

HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

Libraries of Hope Newsletter

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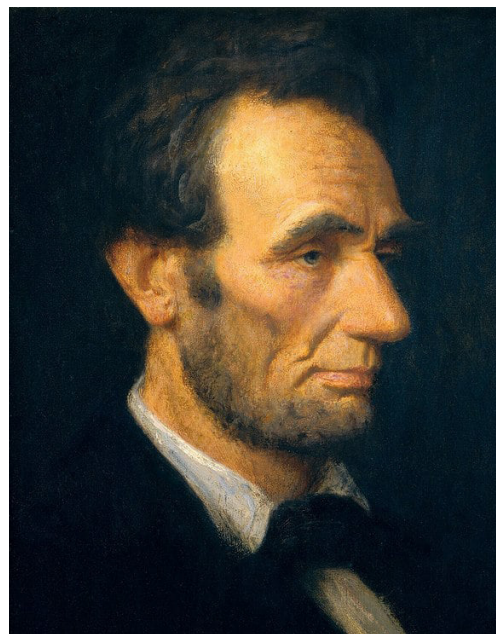
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MONTHLY TOPIC

ABRAHAM LINCOLN:

--**From a member** of the FB group: We learned about the Gettysburg Address today. Lincoln was to follow an accomplished orator who spoke for two hours and received thunderous applause. Lincoln’s speech appeared to be quickly written on a scrap piece of paper. It lasted two minutes. When he sat down, many felt the speech was a failure. It wasn’t what they expected. However, when they went back and read it later, they all agreed it was a masterpiece. It has held up through the test of time as one of the greatest speeches ever given. Maybe we put too much weight on well planned out, fancy moments and too little weight on the quick scribbblings of a few inspired thoughts. Maybe we are too hard on ourselves when our efforts don’t receive thunderous applause, when really we are busy crafting our own Gettysburg moments. I love Abraham Lincoln!

“GREAT IS THE WORK
BEFORE US!”



“I don’t like that man.
I must get to know
him better.

--Abraham Lincoln

Art credit: Portrait of Abraham Lincoln
by Douglas Volk

(Monthly Topic cont.) AFRICAN-AMERICANS:

--A look at the influence of African-American spirituals on Dvorak's New World Symphony, one of my favorite pieces of music: http://youtu.be.5natubzBt_A

--In line with this month's topic of African-Americans and slavery, I really enjoyed this book: [*Chariot in the Sky, the Story of the Jubilee Singers*](#) by Arna Bontemps. It's the story of a young boy's journey from slavery to freedom, written for children as young as 9 years old. Very inspiring. It's a 1951 book, but has been republished if you want a hard copy. But it can also be borrowed in Internet Archive.

HISTORY:

--"So precisely suited is the story-telling method to the teaching of history that we can say that children cannot acquire a right knowledge of history in any other way. It is the way in which all history was once taught--and taught so that it was never forgotten.

-Emelyn Partridge

--"To children chronology is without meaning... Of vastly greater importance in the education of children than chronological sequence is psychological sequence. In the earlier years of a child's study of history, events should be presented to him in the order in which he is able to apperceive them, rather than in the order of occurrence.



Art credit: Horatius by Fyodor Bronnikov

"Myths are the beginnings of history, and should be presented to the child when his imagination is vivid enough to absorb without a shock the marvels of mythology merely as stories, and when his appetite is keen for all marvels." -Louise Maitland

