

HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

Libraries of Hope Newsletter

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**"I DON'T THINK
BEING GOOD AT
THINGS IS THE
POINT OF DOING
THEM."**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--**Krystal does it again!** When we put up the new website a couple of years ago, there were only a handful of Landmarks in Internet Archive. Since then, they have added many more of them. I've had the titles in the site, but no way for you to read them. Just wanted to give you the heads up to be sure and look for the new links Krystal has added. They are found in the Middle School offerings. Look for the diamond icons.

You used to be able to buy used copies, but they have become real collectors' items. So this is wonderful that we have a way to read at least some of them.

"The outstanding children's books of this half century...without parallel in the field of children's literature." -- Dr. Leo J. McCormick.

"Any pre-adolescent who has not feasted on them has been cheated."
--Dr. Henry Graff, Professor History, Columbia University.

--**The new Month 8 books are now in the [store](#), including:**

My America Story Book: We'll take a look at Abraham Lincoln and the fight against slavery as well as be inspired by African-American lives.

Sunshine series: Freckles--another Gene Stratton-Porter offering.

Cousins series: Stories from Mexico, Cuba and Puerto Rico. Please note: we are near the end of all the



MY AMERICA
STORY BOOK

BOOK EIGHT: LINCOLN / SLAVERY

Compiled by Marlene Peterson



Freckles

SUNSHINE SERIES

GENE STRATTON-PORTER



Our Little Mexican Twins, Cuban and Puerto Rican Cousins

VOLUME TWENTY

LUCY FITCH PERKINS
MARY HAZELTON WADE



The Story of Greece

THE WORLD FREEDOM SERIES

MARY MACGREGOR

(Announcements cont.) the Cousins books and we had to fit some of the stories in months that don't necessarily coincide with the topic, for those of you acquiring your library by subscription.

World Freedom Series: The Story of Greece by Mary Macgregor. Do keep in mind the World Freedom series does not always coincide with the rotation schedule.

WEB IN ACTION

--Today it was incredibly windy where we live. I sent the girls out to have a picnic for lunch and the next thing I heard was screams and they came back with dirt on their food, haha. Not the day for a picnic! Later, as I got ready to pick them up from sewing class, the thought came to me, "Go fly kites!" So I grabbed them and threw them in the car and surprised them with a trip to the park on the way home to fly kites. They were so excited!

You can't plan to fly kites, very well I mean. We have tried. We decide, I want to fly kites today. But on a non-windy day it ends up with us constantly running to get the kites up and running more to keep them in the air. Today the wind was strong and the gusts kept the kites up! My daughter even sat down and just enjoyed watching her kite fly in the sky. It was a day to seize the opportunity that nature provided--powerful wind. If we would have said, "Well flying kites wasn't on the agenda today..." and skipped it, we would have missed out. Because what if the wind isn't there tomorrow? Then we are back to more running around.

It got me thinking about our kids and homeschool life. Sometimes when we plan things and force it when it really just isn't jiving, it just requires more effort and drama and fatigue. But if we can be aware of our surroundings and notice when our kids have creative ideas or bursts of inspiration and make THAT the priority...and take advantage of what their nature has provided--the results will be powerful! Real learning and engagement will happen. And if we wait until tomorrow, it might not still be there.

I have struggled in the past to find a balance between spontaneity, planning, prioritizing, creating habits, and providing freedom in our homeschool. I still don't know the perfect balance. But today when we seized the moment and all of us were filled with delight, understanding deepened in my heart and I felt like, "This. This is what Marlene is talking about."

--This concept came through for me yesterday. The last 4 years I have felt like I have been spinning plates when it comes to art and painting. I haven't felt like I'm making progress and more importantly I wasn't finishing anything. Yesterday I painted for 6 hours and I saw the culmination of all the GROWTH and learning I had been doing the past few years come together. It was a beautiful and magical experience. And it helped me to know that even when it seems there is no progress there actually is progress. This is true for all parts of life.

WEB GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

IMAGINATION:

[Why Read Fairy Tales?](#)

An outstanding discussion on the importance of fairy tales in the lives of our children.

[Why Read Pagan Myths?](#)

ARABIA:

[Folkcloud.com](#)

Wonderful archive of folk music from around the world, including Arabia.

BIRDS:

[The Blue Bird](#)

A sweet story of searching for happiness starring Shirley Temple.

[The Smallest Parrot You Have Ever Seen](#)



Art credit: La Fete du Grand Pere by Jules Breton

“FORCED OBEDIENCE YIELDS NO ENDURING FRUIT.”

--Richard G. Scott

MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--I absolutely believe in the power of stories. Stories can shape our lives and ideals and can literally transform us. I think the life of Orison Swett Marden I just shared with you illustrates that. But I don't want to give the impression that they can be doled out like pills to cure certain ailments.

