

HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

Libraries of Hope Newsletter

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

--It's April 1st (well...it was...). Are you ready to move on to Month 8 topics? Remember--there's nothing wrong with spreading Month 7 topics over a few months. 19th century America and Native America give you a lot of ground to explore.

But you can sprinkle in some stories about Abraham Lincoln which ties into a look at slavery which leads us back to Africa. Africa is only beginning to reveal her secrets, and it's a huge place made up of many countries. Public domain works primarily give us a peak through the eyes of the missionaries and explorers who ventured into places previously hidden to the rest of the world. See what else you can find. And don't forget--Ancient Egypt is on the continent. Kids love to learn about mummies, ancient riddles and hieroglyphics.

Also, as dark as slavery was, it yields some of the most inspiring stories of the great African American men and women who endured and rose above such terrible circumstances. Their music and their stories have been woven into the moral thread of America's culture and have been a tremendous contribution for good.

This month's Nature topic is always a favorite as we now enter the Animal kingdom. Dogs, horses, cats--what's not to love?

Finally, our Mother's University topic is the study of History which ties into the importance of books and the art of conversation.

Happy Explorations!

--Here is the recording of the March 11th [Biblioguides Zoom Meeting](#). It is also linked in the Biblioguides pinned post.

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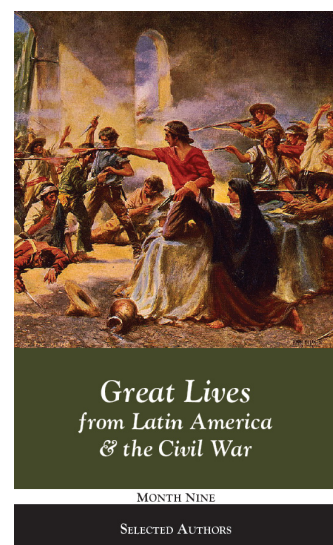
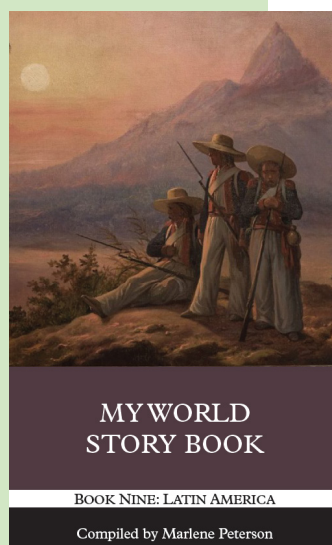
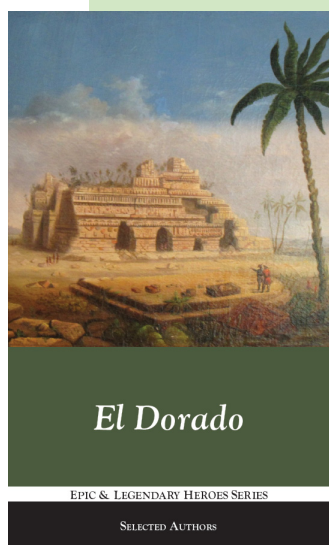
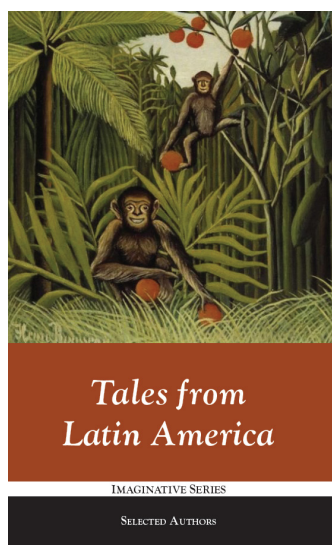
(Announcements cont.) --NEW BOOKS FOR APRIL

Imaginative: Tales from South America includes a book that was a Newbery award winner.

Epic: The native tribes of North and South America all shared a common hero who taught them the peaceable arts of civilization and promised he would return. Here is a collection of the stories that were passed down over generations.

My World Story Book: These stories include great lives from Latin America, including stories of Texas and California that were originally part of Mexico and a few stories of Civil War day figures.

