

# HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

*Libraries of Hope Newsletter*

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“LIFE IS NOT A CUP  
TO BE DRAINED,  
BUT A VESSEL  
TO BE FILLED.”

--PRESIDENT HALLEY  
OF YALE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

--We are now entering the Merry Month of May—Month 9 in the rotation—and we are almost through a whole 'nother school year. Can you believe it?

This month, we turn our attention to the Civil War. If you have little ones, do feel free to continue studying Month 7 topics. There’s a lot there to draw from in the study of Native Americans and pioneers and so many new innovations of 19th Century America. The Civil War is a pretty heavy topic. One lesson I have learned in my studies is that there were good people on both sides of the question. There is no single story of why people fought. I have been inspired by studying the lives of both General Grant and General Lee, which leads to the connecting point of our study of Mexico and Latin American countries. Both Lee and Grant fought in our war with Mexico. I also tied in stories of California and Texas—Remember the Alamo!—because they were originally part of Mexico. Then just keep extending your studies southward into South America. It was more challenging to find public domain resources for this topic, but the more I dig, the more I have grown to love these peoples and the challenges they have faced.

You might be interested in checking out the new book on El Dorado that has been added to the Forgotten Classics library. All the native American tribes—north and south—knew of a legendary hero—a white bearded man—who taught them the peaceful arts of civilization and promised he would return. They mistook many of the early explorers as his return—with disastrous consequences.

We’ve run out of specific Nature topics, but you might want to use this month to explore the Human Body. I don’t have resources to share with you as I focus mainly on that in the public domain, but a quick search on the internet should yield a lot of fascinating possibilities.

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(Announcements cont.) Finally, in the Mother's University, we are taking a look at Language Arts. The next three months look at the Academic subjects I know you are all concerned about, in a heart-based approach.

Happy explorations!

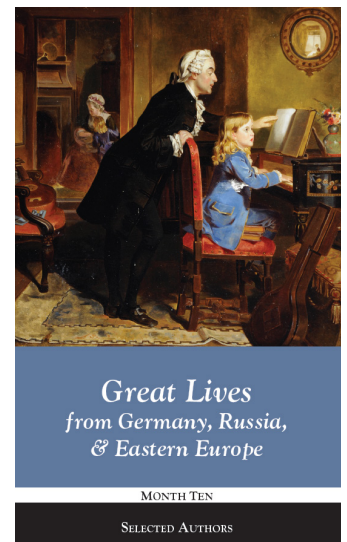
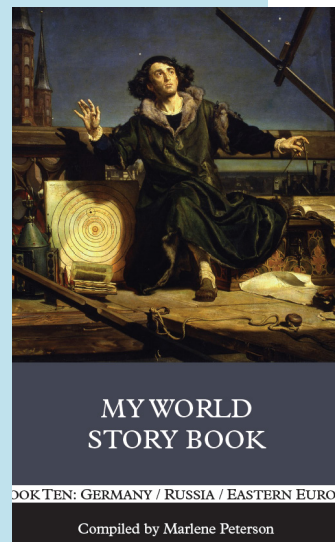
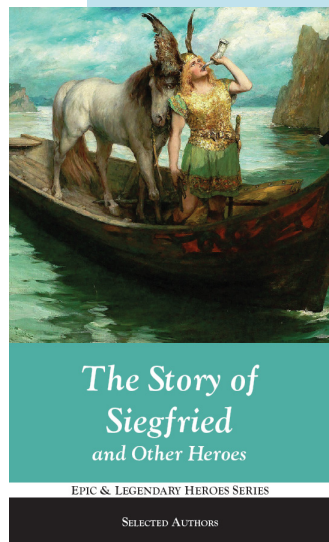
### --New Month 10 Books:

Imaginative Tales brings you a collection of Grimm's tales from Germany. A lot of their fairy tales are, well, grim. This particular collection I share was written for children without so many of the 'grim' elements. Remember—the fairy tales weren't originally written for children. As Germany has given us so many Imaginative tales, I decided to create a separate volume of Russian and Eastern European fairy tales which will be available next month.