Years ago, one of my daughters--and there are 8 of them, so I think I'm protecting some identity here--had a boyfriend who habitually was lying to her to control and manipulate her feelings towards him. I hate to intervene, but I had some serious concerns. So I went to his mother to verify some of the things he was saying. She was shocked. But she called a few days later and told me not to worry--they had had a family night lesson on honesty and she had told a story about being honest. And she said I shouldn't have to worry anymore.

I'll leave it to you to ponder if you think that fixed it or not. And no, my daughter did not marry this particular young man.

It's perhaps part of our culture to go to the doctor with an ailment in hopes that he will give us a pill to fix it. We like quick fixes. But the truth is, our bodies are miraculously capable of healing themselves if we give them nourishing food, sunshine, movement and fresh air.

If stories are part of that daily nourishment, along with an environment of love and acceptance and freedom, then many of these specific 'ailments' will resolve themselves. It's not a quick fix. But it is the healthy way. And of course, there are exceptions to everything.

If anything, sometimes trying to directly battle a certain behavior with a specific story can backfire. If you go to the [Character](#) page that I'll link here, you'll find some wonderful suggestions in how to use stories to build character. In one of the first little talks, there is a warning against this idea of using stories like pills to fix behavior. I hope it's helpful. You may have never found this page in the website because it is pretty buried.

(Marlene's Musings cont.) --While the world focused on gender equality, reproductive rights and violence against women on International Women's Day yesterday, I spent the day in the presence of true greatness. I happened across a little book published in 1840 called [*The Obligations of Literature to the Mothers of England*](#) by Caroline A. Halsted. In these essays, she sets forth to prove, by evidence and example, "whence all permanent instruction must emanate"--the Mother.

"...attention has been directed to those British Matrons, who, by their domestic virtues, and by their scholastic and religious foundations, preserved from total destruction, in a dark and savage period, those faint embers of literature which for ages were sacrificed in this island to deeds of arms, and the acquisition of material accomplishments;--and due honour has been shewn to those noble women, who aided their sons towards filling the highest offices of the state, and whose maternal watchfulness in infancy, and judgment in riper years, preserved for the admiration of posterity, some of the greatest names that enrich our scientific annals."

"In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, ...the Matrons of England were indeed objects of universal respect and admiration. Their virtues were severe, their talents unexampled;...As a natural consequence, their sons were renowned throughout Europe, for their profound knowledge in every branch of literature; and of them it may justly be said, England boasted of philosophers who were rendered pre-eminently great by the precepts and exhortations of their learned Mothers."

Art credit: Summer by Albert Edelfelt



If only the world would recognize the worth of a mother...what a Millennium could be begun in just thirty years....

--Yesterday must have been just 'one of those days.' In talking to a couple of my daughters and seeing some of the posts from moms in this group as well as other homeschool groups, it was kind of a throw your hands up in the air day and put the kids back in school.

So... basically normal life, right?

I know I throw out an ideal of home and motherhood to this group. But it is simply something to reach towards. You are not a failure if that is not what your home and experience as a mother looks like.

If you listened to the story of the Constitution last month in MASB, did you, too, wonder how on earth our government could have been established at all?? Somehow in all the opposition and the bickering and fighting and differences of opinion, something good came out of it. Come to think of it, that has been the way of the world from the beginning! I've spent time with hundreds of Great Lives now and I cannot think of a single one that came from a life without any bumps or challenges. It's a miracle what comes from the chaos of life.

(Marlene's Musings cont.) That has been reminding me of something I am learning in my music lessons--the power of dissonance to drive us to find the resolution and the harmony.

In a way that doesn't make sense, it's actually the messiness of our lives that may yield the greatest progress! It's the restlessness for something better that keeps us learning and trying new things and trying again.

I was grateful for this post by a group member yesterday:

Kurt Vonnegut: "When I was 15, I spent a month working on an archeological dig. I was talking to one of the archeologists one day during our lunch break and he asked those kinds of 'getting to know you' questions you ask young people: Do you play sports? What's your favorite subject? And I told him, no I don't play any sports. I do theater, I'm in choir, I play the violin and piano, I used to take art classes. And he went WOW. That's amazing! And I said, 'Oh no, but I'm not any good at ANY of them.'

"And he said something then that I will never forget and which absolutely blew my mind because no one had ever said anything like it to me before: 'I don't think being good at things is the point of doing them. I think you've got all these wonderful experiences with different skills, and that all teaches you things and makes you an interesting person, no matter how well you do them.'

"And that honestly changed my life. Because I went from a failure, someone who hadn't been talented enough at anything to excel, to someone who did things because I enjoyed them. I had been raised in such an achievement-oriented environment, so inundated with the myth of talent, that I thought it was only worth doing things if you could 'Win' at them."