Great Lives: Included in this volume are the makers of South America.



WEH IN ACTION

--In March, thanks to [Biblioguides](#), I saw my children going deeper into the rotation topics all on their own even more than in the past. I loved seeing them enjoying the freedom to explore and discover even more beyond our physical home library. I even saw my oldest (12) voluntarily writing/illustrating his own book about the things that he had been learning about birds. (He usually has to be persuaded to do any sort of notebooking so this was a beautiful sight to see!)

Here are a couple other examples of how our learning and discovery filled our hearts and spilled over into creation...

We did some pioneer activities and even temporarily turned half of our shed into a log cabin, using things we had around our house and farm (which has provided hours of play and where we'll also be having a Farmer Boy [Laura Ingalls Wilder] themed meal tonight).

We were able to connect with a Navajo woman who taught us about her culture and some history. Through that experience, we fell in love with the Native Flute and began learning to play music through that beautiful instrument.

We also started making a book together about the birds that we have seen and/or heard on our land.

Then a few days ago, I re-read this in Catch the Vision, Volume One...

"The heart is fed with feelings, impressions, and images which are delivered by the Arts, which include music, pictures, poetry and story. The heart is the realm of the Imagination. This stage of learning is all about desire; of warming and opening the heart. As Dr. Rich Melheim writes: "The brain is filled with gatekeepers designed to keep

(WEH in Action cont.) information out... [Y]ou have to open the kid before you open the book.” These gatekeepers respond to pleasurable experiences, which the Arts provide. When you “get to the emotional centers, the gates of intellect fly open wide.”” (pg. 99)

It gave me another piece to the puzzle for my own family. I am going to be more intentional with using a bit of time at the beginning of each month (when we switch to new rotation topics) to “open the kid” so that he/she will then willingly and enthusiastically “open the book” (and other resources) because then they have a true desire to explore and discover and go deeper into the topics. I want to give my children just enough taste of the topics, in heart-filled, emotion-central ways so that their curiosity and interest is piqued...and then like last month, set them free (with guidance and mentoring from me when needed) to explore and discover. That exploration and discovery will fill our hearts and then overflow into creation.

--Two weeks ago I was hit in the head...and brains are funny things. We're used to reading lots of books

in our house but all of the sudden I have a terrible stutter and reading isn't something that can happen right now. Stories have always been my favorite way to connect and calm my children so it's been a very difficult two weeks.

But brains being the funny things they are, I can still sing. Last night I pulled out this book that is nothing but art and the lyrics to a song and my little boy sat in my lap and had me sing it over and over. How comforting music, art, and prayer can be when life throws curves you don't feel strong enough to handle.

--I've spent this month studying Section 3 of 'Catch The Vision: Joy is Everywhere.'

It has changed my life.

I always knew that music, art, poetry, stories and nature were important and powerful. I always wanted to incorporate them more into my life and into my home. And then I started section three.

After learning more about each of these subjects and WHY they are so important and powerful, I felt an intense hunger and longing for each

of them. I turned WANTS into ACTIONS. And my passion grew even more.

Just in this past month, I have seen beautiful changes in my personal life and in my home. I've had prayers answered. And I have found the desire for more in my life. After finishing Section 3 today, I stopped and wrote [this short poem](#), and I wanted to share with you all. What an amazing time we are a part of. What an amazing way of learning we have chosen to be part of.

--There is a sweet story behind this copy work. One where mom wasn't getting things done that the daughter needed. Where the daughter stepped in and did it herself, and in the process made it so much more than mom ever would have “assigned.”

This [wonderful poem](#) is in the back of the Forgotten Classics Poetry book (my best sources say this is where the treasures are). The scripture references are what came to my daughter's mind as she copied each stanza.

As a mama who questions every day





Art credit: Rebecca et Eliezer by Alexandre Cabanel

(*WEH in Action cont.*) whether she is doing for her kids all that they need, this reminded me that I only need to do what is mine to do. Though I fail frequently, if I am guiding them to fountains of goodness (to The Source of all goodness) all is well.