Epic and Legendary Heroes Series offers you the story of Siegfried. I also found a short story of a Russian hero, which you'll find in the back of the book.

Great Lives by Rotation ended up offering you a lot of stories of the great Musicians. But you'll also learn about Martin Luther and the great Reformation which led to including the chapter from our study of different religions, "Had you Been Born a Protestant."

My World Story Book includes a lot of names of people you may have never heard of, but who will inspire and encourage you to do something great with your own life.



--You may have noticed several "subgroups" popping up. This is a new Facebook feature that we thought might be useful, so figured we'd give them a shot. We've created subgroups for subjects that are either routinely brought up (and thus might be useful for people to search through on that given topic), or which may not apply to the group as a whole. I believe you'll automatically be opted into each group (and so will see and receive notices about posts there), but you can mute any particular subgroup without leaving WEH as a whole. So, for example, if you don't homeschool and don't wish to see that subject matter, you can easily mute the Homeschool subgroup. (The one exception will be the Latter-day Saint group. If you want to see and receive notices about that group, you will need to ask to join it. Everyone is welcome to join, we just didn't want to make that a default for everyone.)

To make this a successful endeavor will require you all to try first to see if your post fits best in one of these categories and posting directly there. If it doesn't fit squarely into one of the categories, of course post it in the general group. You can always post in the general group if you're unsure. It's just that posting in the subgroups will help future people coming in to narrow their search efforts.

Like I said, it's new and we don't even know much about it yet. Let us know if you like them or hate them or if you have suggestions for how they could be better!

## WEH IN ACTION

--**I feel like someone** in this group needs to be reminded that what they are doing is enough. Don't be discouraged or compare yourself to anyone else. We are all on our own journey and our paths look very different. Just keep trying. Just keep loving. It's okay to take a break and take care of yourself. You are loved and valued and needed! You are wonderful just as you are right now!  
(JH 04.15.2022)

--**It was one of those** days yesterday. The negative thoughts just kept spiraling, really been going there all week. Well, I was on my way to an activity when I noticed the sunset was pretty spectacular with the sun's rays striking out behind the clouds. After that initial thought, my brain automatically went to, "but who cares?! Why do I even spend all this time stopping to enjoy beauty?" I was immediately struck with the thought, "Meghan!

I need you to stop and enjoy and appreciate the beauty! I need people to stop and see the work that I have done! I have placed so much goodness and beauty in the world for you to enjoy and how many stop to notice it and be in awe at My majesty and creations?"

When I got home, I opened my scriptures and "happened" to be here, Exodus 19:5. "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine."

I applied that as part of the covenant to have gratitude and notice His hand in all things. Sometimes I just need a little push and reminder apparently.

(ML 04.20.2022)

--**I actually never knew** how birds taught their babies to fly until I

watched some birds in my yard that had baby birds. The parents hop around the branches and get the baby bird used to it. Then the parents hop down a branch and guide the baby to hop. Then they fly back up a branch and encourage the baby to try flying up 1 branch. They do this for hours, getting further and further away in the tree. It's incredible.