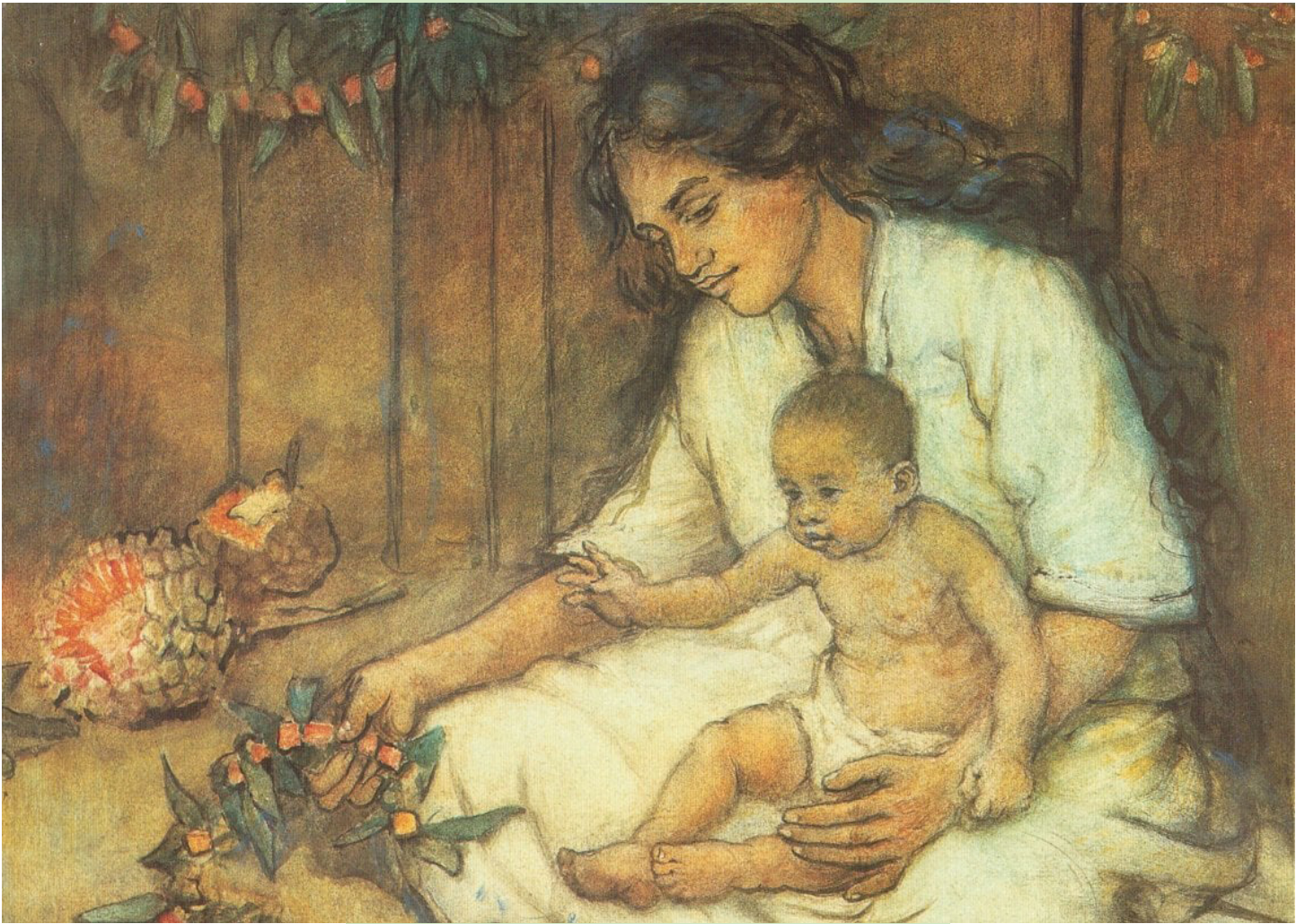
This is one of the underlying ideas to the rotation schedule. It is our adult minds that want to fit everything in chronologically from the very beginning, but if you will first layer in the wonder stories, myths and fairy tales of



Art credit: Virgil Reading the Aeneid by Angelica Kauffmann

each nation, which is facilitated by the rotation schedule I have presented, you will be providing building blocks for the soul and not just for the mind.

--"Of what use to mankind is a land that is rich in bank stocks and poor in brain power? Or one that has cheap transportation and cheap thoughts? Shall we boast of a country that can supply the world with coal and gold but cannot add to its art, its literature, or its religious ideals? ... [L]et us see to it that the priceless efforts



Art credit: Hawaiian Mother and Child by Charles Bartlett

(*Monthly Topic cont.*) of childhood, priceless because they mean the development of inner power, are never ridiculed or discouraged, nor set aside as worthless, but, rather, that they shall be encouraged... God never meant that any human life should be a failure. And could we carry true mother-love to all humanity no life need be a failure.

“Great is the work before us!”

(*How Shall We Best Conserve Our Nations Moral Forces*, An address delivered before the National Congress of Mothers by Elizabeth Harrison, June 12, 1910.)

