selected a Donald Duck video, among many offerings. It was so entertaining and informative. I want to go back for more! What is so mind blowing is the depth of WEH! It's like an onion with layer upon layer of educational resources, inspiration, and intellectual challenges. Just...WOW! Thank you so much, Marlene!

--**Month 2 of Classical.** So, I completely overlooked any Spanish composers. If you go to this Wiki page, it has a lovely spread of composers by time period. Copy/paste the name into your search bar and type YouTube. A selection of recorded compositions will come up. Each name has an associated Wiki page to learn a little more about them.

[Link to Wiki page](#)

[Link to Month 2 Classical Music](#)



CAN YOU BELIEVE HOW  
MUCH MUSIC HAS BEEN  
CREATED WITH JUST  
8 NOTES ON A SCALE?  
BY SMALL AND SIMPLE  
MEANS....

Art credit: At the Piano by Mina Carlson-Bredburg

A BIRD DOES NOT SING  
BECAUSE IT HAS AN  
ANSWER. IT SINGS  
BECAUSE IT HAS A SONG.

--Chinese proverb

Art credit: The Nightingale by Edmund Dulac



## MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--I am often told I ask too much of mothers. Mothers just want to know what to do.

Evidently Maria Montessori had the same problem. In *A Montessori Mother* written by Dorothy Canfield Fisher, who was trying to explain to Americans what she saw in Montessori schools in Italy, I read this:

“...ideas, hopes and visions are as important elements in a comprehension of this new philosophy as an accurate knowledge of the use of [the methods], and my talks with Dr. Montessori lead me to think that she feels them to be much more essential.

“Contact with the new ideas is not doing for us what it ought, if it does not act as a powerful stimulant to the whole body of our thought about life. It should make us think, and think hard, not only about how to teach our children the alphabet more easily, but about such fundamental matters as what we actually mean by moral life; whether we really honestly wish the spiritually best for our children, or only the materially best; why we are really in the world at all.

“In many ways, this ‘Montessori System’ is a new religion which we are called upon to help bring into the world, and we cannot aid in so great an undertaking without considerable spiritual as well as intellectual travail.

“The only way for us to improve our children’s lives by the application of these new ideas is by meditating on them until we have absorbed their very essence and then by making what varying applications of them are necessary in the differing conditions of our lives.”



Art credit: Hide and Seek by Johann von Bremen

(*Marlene's Musings cont.*) The work here at WEH is simply a continuation of and building upon ideas set forth by educators who came before us. The 'hope and vision' is far more essential than the specifics of 'how' to do it. We, too, are called upon to 'help bring' these new ideas into the world, and we 'cannot aid in so great an undertaking without considerable spiritual as well as intellectual travail.'

If you don't take time to 'catch the vision' until you have absorbed 'their very essence,' no instruction in methods will bring about the outcomes you hope to obtain: improving the lives of your children; helping them to live lives of maximum joy.

**--Interesting connections:**

In my harp therapy training, we have been learning how important relaxation and 'taking breaths' is in order for the body to heal. That is part of the role of the harp--to relax and enter a state of well being so healing can be facilitated.

It made me think of how, a hundred

years ago, people who were sick were sent to a warm climate where they were to relax and breathe in fresh air in the sunshine.

Then I just read this as I was recording a future story about the work of Daisy Bates among the Australian aborigines: "She learned [from the natives] that a sick native must be kept tranquil and happy. The invalid must not be worried, fussed, bathed, or washed if it irritated him."

She put the ideas into practice when an epidemic of measles struck a town near her camp. She pulled all 40 of her patients through by keeping them tranquil and cheerful. "She made up songs about emus and kangaroos taking medicine; she made them laugh at each other, and they recovered."

Maybe something to think about as we face the current Covid crisis. It certainly couldn't hurt.

**--I've decided to take on** a long-term project of recording Frederic Farrar's *Life of Christ*. This little section in Chapter 1, the story of Christ's birth, caught my attention:

"The inventions of man differ wholly from the dealings of God. In His designs there is no haste, no rest, no weariness, no discontinuity:

"...all things are done by Him in the majesty of silence, and they are seen under a light that shineth quietly in the darkness, 'showing all things in the slow history of their ripening.'

(Marlene's Musing cont.) "The unfathomable depths of the Divine counsels were moved; the fountains of the great deep were broken up; the healing of the nations was issuing forth;

"...but nothing was seen on the surface of human society but the slight rippling of the water; the course of human things went on as usual, while each was taken up with little projects of his own."