I hope you, too, can find the enjoyment of motherhood and let go of the drive to 'achieve' perfection. As you do so, there is good reason to believe you will look back and see that you actually achieved much more than you ever imagined --I was going to say in spite of the mess. But, perhaps, the achievement came because of the mess.



Art Credit: Barred Out by Ralph Hedley



**"THE HAND WILL NOT
REACH FOR WHAT
THE HEART DOES NOT
LONG FOR."**

--Welsh proverb

Art credit: Die Kirschbuten

MOI MINUTE

A mom new to MOI recently shared this with the women in her group (used with her permission):

“Before the February meeting, I hadn’t been having a good few days, but I had to take voice notes as I was driving home because my mind started spewing out a poem unbidden. I rarely ever write and never creatively, so it’s super rough and I decided not to share it. But I can relate so much to what [was] said tonight and I guess now I want to share, if only to say thank you.

Tonight I met with angels
I didn’t have much to say
They brought me tears of laughter
Wiped my cares away
Hours ago I didn’t belong, full of self-disdain
But now I feel my Savior’s love, He held me through the pain.
I’d forgotten that He loves me, so He sent me to their midst
He brought me to His angels to remind me what I missed
At times I feel forgotten, forsaken and alone
But His angels there remind me I’m never far from home
Tonight I got a glimpse of heaven, encircled in His arms
The peace He brings is found once more.
My Savior, my Redeemer, who loves me to my core.

“Like I said, rough, but each of you I’ve met since January, YOU are God’s hand in my life, so thank you.”



Art Credit: On the Heights by Charles Courtney Curran



Art credit: L'Ecole Coranique by Alphonse Etienne Dinet

KRYSTAL-SPLAINING

I don't know how many of you have been following the GameStop saga as of late. But allow me to give you a brief run-down. A YouTuber by the name of Roaring Kitty decided he liked the GameStop stock (GME) and invested a lot of money into it. Some hedge funds decided they didn't think GME was worth much, so they shorted the stock (a lot), thinking they could make some money when the stock price "inevitably" went down and/or GameStop went bankrupt. A bunch of retail investors decided they didn't like the hedge funds doing that, so they started buying into the stock as well, driving up the price. Like, a lot of retail investors. Millions of them. I won't go into the logistics of it all, but the long and short of it is that the retail investors know that the hedge funds will have to buy back their shorted stocks, and they intend to hold their stocks until the price skyrockets (or as they say, "goes to the moon"), making themselves a lot of money in the process. Last I checked, Roaring Kitty's GME portfolio was up to over \$40 million.

Now, in all the mania, as I said, a lot of people jumped on the GME bandwagon. Most via a Reddit group called WallStreetBets. There's a ton of hype and lots of information floating around there. But as you can guess from the group name, there is risk involved with trading stocks. And if you don't know anything about the world of stocks, you can get yourself into some trouble. So among the posts and threads, you'll repeatedly see people pleading with everyone to do their DD, or their Due Diligence. Research it for yourself. Make sure you understand what's at play here so you can make the best and most informed decision for you and your financial position. Make sure you like the stock. Don't invest more than you can afford to lose. Some prefer calls and options because there's a higher chance of reward. Others just stick to straight-up stocks because it's simpler and less risky. It's complicated and definitely hard to understand at first, but is such a vital step in the process. Because, after all, it's your money. And no matter how much Roaring Kitty is making, you won't get that same kind of return if you don't understand what's going on at the level he does. Sure, a lot of people will benefit from the stock just based on what they're reading in WallStreetBets. Some might even benefit a lot. But some people are going to get burned. Have already gotten burned, because they didn't take the time to understand for themselves exactly what was at play. They didn't do their due diligence.

We often hear frustration from mothers about how overwhelming all this well-educated heart business is, and asking us to simplify it. For years, we've heard pleas for more of a curriculum-type approach. Where a mother can just come in, pick their children's ages, and we'll tell you what books to read and when. While we are constantly trying to find ways to streamline things and make things more user friendly and accessible, we also know that there is no substitute for you doing your due diligence. Because until you understand the reasons behind it all, until you've decided for yourself that you like the approach, you aren't going to be able to get out of it as much as you otherwise would. Granted, there is not near as much risk involved in WEH as there is in an extremely volatile meme stock like GME. But it's more than your money on the line. It's your family. So be smart about it. If you're not ready to throw yourself all in, just put in what you can afford right now. Until you understand it a little better. Play around with different aspects, see what works or doesn't work for you. Do read the hype! It's good for morale and support. That's why we have a whole section of it in the newsletter dedicated to it: WEH in Action. But don't stop there. Study it out for yourself. The more you know, the more likely your chances are of going to the moon!