WEH IN ACTION

--**My husband is not** a reader. At all. His mind goes on so many tangents as he imagines books that it takes him forever to get through a couple pages and he just doesn't enjoy it. We always joke that our kids have to pick picture books short enough for Daddy to read aloud. But for real, that's a thing...

We got an illustrated version of *The Hobbit* from Santa and when I suggested I read it aloud to everyone, he opted in. So three nights a week,

I read it at the dinner table or snuggled up in our bed. We finished in a couple months and everyone loved it. Especially my Gollum voice!

We decided to keep going and start the next book in the series. That night, the baby was fussing and I couldn't read aloud and so my husband picked up the novel and read that night. Then the next night when it was time to read again, he grabbed it and started reading...and was doing voices for hobbits and

Gandalf. And I couldn't help but smile. I asked him if he wanted to read the whole book to us and he said maybe and that he'll do it for awhile, at least until we are into the story. A long time ago, I gave up on the idea of family read aloud time with everyone present, let alone my husband reading any portion of a lengthy novel to our kids.

Just remember that what you once thought would be impossible can become your reality. Just keep

(WEH in Action cont.) sowing those seeds. Be patient. Love your family where they are at. Appeal to their interests and passions. Warm your own heart and let them come when they are ready. And maybe one day they will surprise you.

--At the beginning of the year I wrote on here to get some direction and unload my experience with homeschooling my kids while I took care of my mother recovering from a brain tumor and daily radiation for 13 weeks. My kids were quizzed and evaluated. I decided to take it as curiosity.

And I'm here to say I'm glad I didn't push family away and I chose to endure. I let my kids and what we were doing speak for themselves. I kept doing what I felt was right and over the past three months I saw a change in heart from all the "nay sayers" worried I wasn't teaching enough. I received confidence that we are doing good with our children's education and overall development. Even wishes that other family members could learn as much. I have cemented that I can do difficult things and trust my instincts. And we've developed our relationships stronger among family members. In someways I wish the experience wasn't over.

Thank you for your examples. I'm here to say it's a long road and we all have much to learn -- our hearts won't lead us astray. Let's keep supporting each other on this journey.

(Also my mother is still ill but able to do much on her own and is a great example of enduring her own trials well.)

--The choice to homeschool this little guy has been life changing for both of us. 6 months ago he had no confidence, was deeply struggling and threatening self harm (at 6 years old!!!). I was struggling with the decision and this group helped to give me the confidence to make the jump. Best decision ever. Experiences like this would never be possible with the confinements of public school. He is now happy, confident and excited for the future. So thank you.

--Oh happy day! In my WEH studies I keep reading/hearing about trusting the process. That's so hard for me to do, but I try. Today I was rewarded for my trying to trust. My 13-year-old who has always had a dislike for work surprised me. I found her sitting at the table with Greek books from LOH, Iliad/Odyssey book, Delphian book 2, and other similar books. She's been reading Percy Jackson Lightning Thief and it made her interested in Greek myths. So she just started looking on her own and making connections. While it may seem small to some, it is so very huge for me. It may or may not continue, but it's a great start. My heart is overflowing with gratitude right now!

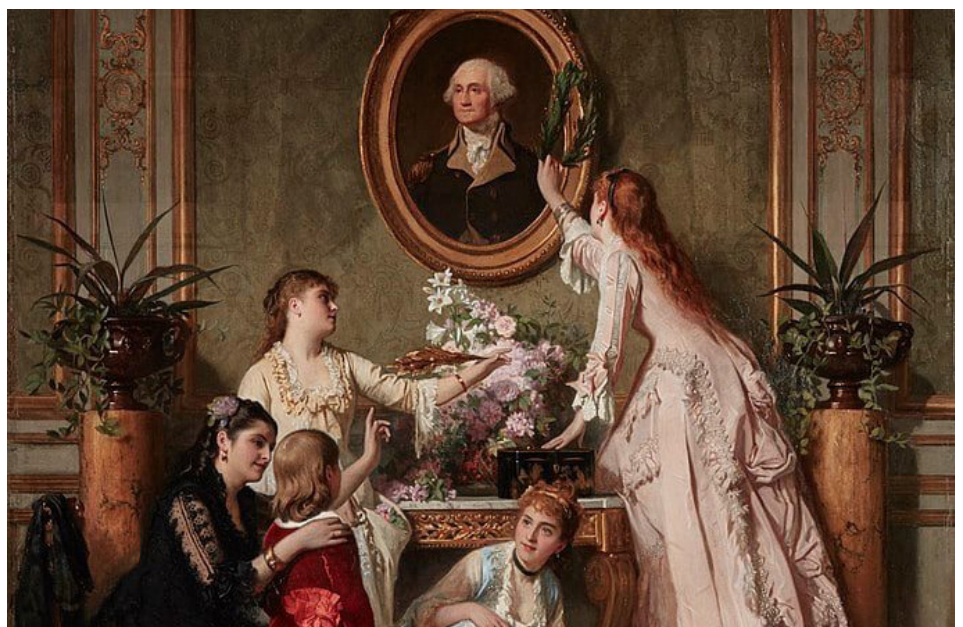
WEH GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