--A **Traveler crossing a plain** in India saw at a distance a slave who was busy drawing a bucket from a well. The traveler approached the well, hoping to get a drink. On reaching it he saw, to his surprise, that the bucket came to the top of the well empty. Again and again the slave let down the bucket, and ever it came to the top empty.

"Hold!" cried the traveler at length. "Do you not see that the well is empty? In order to get water from the well, you must either fill it from the reservoirs on the hills or dig down till you reach the natural springs in the earth."

This little story well symbolizes much that is called language work — routine efforts to draw from the shallow surface of the child's mind full measures of thought and feeling, efforts that we often thoughtlessly allow to become ends in themselves. Like the slave with his bucket, we go through the motions; we draw from our pupils words, sentences, paragraphs, and punctuation marks, but they are empty. And they will continue to be as empty as the slave's bucket until we change our procedure.

But the story does more than symbolize our futile efforts; it suggests to us, as did the traveler to the slave, what we must do if we would see our efforts crowned with success. We must see to it that the sources from which we attempt to draw are well supplied; we must see to it that the child contains — has command of — something expressible before we attempt to draw anything forth. The slave was told to supply his well either by drawing from the reservoirs on the hills or by sinking the well down to the natural springs. We must supply the child freely from both sources. We must open the ways for an unfailing supply of language material from the "reservoirs on the hill," — the reservoirs of fable, fairy tale, legend, myth, story, poem, literature; we must also tap the abundant and ever renewed resources of the child's own experiences, the springs deep down in the child's reactions to the world about him — his ideas, his ambitions, his feelings and emotions. We must see that from these two inexhaustible sources the materials of thought and feeling flow together and make up the abundant stream of the child's mental life; when we do this, we may draw deeply and without disappointment.

--From the introduction to the Aldine Language Method (original spellings and grammar)

WEH GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

--Displaying Art on your TV:

I love having physical artist prints for my kids to hold and look at, but I also wanted to display the artist prints in a larger format for all to enjoy.

I know, that when it comes to technology, I sometimes like to have my hand held and have the steps clearly laid out for me to follow. I figured out the steps and thought I would share with others.

Supplies needed: This is for those that have an android phone, Google home app, Google photos app, Google chromecast, and a smart TV. (I'm sure this can be adapted for other applications and technology.)

1. Go to the [Simple Joy: Fine Art](#) section of the WEH website and click on the link for the picture you want to display.
2. Click on the pixels you prefer. (I always choose the highest pixels to get the best picture.)
3. When the picture has loaded, click and hold on the image.
4. Click "share image"
5. Click "upload to photos"
6. Click upload
7. After it has uploaded (I do the previous process with all the pictures I want first) go to your Google Photos app.
8. Click on an image you want to display on your TV.
9. Click the star in the top right corner to add it to your favorites. (Do this for all the photos you want to display on your TV.)
10. Go to your Google Home app.
11. Click on the device you want to use. In this case your TV.
12. Click on the gear in the top right corner to go to settings.
13. Click "ambient mode"
14. Click "Google Photos"
15. Click "favorites"
16. Go back to settings, and under personal photo curation click "live albums only".
17. Under slideshow speed click how fast you would like your photos to be displayed.
18. Enjoy your photos!

I have been using this for the past week. Every morning I turn the TV on for the ambient mode (we don't watch TV otherwise) and I leave it on all day. Everytime we walk by the TV we can enjoy a beautiful picture instead of a big black TV screen. I set my photos to rotate every 10 minutes. We are loving it!

--A very relevant to WEH letter written to high schoolers by [Kurt Vonnegut](#)

Art credit: African Elephants by Charles de Tournemine



MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--**I have time to leave one** more morsel to chew on from the same book. Again, it's talking about music, but I think applies to all the Arts and why they matter:

"It is a simple fact that music bears the same relationship to the mental and spiritual life of many people, as sunshine bears to their physical well-being.

"Its effect is not merely to invigorate, but also to illuminate, to flood all life with a consciousness of beauty and order, to reaffirm eternal verities, and to quicken the life of the soul.