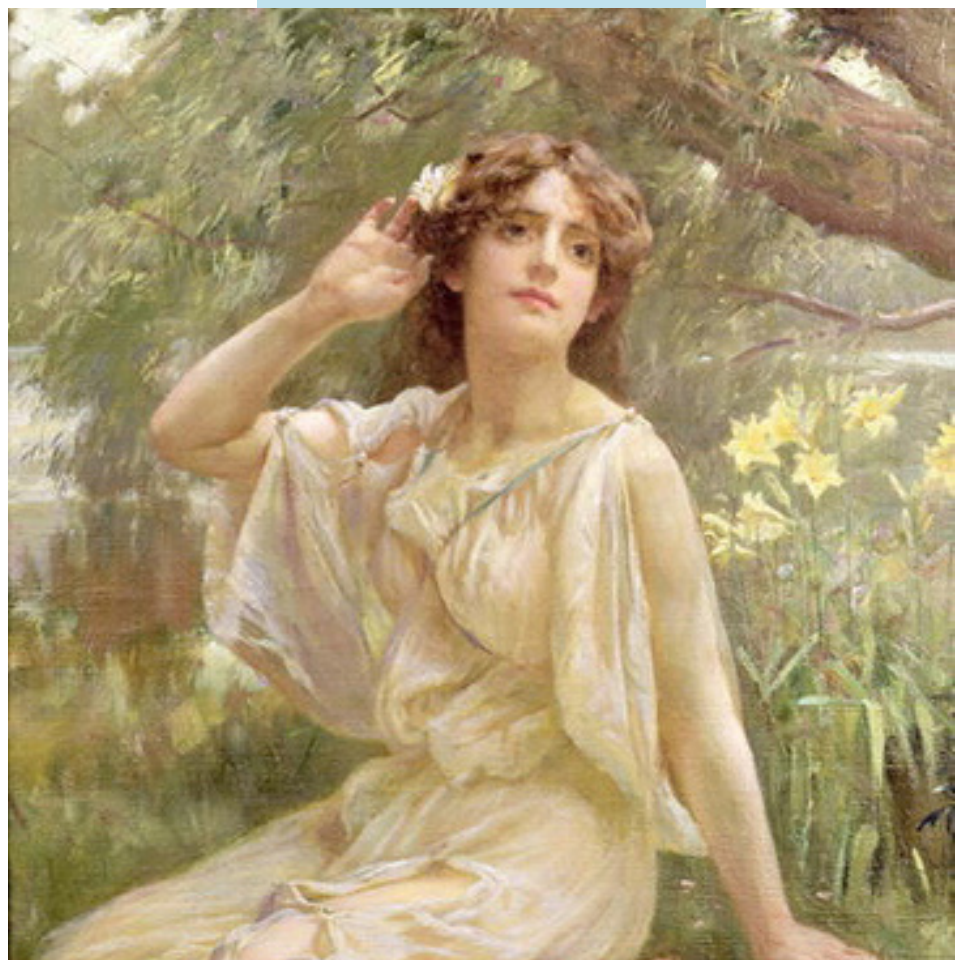
(EO 04.27.2022)

--**After reading the stories** of King Alfred in the Story Hour Great Lives book, we started listening to the Henty audio drama The Dragon and the Raven. As the story unfolded one of the characters laments that there weren't enough people who wanted to grab sword and shield to fight off the bloodthirsty Danes. My 9-year-old daughter was screaming from the backseat, "I'd go! I'd get my sword and fight those terrible Danes who want to kill the

**"IN THIS WORLD  
THERE ARE SO  
FEW VOICES AND  
SO MANY ECHOES."**

--Goethe

Art credit: Echo by Robert Payton Reid



(WEH in Action cont.) king and Christians!" I love seeing her inspired by all of these wonderful stories. So much better than any textbook could ever be. (AK 04.26.2022)

--**This was a comment buried** deep in a thread, but I thought maybe it might be helpful to others. It answers the question "Where to Start?"

First step is the videos on the homepage of [welleducatedheart.com](http://welleducatedheart.com) starting with the "Start Here" blue box. It will lead you to the Catch the Vision Course (I'd recommend starting with the online version) and sprinkle in some Take 5 (only five minute audios with easy implementation ideas).

While going through that intro course to understand the philosophy and tools available, my quick start guide would be start on the [librariesofhope.com](http://librariesofhope.com) website with the Forgotten Classics. Enjoy some art (My Book of Delights or Stories of Paintings), read some poetry (My Book of Delights or Poetry for the Well-Educated Heart), listen to some music (Symphony Stories is a good place to start), read a story or two (all my kids are loving the Imaginative Series) and go outside (explore, nature journal or read nature stories). Add some notebooking (kids just dictating or writing down themselves what they want to remember...what do they notice? Wonder about? Does it remind them of anything? Those questions can be applied to nature, art, music, poetry, or stories).

