

HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

Libraries of Hope Newsletter

“SO RELAX. ENJOY WHAT YOU ARE LEARNING. IF IT’S A LITTLE, ENJOY IT. IF IT’S A LOT, ENJOY IT. AND NO MATTER WHAT, KNOW THAT YOU CAN COME BACK FOR MORE ANY TIME YOU WANT.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

I love fresh beginnings and a chance to open a new chapter.

January topics include a deeper look at the American Revolution. We’ve been talking about it for a few months now. If you have not yet listened to or read the story of Lafayette, do yourself a favor and add it to the top of the list this round. It is in the Freedom Series or an audio version created by my friend, Bill Norton, is in fcbelmonde.com

Lafayette ties us back to our study of France. They, too, were experiencing a Revolution. But with different results. It’s not just the form of government...it’s the hearts of the people that matters most.

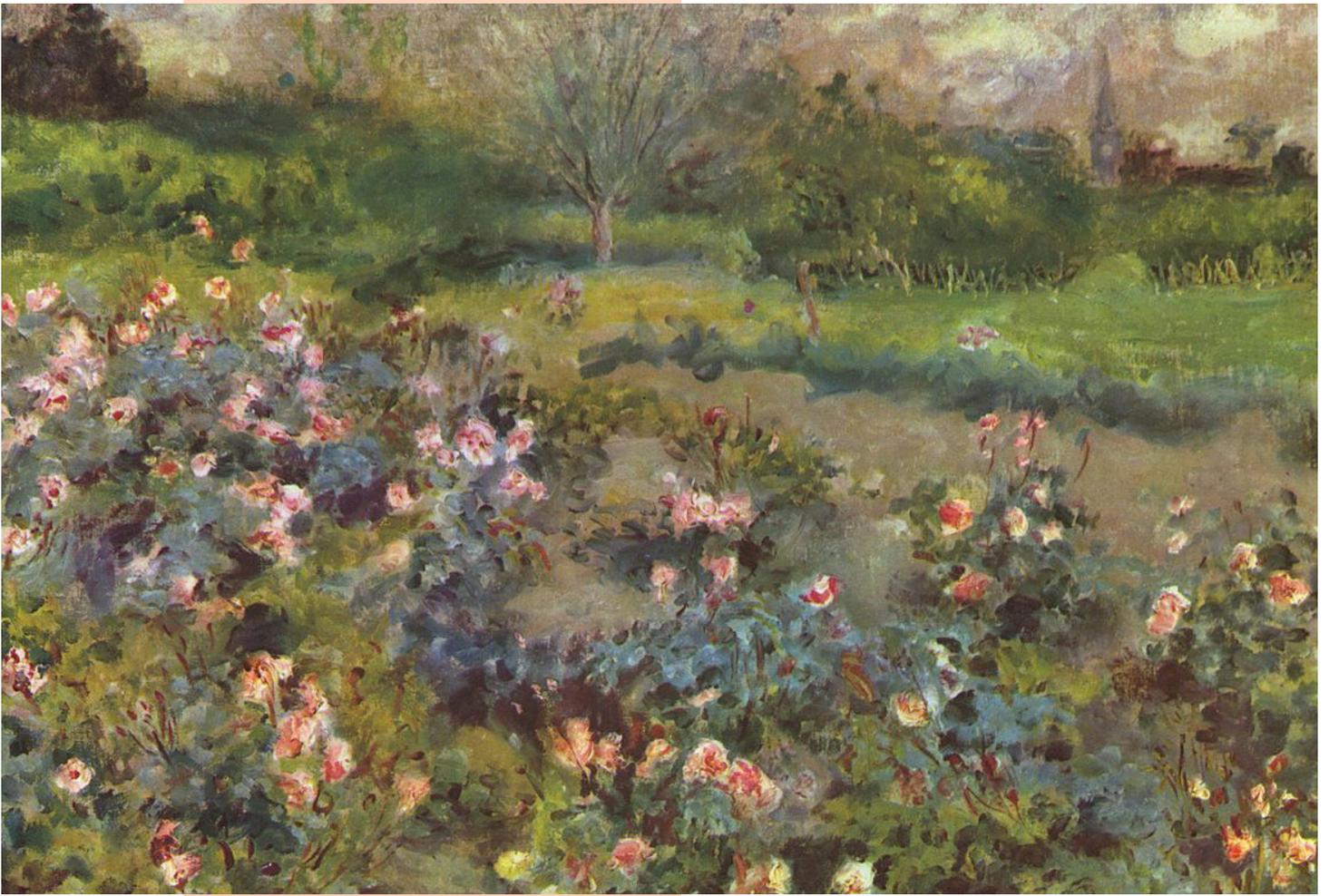
I connected a study of Switzerland because they, too, were a freedom loving people and had to be freed from French rule and have their independence declared.

