

HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

Libraries of Hope Newsletter

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Announcements.....1

WEH in Action.....2

WEH Group
Recommendations.....5

Marlene’s Musings.....6

MOI Minute.....9

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--**June is busting out all over!** Some of you may take the summer off, but I hope that many of you will find that this kind of learning doesn’t need a break.

Month 10 brings us to 20th Century America, including the outbreak of WWI. There’s enough to study in 20th Century America alone to take you through all the summer months! Two key players in that war were Germany and Russia, which is our link to World History. It is also a month to study other Central and Eastern European countries. The Mother’s University topic is Math.

--**New Month 11 Books:**

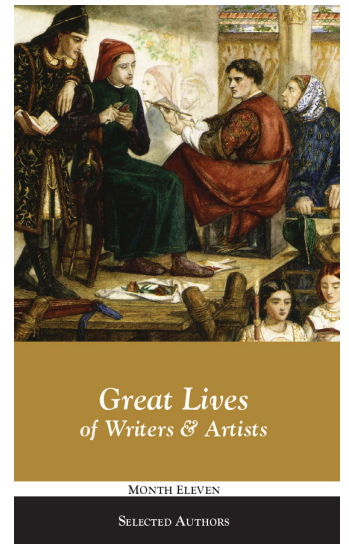
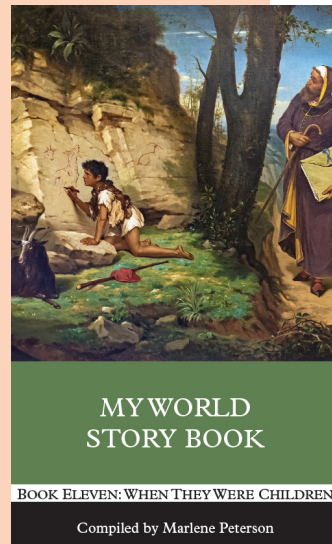
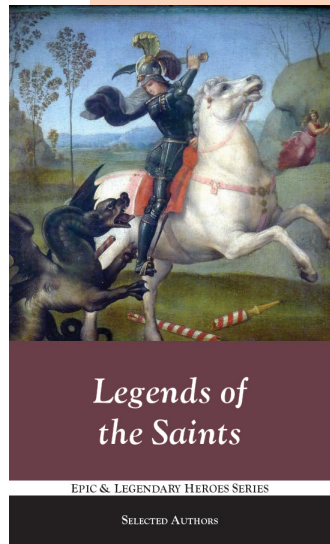
MWSB: We have spent the year being inspired by the lives of heroic men and women. For the last two books in this series, I’m going to step away from Arthur Mee stories and turn to Amy Steedman’s “When They Were Children” where we will re-visit several of these now familiar names in their childhoods. Your children will see that they really look just like them.

Great Lives: We brought the lives of many of the Great Writers and Great Artists together in this volume, primarily because they wouldn’t fit in the Month they would have been added to.

Imaginative Tales: This is a carryover from Month 10 as we now visit Russian, Czech and Polish tales.

Epic and Legendary Heroes: As month 11 is an open month, I wanted to bring together many of the Legends of the Saints. If your children are to grow in their appreciation of Fine Art and Literature, having a background understanding of some of the most well-known Saints will enrich their studies.

I WOULD SAY YOU ARE ENGAGED IN THE MOST USEFUL AND VITAL WORK OF THE WORLD TODAY.



WEH IN ACTION

--I spent several days at Disneyland this past week with my family. Something that made being in those large crowds (I'm not a big fan of large crowds) and long lines enjoyable was all the amazing trees, shrubs, and flowers. So much beauty! I noticed some lovely flowers that I had never seen before, pointed them out to my girls and wondered what they could be, feeling sad that I wouldn't find out. Then I remembered an app I have on my phone that will allow you to take a picture of the plant and it will identify it for you, giving the scientific and common names as well as where and how it grows, along with lots more interesting information. It was so much fun! My girls were pointing out trees and flowers they liked and saying, "Take a picture! Take a picture!" My husband was slightly annoyed because we were slowing down the group from getting to lines for rides.

Did you know that rubber plants can have flowers and can grow from 66 to 131 feet tall? And they can live as many as 100 years! And did you know that there is an African tulip tree at the entrance to Adventureland? It's so beautiful!

I also did a search for the gardner of Disneyland and found an article about a gardner who worked there forever and had a huge impact on how the park looks today.