As you learn and cultivate your own heart, you'll find inspiration and ideas coming to you. And most of all...enJOY! (SL 04.01.2022)

--**We have been having fun** reading Animal Secrets Told in [this book](#). This week we read about mouths. A couple of my daughters tried shoving their mouths full like squirrels then trying to spit it out without using their hands (squirrels push the food out of their cheeks with their feet). Wasn't as easy as they thought it'd be! Today, it talked about how much humans use lips in communication, so we tried to say "lips" without moving our lips (like birds who don't have lips)...can't do it! And then went through the alphabet. We decided like Larry the Cucumber, we love our lips! (SL 04.20.2022)

--**My daughter asked if we could** dress up like pictures for art again because she wanted to do [this picture](#) we have hanging in our library. We've had this hanging for years and I never noticed she had a second book on her lap until my daughter grabbed two books. If you haven't tried this activity mentioned in the Take 5s, try it! Easy and fun! (SL 04.20.2022)

## WEH GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

--[Rescued by Ruby](#). SO, SO GOOD!! Definitely a heart movie!! Watched on Netflix. (JM 04.07.2022)

--Please add [Forty Autumns](#) to your books for Germany and the Cold War. I just finished it and it is fantastic. It is a true story and the mother is such an example of protecting her family. WEH principles are prolific throughout the book especially the need for nature in such a horrible time. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did! (SM 04.09.2022)

--We just finished reading [Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story](#), it was so very inspiring and beautiful! Dr. Ben Carson has a new book coming out and you can sign up to read the first chapter free! (JD 04.25.2022)

--Sharing this young man's [wonderful speech](#), he gave in 2019. I know most of us in here homeschool, but I think this might be a wonderful speech to share with those of you who have children who are high school aged. (MA 03.27.2022)

--I just started reading this book called [Nature, Love, Medicine](#). And it so beautifully describes what we believe here at WEH about nature! I highly recommend it! (BS 04.20.2022)

--I think this is way too cool not to share! [New Travel App](#) alerts you when you are coming to an area with historical significance. (KB 04.24.2022)

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(WEH Group Recommendations Cont.) --I have started a new project on [Librivox](#) to record one of the books in the Forgotten Classics: Ten Boys Who Lived on the Road from Long Ago to Now. This will be a solo project, but if it goes well, and Librivox lets me become a coordinator, I will be starting more collaborative projects on Librivox to record more of the Forgotten Classics. Many of the books in the FC are not on Librivox yet. This is a great way to contribute to the extremely valuable causes of both Librivox and the Well-Educated Heart.

If you haven't volunteered for Librivox before, I suggest you give it a try, and record a few chapters for collaborative books that need readers. That way you'll be ready when I start the collaborative projects to record some of the Forgotten Classics. (VN 04.21.2022)

--I would have never picked this book ([The Cruellest Mile](#) by Salisbury) up had not a fellow WEH sister recommended it on here. What an exciting and educating non-fiction novel! I was learning something fascinating with every page I turned! If you would like to learn about the Alaskan peoples, their history and culture, Alaskan geography, the tradition of dog sledding, the Great Serum Run, and the true heroes of the epidemic (more than just the famous Balto) READ this! And if you're not interested in those things--give it a try anyway because I didn't know I was! (AW 04.17.2022)



It is said that John Bunyan, during the years he was in jail, became so absorbed in some of the characters in 'Pilgrim's Progress' and was so often carried away with them, that he would often fall upon his knees and shed tears of joy in his ecstasies.

His imagination transformed his prison into a palace beautiful.

Art credit: In Bedford Jail  
by Alexander Johnston

## MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--As this group grows, we have become quite an eclectic group of women. Some of you are here because you are looking for homeschooling helps. Some are here because you are looking for wholesome resources. Some are here for connections. And some have no idea how they ended up here!

For whatever reason, I'm glad you are here. If you haven't visited the home site at [welleducatedheart.com](http://welleducatedheart.com), I invite you to do so and start with the orientation videos on the home page.

But do understand--while people of all faiths are welcome here, this is, at its very core, a faith-based group. I believe we may as well try to garden without sunshine as leave God out of our work and our discussions.