Reminds me of the work we mothers are engaged in.



Art credit: Baby at Play by Thomas Eakins

## WEH GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

--It's Friday movie night for us. Before we leave Month 1, if you haven't watched [Babe](#) yet, give it a try! It is set in New Zealand and is so fun for the whole family. It's been quite a few years since I last watched it, but I watched it with my grandkids last Friday and it was definitely a big hit! And it is one of those rare kid movies an adult can enjoy every bit as much.

--It may be hard to find--(look on [Internet Archive](#))--but we enjoyed watching [The Story of the Weeping Camel](#). It's a National Geographic movie that takes place out in the Gobi desert in Mongolia (a month 1 topic). It captivated my grandkids ages 4-8 as they watched the lives of children living in such a different environment. So different and yet so much the same. The story is of a mother camel who rejects her baby. The baby will die unless the brothers can bring home the violinist from a neighboring village. If he can make the camel weep, she will reclaim her baby.

--We just learned of this fun yard game ([Kubb Viking Clash Toss Game](#)) last night at my family's monthly get together. It's very fitting for this month and so much fun for up to 12 players. There are several versions, many cheaper than this one, but this is the version we played and I love the embossing of the figures on the playing pieces. Just thought I'd share. I just ordered a set this morning for my family. I wish I would have taken pics of all of us playing. We were playing with teams from ages 6-70. So fun!!

--[Nordic summer](#) YouTube

--[Holland vs. Netherlands](#) YouTube

--[Emotional Resilience: Stephenie Nielsen](#) YouTube

--Excuse me while I gush for a moment... I just read this book ([Shipwrecked!](#)) to my girls (5&3) last week and WHAT AN INCREDIBLE STORY!!! I then literally gulped "Heart of a Samurai" and my whole world has just

(WEH Group Recommendations cont.) been sucked into learning about this amazing man Manjiro Nakahama and how much he affected the world. While I type I'm also listening to a national archive lecture on him and his life. He was shipwrecked as a young boy and Japan had an isolationist policy in place and no one would return him because everyone involved would risk death. It took him 10+ years to return to Japan and his story is so fascinating. I didn't see anything about him on the WEH website and I found several books on Internet Archive that I'm so excited to dive into!! I know month 1 is almost over but do yourself and your family a favor and read his story! Just tie it into learning about the ocean for month 2 and you're set.



This poem was posted several weeks ago by a member of our group. I copied it in my poem book because I love it so much and thought it is worth reposting in our month of Exploration. It is attributed to Sir Francis Drake in 1577.

Disturb us, Lord, when  
We are too pleased with ourselves,  
When our dreams have come true  
Because we dreamed too little,  
When we arrived safely  
Because we sailed too close to the shore.  
Disturb us, Lord, when  
With the abundance of things we possess  
We have lost our thirst  
For the waters of life;  
Having fallen in love with life,  
We have ceased to dream of eternity  
And in our efforts to build a new earth,  
We have allowed our vision  
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,  
To venture on wilder seas  
Where storms will show your mastery;  
Where losing sight of land,  
We shall find the stars.  
We ask you to push back  
The horizons of our hopes;  
And to push back the future  
In strength, courage, hope, and love.  
This we ask in the name of our Captain,  
Who is Jesus Christ.

--Sir Francis Drake

Art credit: The Armada in Sight by John Seymour Lucas

## MOI MINUTE

In one of the books I just posted in Mo. 1 of the Mother's University, I copied these lines that so capture the spirit of MOI. She was talking about the women's movement that was started over a hundred years ago and was founded in motherhood. She referred to that 'esprit de corps in which hitherto we have been so grievously lacking, and which is now beginning to bind all our efforts together into one great whole'--

"Beneath all this, apart from any external organization whatever, there is a silent work going on in the hearts of thoughtful and educated mothers, which never comes before the public at all, but is silently spreading and deepening under the surface of our life."

That safety net, divinely designed, continues to spread, without fanfare and without recognition. I stand in awe as I watch the work unfold--one mother's heart and one home at a time.

You are Mothers of Influence, Heaven's 'secret' weapon against a world that seems bent on destruction.

Everything's going to be OK.



Art credit: Peasant Woman by Ferdinand Waldmüller



**"ONE CAN NEVER CONSENT  
TO CREEP WHEN ONE FEELS  
THE IMPULSE TO SOAR."**

--Helen Keller

Art credit: In the Blue Expanse by Arkady Rylov