Looking at beautiful plants was probably more fun for me and my girls than all the rides, parade, or fireworks show. It was so fun and magical! (E.D. 05.17.2022)

--Chapters 13 and 14 of this month's "My America Story Book" about the Civil War got me today. I bawled like a baby. Their sacrifices were finally made real to me. These gentle books share such powerful stories that can melt hearts and build bonds with the past. I am so thankful for WEH. (C.M. 05.24.2022)

--This morning was lovely. I don't even know why I'm posting, as it was nothing spectacular, but I suppose that's a lot of the point. It doesn't have to be spectacular or perfect to be a lovely day. My kids (2, 5, 7) begged me to read to them outside today. So we went out in the yard. We read a chapter of Raggedy Ann (which they LOVE, by the way. I'm so glad it's in the Story Hour Series), some of our Story Bible, and a charming book about the human body, "Yourself and Your House Wonderful." I saw Marlene had recommended it years ago, so we are trying it. We love it! My kids are constantly reminding each other to chew well, get fresh air, not eat too much sugar, etc, because "your little dwarfs need you to!" It's darling.

After reading we got up and looked for honey bees. We took some pictures, talked about some of the flowers we have, etc.

All in all, it was very laid back and simple, but it was delightful. I came inside to make lunch feeling so much lighter and more hopeful. My heart feels good. I love this way of learning and living, and am so glad to be teaching my children to love it too. (K.C. 05.24.2022)

(WEH in Action cont.) --**Another brief testimonial....** I read that we should not have compulsory education and on one day I had read the question of piano--to force or not to force. I decided that with lessons I would only pay for them only if they absolutely desired it. I sat them each down and told them that the piano teacher only had 2 spots (I have 5 children old enough to learn) and that I would only take those spots if it was their desire because I would not be asking them to practice but would only remind them on occasion if they desired me to do so. Conveniently 2 children said they wanted it, the others did not. I have not once had to haggle anyone about practicing. As a result of the joy that they've developed, now the others are sitting down to self teach or just mess around on the keys. Now one of the kids who was not signed up has decided he wants to start learning a different instrument (still nailing that one down) and that he wants to join a beginners band in the fall. He has self taught some songs on the piano now. Another daughter who didn't take lessons has played for a long time yesterday and today and she caught up to where one daughter who has taken lessons for 2 months is. She has been begging for lessons once the teacher has another availability open up.

The teacher is taking the summer off but these kids seem ready for the challenge of self teaching through the summer.

My heart is so full that in my particular case not forcing ended up being an incredible blessing. Hopefully this encourages someone else out there. (T.D. 05.25.2022)

--**My seven-year-old asked me** today what I would draw if I had a magic pen (the kind that turns your drawings into real life). I told him that as a child, I used to fantasize about drawing things into life all the time! Dresses, toys, playgrounds, animals and pets, etc. But now that I'm grown, I don't know what I would draw. The things I want are not so tangible anymore. I want peace, energy, health, love... I asked him how to draw such things. He replied with a description of a nature scene for peace, and a picture of a family (with hearts and words) for love.

His wisdom and insight helped me see that that's what the masters are after. They do their best to communicate feelings with images, and create or stir up those feelings within the viewers. The art is not so much about the images, but about what the images produce in real life--the spark of life, feeling, understanding, and humanity in the hearts of those who see it. (J.T. 05.28.2022)

--**I've been thinking about my fellow WEH moms** the past few days. So many of you want Marlene to provide a detailed set of instructions on how to incorporate WEH into your home or a curriculum for you to use as you teach your children using heart-based learning. But you don't need it! I promise!!!!

We have been trained and conditioned to think that we must have every step laid out for us before we can move.



Art credit: Banks of the Seine by Claude Monet

“When a family declines, ancient traditions are destroyed. With them are lost the spiritual foundations for life, and the family loses its sense of unity. Where there is no sense of unity, the women of the family become corrupt; and with the corruption of its women, society is plunged into chaos.”

--From the Bhagavad Gita

Art credit: The Great Beech at Vallo
by Hans Brasen



(*WEH in Action cont.*) It's like having a brand-new car with all the latest technology— voice activated GPS (which will only give you instructions for the most direct and fuel efficient routes), sensors everywhere to make sure we are driving a certain way in and in a certain lane, an entertainment system with headphones to keep the children occupied en route to your destination, and a computer system to tell you how many miles until you need to get fuel or that you have been driving too long and might need a break. While these features are useful in some circumstances, they are not necessary for you to take a road trip.