The journey to discover and know Him is personal. But to learn to see with 'spiritual' eyes the "Unseen" things of this world can be one of our greatest joys. It is seeing the "Unseen" things that is so much at the heart of WEH.

Jesus taught: "Blessed are the pure in HEART for they shall see God."

(Marlene's Musings Cont.) As we tend to our hearts, we do begin to see His fingerprints everywhere and hear His voice through the corridors of time.

I regularly quote a phrase found in Charlotte Mason's writings: "True education is between a child's soul and God." Teaching a child to love God is the most important earliest lesson. Love is the foundation of all learning. It is love that transforms us. It is love that "kindles the will" as Swedenborg taught, not knowledge alone.

"Prophecy and revelation  
tell of time to come  
when hearts will fail.  
Men will wander to and fro  
searching everywhere for God  
without success.  
Because they never learned  
to know Him.  
I wonder--  
will I need  
to search for Him?  
Or, at that time, will we be friends  
from long association  
of deep love?"  
(Dale Partridge)

I hope in some measure, some of the things you will learn here will help nurture that "long association of deep love." That is my greatest desire.

--**How will you know when** you have truly 'caught the vision' of a WEH lifestyle of learning in your home?

When learning is no longer something that 'burns you out' or that you need a break from; or where you can hardly



Art credit: Christ with Mary and Martha by Henryk Siemiadzki



Art credit: Children Painting Spring Flowers by Viggo Johansen

(Marlene's Musings cont.) wait for the school year to end.

To say that you need a break from this kind of learning is like saying you need to take a break from eating. Feeding our souls is as vital as feeding our bodies! And can be just as delicious.

Not there yet? It's OK! Just keep exploring and experimenting with the ideas. It's a journey, not a destination.

**BUT A WOMAN RAISING HER CHILDREN IS NOT ONLY SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION, SHE IS ALSO SHAPING LITTLE HUMANS WHO ARE GOING TO LIVE FOREVER. THE SOULS SHE GAVE BIRTH TO ARE IMMORTAL. IMMORTAL. AND SOMEHOW, OUR CULTURE LOOKS AT A WOMAN WHO TREATS THAT AS IF IT MIGHT BE AN IMPORTANT TASK AND SAYS, "IT'S A SHAME SHE'S WASTING HERSELF. SHE COULD BE DOING SOMETHING IMPORTANT--LIKE FILING PAPERWORK FOR INSURANCE CLAIMS."**

--Rebekah Merkle (Eve in Exile and the Restoration of Femininity)

## MOI IN ACTION

We had our regular Mothers of Influence meeting last night. I've been doing this for over 7 years but I still have all those fluttery feelings before it starts. Will anyone show up... Will too many people show up? Will they notice the ants hauling away cracker crumbs off the floor? Will we have enough to talk about together?

You know what ... it always turns out! It rarely goes the way I expect and the conversation always takes twists and turns, but I was thinking today after everyone said goodnight that MOI is like a little heart hospital. We do the usual things - we quote Marlene and trade book recommendations, but somewhere in the middle we drop some of our defenses and really start to share what's on our hearts. There are occasionally some tears but there's always some raucous laughter too! We love each other a little more because we were vulnerable. Our buckets are filled up again and we're ready to step back into our lives and keep on doing what we do.

Mothers of Influence can look a million different ways ...you'll know you've captured the spirit of MOI by the feeling. If you don't get it the first few tries ... don't give up! It takes practice and time to figure out what your group needs. Keep looking for opportunities to knit your hearts together and to connect through the arts.

**Have you had a chance to visit the Mothers of Influence website? Let us help you bring the feeling of MOI right to your neighborhood. You + one friend = A MOI Group. [www.mothersofinfluence.org](http://www.mothersofinfluence.org)**



Art credit: Two Girls with Needle-Work by Hans Andersen Brendekilde

**WE SHOULD STRIVE "TO KNOW SOMETHING  
OF EVERYTHING AND EVERYTHING OF SOMETHING."**

--Brougham