Canada is also a possible choice of study as the French were the first Europeans to make claims there.

As December is such a full month, I have carried over a study of Plants and Trees and added a month of Gardening. If you wait until spring to plan your garden, you are too late. January is the perfect time to start making plans. Our Mother’s University topic is Poetry.

Remember--there is no ‘getting behind’ with this way of learning. It is better to plant one seed of understanding than none. And even one seed can bear good fruit. So just keep planting seeds and adding more as you keep moving through the Rotation.

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Art credit: Rose Garden by Pierre-Auguste Renoir

(Announcements cont.) --**We just finished creating** a Forgotten Classics Family Library master list of all the books that went into the creation of this library. We will post it in the footer in librariesofhope.com for easy reference or you can print them out. They are organized by [title](#) or by [author](#).

I have never seen the tally before--our Forgotten Classics Family Library includes parts of 761 books! Of those books, 299 are included in their entirety.

The reason our books are so big is because we tried to cram as much in each volume as we could to keep the cost of the library down.

To teach you principles of WEH without offering you stories and books that are full of the nutrients and elements recommended by the heart educators would be to give you a hope without a means of accomplishing it.

And these stories are meant to offer hope. When I first started compiling them almost 20 years ago, I had a sense they would be needed. But I couldn't have imagined what I am seeing now. This Library of Hope is meant to preserve a culture of Faith, Family and Freedom and a love of the good, the true and the beautiful.

It has been a labor of love. Many of these books yielded just one story, after perusing all the other stories. But I always looked for the gold. Other books yielded many stories that are scattered throughout the library. I didn't reference every book they are found in--that would be too unwieldy. But if you look at copyright/reference pages, it will tell you which books the stories came from.

I always looked for the best of the best. I searched for and noted and always looked for the recommendations of the heart educators. And, thanks to the creation of Internet Archive, we all have access to these treasures.

WEH has always been concerned with educating eternal souls. The tragedy would be if we neglect to take advantage of what they gave us.

(Announcements cont.) --NEW MONTH 6 BOOKS

My Fine Art Story Book offers, among other things, a look at Christian symbols in paintings and an understanding of the Madonna paintings to go along with the Month 6 topic of the Holy Land.

Classic Lit for Young Readers:

Stories from the Old Testament Told to the Children by Louey Chisholm

Stories from the Life of Christ Told to the Children by Janet Kelman

Sarah Bolton Famous Lives: *Famous American Statesmen* and *How Success is Won*

Appreciation Series:

Includes several books to deepen music appreciation:

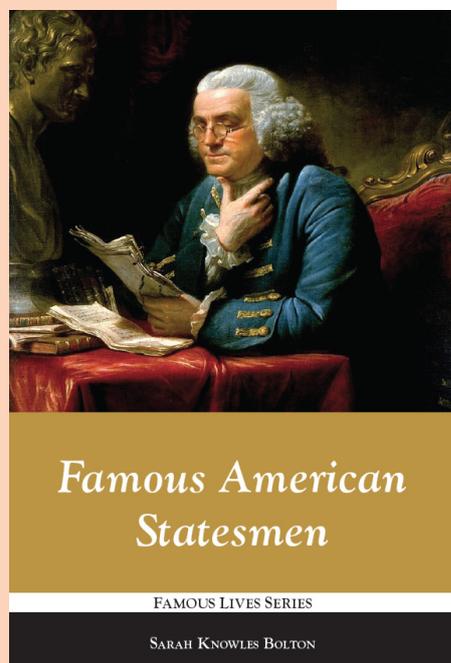
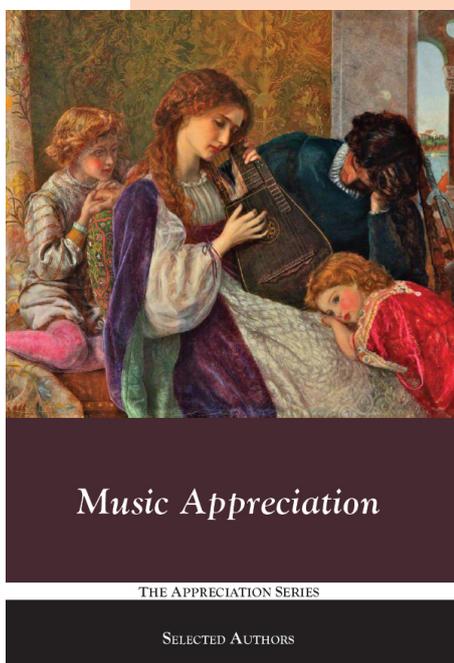
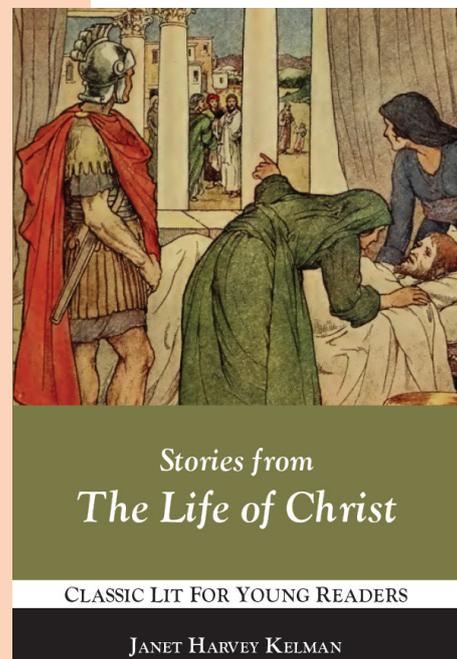
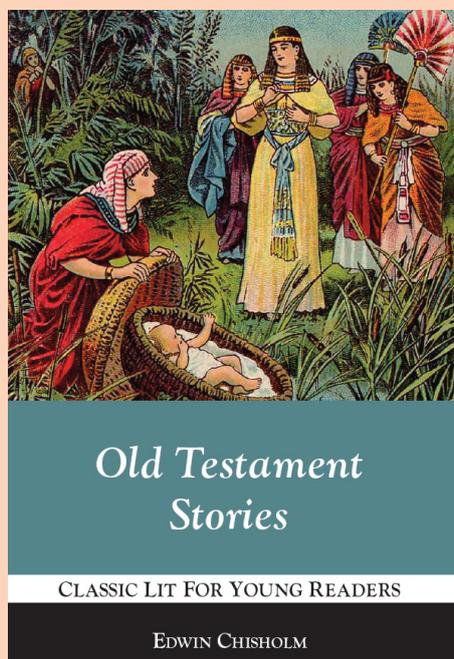
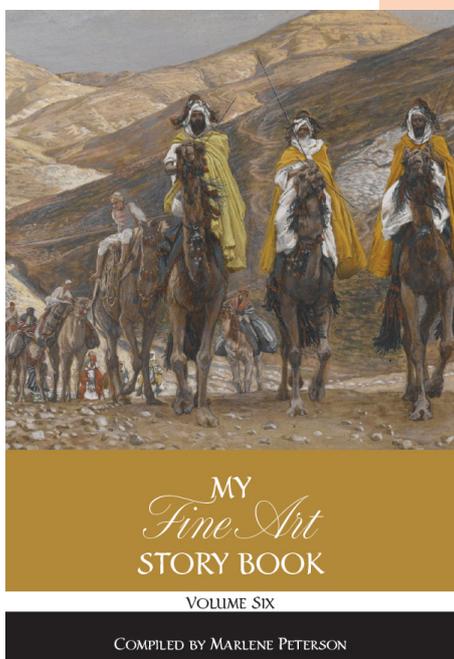
The Music-Lover by Henry Van Dyke

Music in the Home by Anne Oberndorfer

The Enjoyment of Music by Arthur W. Pollitt

Some Famous Symphonies and How to Understand Them by John Fielder Porte

Founders of Music by Hannah Smith



(Announcements cont.) --MOI COMMUNITY AND SPECIAL GUESTS

There are now close to 1000 moms who have joined our Mothers of Influence community in Mighty Networks. This gives us a chance to connect off of Facebook and to dive deeper into what you are learning through the Well-Educated Heart. Everyone is invited to join, but there is a requirement. Just like you have pre-req classes in University studies that you must complete before taking upper level classes, we ask that you complete the 17-hour Catch the Vision intro course at librariesofhope.com. (If you are still in the old website, you are missing out on some important presentations that have been added.) The course is free. In one of the final video presentations, you are given instructions on how to join the Community.