Marlene has provided us with a different way to travel. She has given us a beautiful map. But it does not include every single road available. She has shared some of her favorite attractions to visit but reminds us that they aren't the only ones out there. She has taught us that there is more than one way to document our journey. There are many ways to capture images that we want to remember. She has introduced us to some wonderful 'travel guides' from the past. And she frequently reminds us that it isn't a race or competition. We get to decide where we go and which roads we take. We get to choose which guides we follow and what attractions we stop at. And if we make a wrong turn, that's okay! Getting off the interstate is wonderful! There are so many natural beauties, amazing towns, wonderful people, and incredible opportunities we miss because we only travel on the interstate system.

We are all on a different journey. We get to decide for ourselves where we want to go and how we want to reach our destination. Don't be afraid to turn off the GPS and the entertainment system. Spend the time getting familiar with the WEH map and suggested attractions on the WEH website. This group is wonderful and is always willing to share what they do or think, but in the end, only you can decide how your journey will look. If you take the time to really Catch the Vision for yourself, miracles will happen.

Your family is different from every other family. You have different interests, different struggles. Be brave! Be bold! Be willing to let your children decide how fast to travel, where they want to stop and how long to stop at each attraction. Be willing to take the scenic route- even if everyone around you mocks your choice.

I speak from experience when I tell you that throwing out the GPS is scary at first. You will sometimes feel lost and get discouraged thinking you will never reach your chosen destination. You will run out of gas in the most random places. You will make more stops than you want, and progress seems very slow sometimes. But as you pause occasionally and look back over your journey, you will see the miracles, the beauty, and the joy. And you will have a lifetime of priceless memories with your family. (J.H. 05.13.2022)

WEH GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

--[Beauty Will Save the Child](#) (B.R. 05.28.2022)

--**I'm going to be adding** another book recommendation to the Language Arts section of the Mother's University. It's called [King Alfred's English](#) by Laurie White and it is so fascinating! Here is a perfect combination of History, Geography, Literature and appreciation for the English language. It's designed for Students Grades 7-12 AND curious adults. :) I am loving it! So glad for the recommendation. (M.P. 05.20.2022)

--Video: [An Interview with Andrew Pudewa on Grammar](#) (S.L. 05.06.2022)

--[Too Many Structured Activities May Hinder Children's Executive Functioning](#) (M.P. 05.22.2022)

--Video: [How to Find and Resize Free Art for the Frame TV](#) (C.G. 05.17.2022)

--**In line with this month's** Mother's University topic, Language Arts, I want to direct your attention to a wonderful little book again called [If You Want to Write](#) by Brenda Ueland. She is very WEH based in her writing approach. First published in 1938, Carl Sandburg called this book, "The best book ever written about how to write."

In her 93 years, she published six million words, was knighted by the king of Norway, and set an international swimming record for over 80 year olds!

The author wrote: "Whenever I say 'writing' in this book, I also mean anything that you love and want to do or to make.... You must be sure that your imagination and love are behind it."

If you follow the Pattern for Learning, the most important part of writing is having something in your heart you want to say, which is what Orison Swett Marden also taught in the book you find in the Mother's Learning Library volume on Language Arts.

This book is a fast read and is about more than just writing. You can read it for free on Internet Archive or last time I checked, it wasn't hard to buy a copy online inexpensively. I thought I had linked it in the Mother's University. It's there now. (M.P. 05.17.2022)

Art credit: Spielende Kinder by Emil Czech





I hope we're all a bunch of amateurs around here!

"You say 'amateur' as if it was a dirty word. 'Amateur' comes from the Latin word 'amare,' which means to love. To do things for the love of it."

--Mozart in the Jungle

Art credit: A Street in Algeria by Frederick Arthur Bridgman

MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--From a book called *Golden Deeds in Character Education* by Cassidy:

"Learning without character is a vain and noxious thing. The great, underlying cause of the world conflagration which Germany started and the horrible deeds that her soldiers committed on sea and land were largely the fruits of her highly efficient system of education. But, though efficient, it was grossly material. None of those fine spiritual qualities that are so prized by civilized people were, for nearly fifty years preceding the War, permitted to influence the lives of German children.

"No trace of any fine ethical training could be found in her schools. Juvenile books contained no subtle moral lesson that should influence youth to goodness and gentility. ...

"This system of education was highly organized and coordinated; perfect in routine and detail; but wholly materialistic. It was a system without any attempt to develop fine character, which is the very soul of education...

"The worth and strength of a nation

depend far less on the form of its institutions than upon the character of its people. Civilization itself is only a matter of individual improvement. Not until character is the true and steady aim of the home and school will this nation become and remain righteous. And parents and teachers should ever keep in mind:

"One former is worth a thousand reformers."