[A Positive Africa](#) -- YouTube video.

“There is hope for the nation that reveres the memories of its noblest leaders.”

--Fanny Coe

Art credit: Washington's Birthday
by Charles Bagniet



MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--From time to time, I share dreams with you that I believe pertain to you. I want to share a vivid dream I had--

In my dream, I had a sense that it was a dangerous time, but as I sat in my house, I heard a church bell chiming. I have always loved church bells -- they comfort me -- and I looked out my window and saw the bell was right across the street and I wondered why I had never seen it before and as I looked down the street, I saw beautiful church buildings of all different faiths and felt safe. So I ventured outside and just on the other side of the house next to me was a plaza full of statues of great people. And again -- I wondered why I had never seen these. But I was immediately drawn to them and the plaza was full of people, so I felt safe as I went from statue to statue, reading their names -- none of which I recognized, but knew they had done great things and I felt inspired by being with them.

And then a man came up to me and told me to come with him. He clearly knew who I was, but I was afraid to go with him because I didn't want to be isolated from others and I had no idea who he was. He said he needed to show me what he had learned -- something about people coming out of slavery and bondage.

He rushed ahead of me, but I followed and he took me to a large building -- I had a sense of a type of school building with large windows on the front. And I went up a staircase and found him in a large auditorium filled with empty seats. He was sitting in the back of the room and had a projector and a screen set up. And he motioned for me to sit anywhere, so I did.

And then, suddenly, children came pouring into the room, in an orderly manner. First the back rows were filled with children from one nationality and language. And then children from another nationality and language and so forth until the whole auditorium was filled. And they were happy and eager to be there. And I wondered how they could all watch this presentation because they all spoke different languages.

I remember how loving they were. I only remember girls -- the one in front of me wanted me to braid her hair and another came and crawled up on my lap and put her arms around me.

And then the movie started and I again wondered how they would understand, having so many backgrounds and languages. But the movie was full of music and beautiful images and they were understanding -- it was a language that spoke deeper than words.

And then a page came up with symbols across the top of the page. And I somehow understood I was seeing a story of the world through symbols. And man fought against man until the very last symbol. And the words kept repeating through my mind: *And their hearts were knit together in love. And their hearts were knit together in love. And their hearts were knit together in love.*

And I woke up with tears on my face.

I am still pondering this dream. But I share it only because I believe we are engaged in an extraordinary work, this awakening the hearts of our children through the arts. The arts are what will bridge our differences and have the power to knit our hearts together in love.

Did you know the definition of barbarism in the 1828 dictionary is ignorance of the arts?

And the definition of civilization is knowledge of the arts?

When the world is falling apart, it has always been the arts that saves it.

Think about that....


MOI MINUTE

We always say that there are many ways to MOI. I love the contrast of these two approaches -- and they're both perfect.

Gillian Gillespie Turek posted on the WEH Facebook page:

"I started a group with just two friends about 6 weeks ago. Neither one of them homeschool. It has been such a blessing to all of us! I was nervous to start but the Lord told me to so I did ha ha! It's been incredible. So to anyone who wants a group just grab a friend or two and just start! It's totally worth it!"

Marci Loveless reached out to several women in her community and had over 25 women respond. She said that was a little overwhelming but emphasized to her how many women are needing something like MOI in their lives. Over the past few months it has settled into a much more manageable number. This is the note Marcy sent to her friends:

 **Marcy Loveless**
Jan 14 · 🌐

I have had such a strong desire to start something but I have found myself waiting for that "perfect" moment when I can sit down and really think about this post.