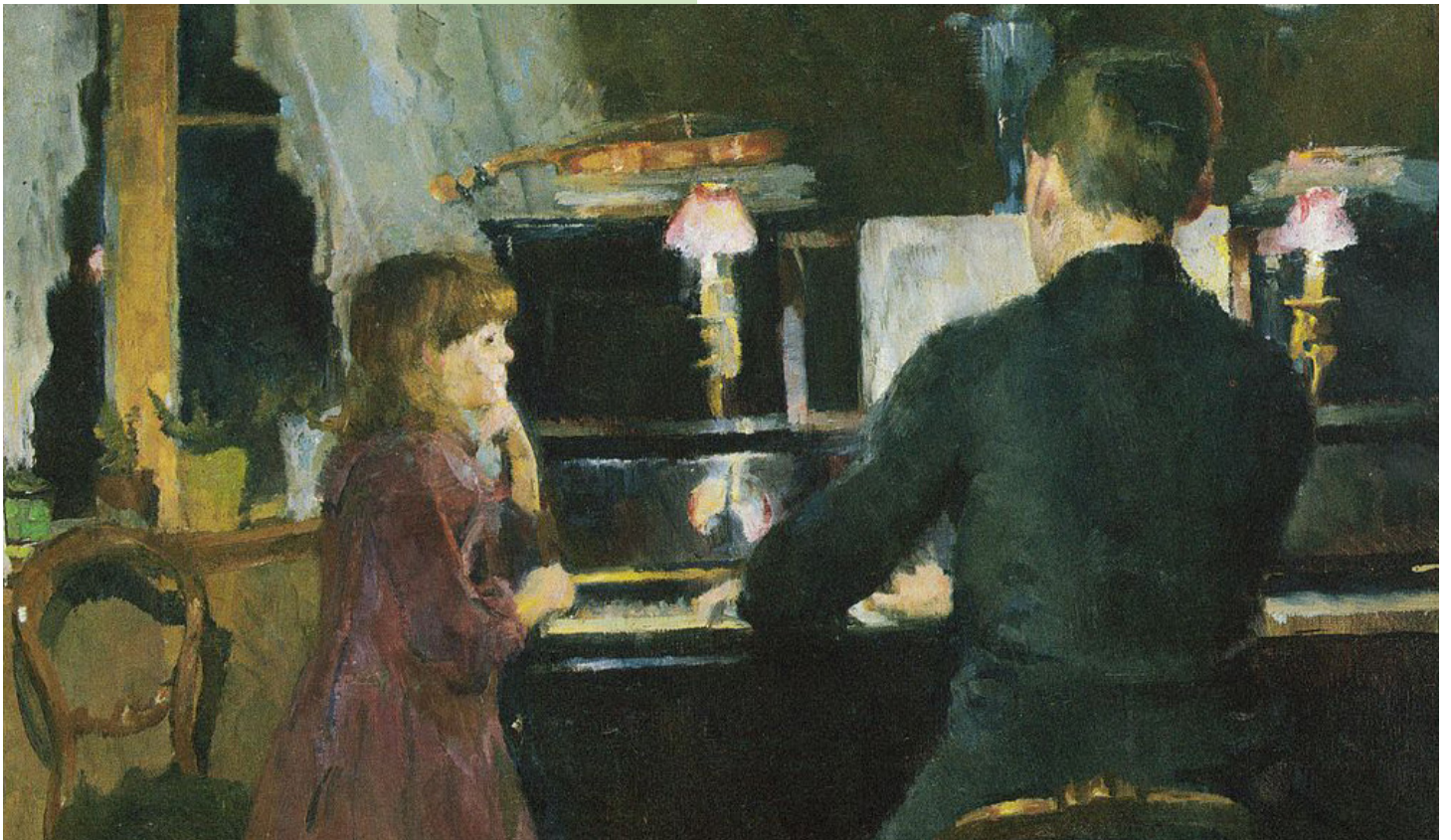
"It is a spiritual adventure, in which enthusiasm holds the balance between the known and the unknown; for enthusiasm is the searchlight which illumines not only the familiar paths, but which lights up the vistas of the yet untrodden ways.