Can we learn from history or must we experience it ourselves?

--Someone brought a tweet of LeVar Burton's to my attention. It was from 2020, but it made me kinda smile. He decided that he wanted to offer families a free livestream of him reading stories and books during the pandemic, so he decided to search public domain offerings. He tweeted:

"I've gone down the rabbit hole searching through volumes of short stories in the public domain for appropriate content for families and have come up empty. "

Later, he added another tweet:

"Certainly, there would have to be some great titles out there among the many available options, but for just one man, finding them has proven to be a challenge."

Well, Mr. Burton, I am sorry you missed the treasure! One woman who I know intimately well has now compiled nearly 250 volumes of family friendly books from the public domain that would make great readalouds. And she hasn't even scratched the surface!

Dig a little deeper--they're there.

--Here is a writing tip from the book I recommended yesterday by Brenda Ueland (*If You Want to Write*--free on Kindle and Internet Archive):

"Write every day, or as often as you possibly can, as fast and carelessly as you possibly can, without reading it again, anything you happened to have thought, seen or felt the day before.

"In six months look at it. A drawer full of paper will have accumulated. You will see that what you have written with the most slovenly free-

(Marlene's Musings cont.) dom--in those parts there will be vitality, brilliance, beauty."

Try that with your kids who are old enough to write but are balking at all your writing assignments and sentence construction exercises and paragraph builders.

Better yet, do it yourself. Writing that freely flows from the heart is the most alive!

--A member of this group gifted me with a wonderful old book called "In God's Out-of-Doors" by William A. Quayle written in 1902. (Thank you!!) It came yesterday and I started perusing it just before I went to seleep and loved what I read:

"I would reverently add to the list of the beatitudes this, 'Blessed are those who help us to see.' From my heart I bless such men and women. All the good must pray to God, 'Help us to see.' The pity of this world is not its limitations, but ours. Into the earth as into a king's golden goblet, God has poured all things which minister to an immortal and growing life. He has made a world pregnant with ideas..."



Art credit: A Calling by William-Adolphe Bouguereau



Art credit: De Drentse Madonna by Joseph Israels

"Nothing of God's perishes, but endures... We cannot bankrupt his opportunities nor providences nor knowledge nor joy; and how good that is!..."

"So much to see, so little seen; that is our grief..."

"...what rarer world would God show every one of us if we would let him! ... They are not poor that see. Riches unspeakable are theirs. I would for myself and for others pray, 'Teach me to see les I be poor beyond the depths of poverty..."

"Writing poetry is not our classic achievement after all. Seeing and feeling and being poetry is life's best work."

I have often reflected that Jesus taught us to do as He did. And I have thought, "But I cannot heal the blind." I now understand that is exactly the charge He has given us as mothers--to give our children eyes to see the Unseen things in the world. That is where the greatest treasures are hidden.

--Like you, I am grieiving over the senseless and



Art credit: La Petite Jardinier by Daniel Ridgway Knight

(*Marlene's Musings cont.*) horrific massacre of innocent children.

As usual, the world looks at solutions in outward things. But firearm regulation will not solve the problem because the root cause is heart disease.

And heart disease can't be healed through legislation.

I've had growing flowers on my mind the last few days and I took time to study the parts of a flower.

It's appropriate that we use the phrase 'root cause' of a problem--The roots anchor the plant in place and take in and supply nutrients. If your roots get sick, the whole plant is sick. It's that simple.

Well, our roots are sick. And how do you fix it and grow strong root systems? First, you loosen and aerate the soil --they need room to breathe! They need freedom.

Roots need deep, infrequent watering, with Living Water. Although watering must be consistent, too much will rot the roots.

And roots need to be provided proper nutrition. The fertilizer must be balanced. Some of the nutrients--like phosphorous--need to come in close contact with the roots in order for the roots to absorb it.

Building strong root systems in our children is the work of WEH.