One of the things offered there are special guest presenters who come and teach us something that has to do with that month's Mother's University topic. Here are some of the upcoming presenters:

Donna Nielsen will join us on January 11. She is the author of [Beloved Bridegroom](#). She was an Education Specialist for the BYU Shakespeare Fellowship for many years and has spoken to over 50,000 kids and teachers about Shakespeare and Elizabethan History, including programs in Cedar City for the Shakespearean festival. She holds a Ph.D. in Early Christian Studies and Iconography. She is a beautiful example of a lifelong learner.

Christine Owens will join us on January 18 to do a workshop on helping our kids fall in love with poetry. She is the author of *A Year of Poetry Tea Time*, *Relaxed Homeschooling*, and the founder of the International Homeschooling Poetry Contest.

Patti Rockus will be joining us in our Storytelling month in February. Being outside used to be about the trees, sky and critters, but now it's all about rocks, because they tell stories, which can be seen in her internationally published books and viral videos. Children and adults all over the world are recreating her art with stones and pebble of their own—deepening their connections to God and finding peace in our busy world.

We hope you will join us in our MOI community!

--A mom in our group emailed me this little excerpt from a book she is reading and it is too good to not pass along. This is what adding the arts and beauty into our lives can do for us!

The book is called [Vegetables Love Flowers](#) by Lisa Mason Ziegler.

“Because I planted flowers on such a grand scale, it was impossible not to notice all the good things the flowers were bringing to the table. It felt as though nature hit me right between the eyes with all it had to offer. I had expected a

Art credit: Frieze of Eight Women Gathering Apples by Edward Burne-Jones





Art credit: *Afternoon in the Garden* by Myles Birket Foster

(*Announcements cont.*) harvest of beautiful blossoms but never dreamed they were also the key to healing my garden, bringing in entertainment, and making gardening easier! The garden grew with less help from me with each passing season.

“... I’ve learned that the benefits of flowers in the vegetable garden often haven’t been given a chance to develop. Perhaps a large vegetable patch only had a small corner for flowers. Perhaps deadly pesticides were being used. Perhaps flowers were planted in such a way that blossoms were present only sporadically throughout the growing season. These factors may cause the benefits to either vanish or just limp along. Adding a balance of blooming flowers to vegetables gives nature a chance to develop into something, and that something is spectacular!

“I continue to grow both vegetables and flowers, hand in hand, sharing the same spaces. As I witness nature at work in my garden, it has become easier to walk away from pest problems. All the energy I had been using to resolve problems is now focused on learning more about how to help the garden in order to prevent problems.

“Adding flowers to the vegetable patch and following nature’s lead is not a magic bullet. It will not fix your garden problems overnight, but it will heal a garden over time.”

--I have a question for you.

Have you ever gone out in a meadow and picked a bouquet of wildflowers?

Or walked by the seashore and picked up seashells?

Or collected rocks out in the desert?

Did you go home and kick yourself because you didn’t get them all? That you left some behind?

Or did you enjoy the ones you gathered?

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(Announcements cont.) So why, as you move through the rotation, do you keep expressing regret that you ‘didn’t cover it all’? That you left something ‘undone?’

Do you realize that when you get to the end of your life, you will maybe have gathered a cup full of water out of the ocean of knowledge? That may even be generous. Maybe a tsp by comparison. You are always going to leave something behind. There is no end to learning! Louis Agassiz could spend weeks of delightful contemplation on a single scale of a fish.

So relax. Enjoy what you are learning. If it’s a little, enjoy it. If it’s a lot, enjoy it. And no matter what, know that you can come back for more any time you want.

You can never get ‘behind’ in this way of learning. It’s about loving--paying attention--to whatever it is you are learning in the moment.



“The inner reality creates the outer form.”

Or as expressed in Luke: A good man out of the good treasure of his heart
bringeth forth that which is good.”

The pattern is inside-out; not outside-in. This is why we focus on tending our hearts.

Art credit: Im Rosengarten by Alois Kalvoda