"Indeed, here is the crux of the whole matter:

"Our old methods stand condemned, if for no other reason than for their failure to foster the precious element of enthusiasm. Lacking that, people will tolerate only the familiar, will resent strange harmonies and unexpected twists of melody, and will continue to act on the assumption that all music should flow in one mould...."

The Enjoyment of Music by Arthur W. Pollitt 1921

Art credit: Big Brother Playing by Harriet Backer



--**For a number of reasons**, I have been doing my own little research into ADHD. It's definitely a real thing and a lot of people are greatly benefited by medications. But medications have their own set of complications with long term use, so I was curious about other treatments.

As I started to look at other treatments, they very much aligned with what we are doing here through WEH. Do your own Google search of the use of Art and Music and ADHD. And guess what the recommendations were for children after school? Get out in nature and play!

And it talked about the benefits of listening to audio books vs. reading the printed words and how it increased



Art credit: The Garden Gate by Monet

(Marlene's Musings cont.) comprehension. Although, sustained attention at the beginning is a problem, so guess what the suggested solution was--storytelling!

Specifically, it outlined what I had learned about the Art of Storytelling where you remove the extra details and move the storyline along to the expected conclusion. It helps increase and sustain attention.

ADHD is real...but it sounds like the things we are doing here are valid and effective means of treating it. Which isn't surprising--all of these activities increase the release of dopamine which is what the ADHD brain craves.

I'll provide some links to some of the articles I found when I get a chance, but they are easy to find.

--I try and be an active voice in this group, but life makes me step away for a little while from time to time. And I notice, every time that happens, the conversation here drifts towards a variety of topics as well as curriculum and academic

concerns. Which is understandable--it is the 'rhythm' of learning and rhythm is a powerful beat.

As our group grows, it becomes more challenging on keeping our focus which is learning to use the arts to teach the hearts of our children--and probably more importantly, ourselves.

It is also challenging because of that inner craving to stay 'in control' and to have to not think too much. So, many moms will resort to packaged curriculum because it seems so much easier.

This method requires that you allow far more freedom in learning than we're used to and also requires you to create new neural pathways that enable you to see learning through new eyes. That takes time and effort, although direction is far more important than speed. This WEH path is frustrating and overwhelming to many. I'm not going to place guilt on anyone. I'll just continue to invite to another way, which you will discover is much simpler and easier than what many of you are doing.

I'm reading an old book called *The Enjoyment of Music* and I underlined this because it applies to our journey here:

"...we cannot do more than open the gate, and indicate the path. It must be trodden individually and conscientiously, for there is no 'royal road' to the desired goal. It is quite impossible for the writer to furnish the reader with a species of mental yard-stick with which to measure good [learning]. The qualities that make for greatness...are beyond description."

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(Marlene's Musings cont.) I do have several things I continue to work on that I hope will be helpful for those of you who want to walk this path. This is a layered approach, so don't beat yourself up if you're just starting out. It is a journey and a not a destination. Keep doing whatever is working and make gradual changes as they make sense to you. The important thing is to keep that gate open to keep learning.

And by the way--my 'life' things are all good! We got to see a granddaughter get baptized. And my daughter Sara, who many of you know through her design talents of My Book of Delights, is getting married on Friday and we've been here in Utah enjoying family activities. And we'll be helping another daughter move her family back east next week as her husband begins a new chapter in their lives, having just earned his PhD.

So I may not be here as much as usual for a little longer, but my thoughts--and prayers--are always with you.

**"YOU CAN LIVE MORE
ON LESS WHEN
YOU HAVE MORE
TO LIVE FOR."**

--Sterling Sill

Art credit: Good Morning
by Freidrich Eduard Meyerheim



MOI IN ACTION

"It wasn't until I actually made some friends... and started to feed my own heart that my life started to change."
-Lindsey

Mother love works magic for humanity, but organized mother love works miracles.

Mothers of Influence can help you:

- Catch the Vision of the Well-Educated Heart
- Connect hearts to the Arts
- Cultivate Unity
- and be a Creative force for good

Visit the [MOI website](#) to see how you can get started. The GrandMOIs would love to help.