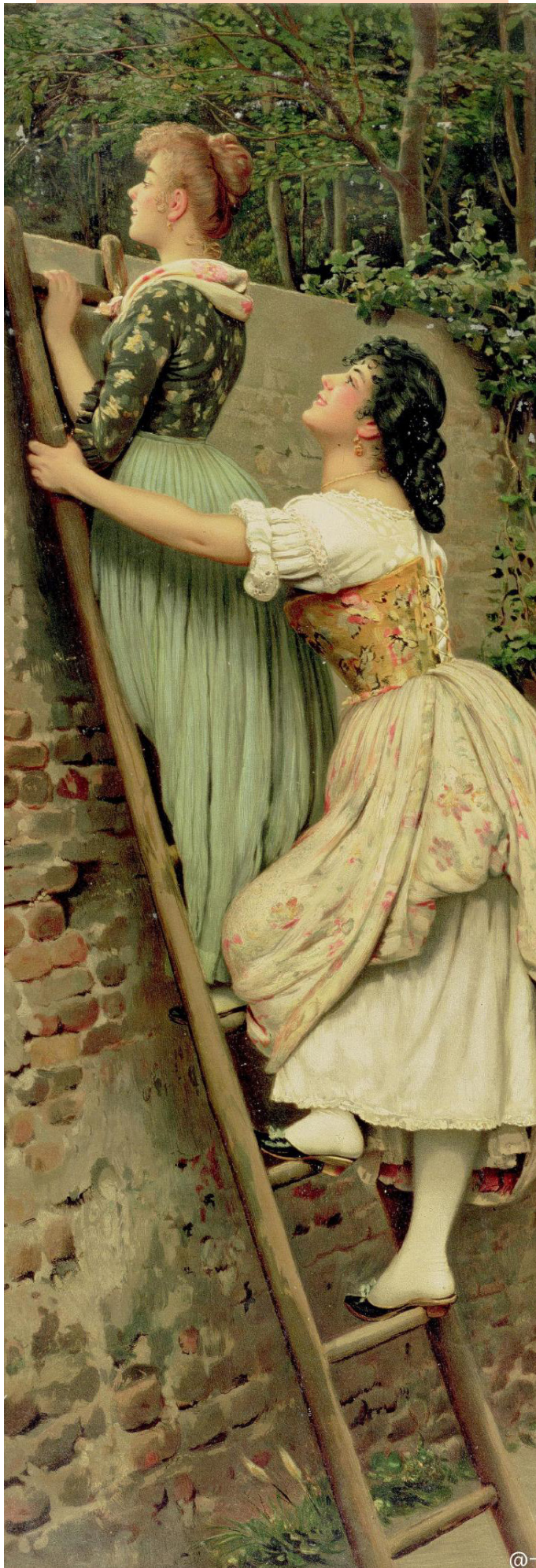
If we tend the roots--which are unseen to the world, by the way--we can expect to see beautiful flowers bloom. And do you know what the sole purpose of the flower is? It's to reproduce. That's where seeds are scattered and the beauty is multiplied and replenished.

Where do you come in? I see mothers as the leaves. The purpose of the leaves is to capture Light and Energy from the Sun (Son) which is essential in making food for the plant.

Given all these things, I would say you are engaged in the most useful and vital work of the world today. Yet, the world dismisses the work you are doing. You often thank me -- but the real thanks goes to all of you down on your hands and knees digging in the dirt and pulling weeds and sweating in the sun. Nothing I do matters one tiny bit without you applying and using it.

The honor is all yours.

MOI IN ACTION



Art credit: Curiosity by Eugene de Blaas

Many ways to MOI...

(our thanks and love to Amy Mathews Parker -- we're sorry about the loss of such a dear friend.)

If you have a minute -- let me tell you about "MY LADIES."

A few years ago--maybe like 6/7 years ago--my heart was searching. For what I quite couldn't tell. My peers at the time were trying to "find themselves." I found myself a long time ago. Through lots of painful trials and sorrow. I felt a bit lonely--a bit lost. In a sense my own personal light was very low.

In the mornings I would see some of these mature women walking from my church. Every stinking morning. I would look out my kitchen window and ASSUMED they were talking about me and everyone in the neighborhood. Until...they asked me to join them.

At first I felt a bit out of place. I'm about the same age as their own children. However...as I got to know them, my love for them grew. Gone were the assumptions. Replaced with wisdom. Lots and lots of wisdom sprinkled with a "I don't care what people think of me." Such inner strength and LIGHT!

You see--each one of us has a light within us. Some may just shine brighter than others--and at different times. My light was dim. So these ladies shared with me their own light until mine started to shine just as bright and that I could pass it on. Or be that my light can be a little beacon in what may seem a very long dark tunnel.

A few years ago one of my ladies moved away. And man adjusting that light was difficult. It changes. Today--one of our quiet, reliable light has gone out forever. She went back to our father in heaven.

Needless to say--our group light and my own personal light has changed once again. You're never ready to say goodbye.

You may be the light in someone's life and not even know it. Just as these ladies are for me.

My BFF's!

So today I hope you reach out to someone and smile. Just like Rosy always did. Armed with a quick smile to give.