Well, that perfect moment never comes in a life of a busy mom, so here I am in my car just going for it. 😂😂

I am wanting to start what is called a Mother's Of Influence (MOI) group here in Price. A MOI group is a group of mothers who gathers monthly to discuss certain topics/books that feeds and caters to your heart and the hearts of your family.

Why?

Confucius said this

DEEPER ROOTS
To put the world in order,
we must first put the nation in order;
To put the nation in order,
we must first put the family in order;
To put the family in order,
we must first cultivate our personal life;
We must first set our hearts right.


Many of you know that we homeschool our 5 boys and our focus has gone from an academic/mind education to a heart education. It has changed me and my family. I feel so much peace in this world of chaos. I find great moments of joy as I learn more and more about heart education.

You DO NOT need to be a homeschooler to do this. This is an invite for all moms to implement a more heart education in their home.

"Mother-love works magic for humanity, but organized mother-love works miracles."
Frances Willard

If you would like to join or are interested, please let me know. The books we read and discuss are a different topic each month from poetry, nature, storytelling etc. They are free digitally online, and very affordable if you want to buy a hard copy.

Let me know if this is something you would be interested in. Here is a website that is so inspiring that shares the greater vision of what MOI is.



MOTHERSOFINFLUENCE.ORG
Home | Mothers of Influence

👍❤️ 27 78 Comments 1 Share

MOI is simply another way to gather more light into your life and it's magnified when we do it together. Jen and I would love to help you...whatever your way to MOI. Email us at hello@mothersofinfluence.org.

Love, Marley

**"WOMEN FORGET HOW MUCH WE CAN INSPIRE ONE ANOTHER.
NO ONE UNDERSTANDS US LIKE US."
--ALEX ELLE**

THE AMBULANCE DOWN IN THE VALLEY

BY JOSEPH MALINS

‘Twas a dangerous cliff, as they freely confessed,
Though to walk near its crest was so pleasant;
But over its terrible edge there had slipped
A duke and full many a peasant.
So the people said something would have to be done,
But their projects did not at all tally;
Some said, “Put a fence ’round the edge of the cliff,”
Some, “An ambulance down in the valley.”

But the cry for the ambulance carried the day,
For it spread through the neighboring city;
A fence may be useful or not, it is true,
But each heart became full of pity
For those who slipped over the dangerous cliff;
And the dwellers in highway and alley
Gave pounds and gave pence, not to put up a fence,
But an ambulance down in the valley.

“For the cliff is all right, if you’re careful,” they said,
“And, if folks even slip and are dropping,
It isn’t the slipping that hurts them so much
As the shock down below when they’re stopping.”
So day after day, as these mishaps occurred,
Quick forth would those rescuers sally
To pick up the victims who fell off the cliff,
With their ambulance down in the valley.

Then an old sage remarked: “It’s a marvel to me
That people give far more attention
To repairing results than to stopping the cause,
When they’d much better aim at prevention.
Let us stop at its source all this mischief,” cried he,
“Come, neighbors and friends, let us rally;
If the cliff we will fence, we might almost dispense
With the ambulance down in the valley.”

“Oh he’s a fanatic,” the others rejoined,
“Dispense with the ambulance? Never!
He’d dispense with all charities, too, if he could;
No! No! We’ll support them forever.
Aren’t we picking up folks just as fast as they fall?
And shall this man dictate to us? Shall he?
Why should people of sense stop to put up a fence,
While the ambulance works in the valley?”

But the sensible few, who are practical too,
Will not bear with such nonsense much longer;
They believe that prevention is better than cure,
And their party will soon be the stronger.
Encourage them then, with your purse, voice, and
pen,

And while other philanthropists dally,
They will scorn all pretense, and put up a stout fence
On the cliff that hangs over the valley.

Better guide well the young than reclaim them when
old,
For the voice of true wisdom is calling.
“To rescue the fallen is good, but ’tis best
To prevent other people from falling.”
Better close up the source of temptation and crime
Than deliver from dungeon or galley;
Better put a strong fence ’round the top of the cliff
Than an ambulance down in the valley.



Art credit: On the Cliff by Charles Courtney Curran