

# HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

*Libraries of Hope Newsletter*

“GOD HAS NOT GIVEN YOU A SPIRIT OF FEAR, BUT OF POWER, AND OF LOVE, AND OF A SOUND MIND. THOSE ARE THE GIFTS HE HAS GIVEN YOU.”

--HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of you! I love the New Year because it has the feel of the opportunity for new beginnings. Keep reading for some fun announcements of new offerings.

First, a word or two about the rotation:

1. WEH does not equal the rotation. WEH is a philosophy of learning and life. The rotation is simply a system--a layered approach to learning about the whole world and everything in it. But you can apply the principles of WEH without ever touching the rotation. You may even find yourself doing the rotation without every really touching WEH principles.

Having said that, all the resources I offer are organized around the rotation because it's a way to organize a LOT of resources. There is an advantage to following what the community is studying because then you can share ideas.

2. Even if you follow the rotation, everything in your day does not have to 'plug in' to it. It's your servant, not your master.

3. It's to your advantage to always touch on something in the American History spine each month because the rotation is built around the story of America. Each of the nations connect to the story of America in some way. It's not as important to visit each nation each round, but lightly touching on several of them works to your advantage rather than a deep dive and then moving on. At least for the first few years you go through it. There will come a time when you are very ready for the deep dives.

So here are January's connections:

*It took more than declaring independence to free our colonies. The **American Revolution** meant War. One of the most inspiring figures of that era was a young Frenchman named **Lafayette**, which leads us back to a study of*

*France. And as France originally colonized Canada, we will stop by there. Switzerland was also home to a people who loved liberty, and France was one of the nations they had to free themselves from. As Month 4 typically falls in Christmas season, you may want to continue your study of Plants and Trees this month. Or start planning your Garden with a look at Gardening. Spring is just around the corner. Our Mother's University topic is Poetry.*

Now onto the Announcements:

First of all, we have a new 'home'--a new website--A much more stream-lined, simple way for you to introduce your friends to the work of WEH. I hope you'll take a minute and visit [belleamedream.org](http://belleamedream.org).

(Don't worry--our old Libraries of Hope website will remain as our repository of Heart Education resources, as it was always intended to be.)

And I am super excited to announce that we will now be offering a beautiful, colorful monthly magazine filled with fine art, stories, activities and ideas of things to study, all designed around the monthly rotation. It's called The Belle Ame Explorer.

Members of our BAAH community will receive it as a benefit of their membership. \*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\* If you are already in BAAH, you will need to go to the Tutorial and Resources section and fill out the form there so that we have your mailing address. We cannot send it without a mailing address. If you want the first edition, we need that no later than January 20th.

To the rest of you who have been wanting to better Explore WEH, our Belle Ame Explorer magazine will help you do exactly that. You can sign up for it at [belleamedream.org](http://belleamedream.org).

## MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--I couldn't sleep last night so was reading about Nicolas Grundtvig and the folk school movement of Denmark in the middle of the night. I told my husband I think I might have been Nicolas in another life. :) We think the same thoughts.

He spent his life fighting against 'deadness of soul.' You might call it hard-heartedness or being 'past feeling.' He blamed the schools with their emphasis on pouring facts and information into kids' heads and preparing them for careers while neglecting their souls.

One thing especially struck me. He knew it wasn't so much what was taught but rather how that topic flowed through the personality and spirit of the teacher or mentor.



Personality was key.

I keep saying all of this starts with you--the mother. That you need to tend your own heart first. You need to put the oxygen mask on yourself before you can help your kids. Because the secret of awakening interest in the hearts of your own children is your personality and your spirit which flows through your voice.

And that's something that can't be taught directly.

I see a lot of fear in a lot of you...that you aren't doing it right. Or that you aren't doing enough. God has not given you a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Those are the gifts He has given you. I do hope you can let go of the fear. Fear is so paralyzing.

I believe you are accomplishing so much more than you give yourself credit for.

--NEW IN BELLE AME AT HOME (BAAH): My granddaughters have been having so much fun crocheting granny squares. They tell me they love doing them because they don't have to sit and think about what they're doing--they can listen to other things or watch things. It's so relaxing. They tell me they've almost finished a



Here's to the bridge-builders, the hand-holders, the light-bringers, those extraordinary souls wrapped in ordinary lives who quietly weave threads of humanity into an inhumane world.

They are the unsung heroes in a world at war with itself. They are the whisperers of hope that peace is possible. Look for them in this present darkness. Light your candle with their flame. And then go.

Build bridges.

Hold hands.

Bring light to a dark and desperate world.

Be the hero you are looking for.

Peace is possible.

It begins with us.

Author: L.R. Knost

Art credit: Bridge Over a Pond of Water Lilies  
by Claude Monet



blanket for me!

So I asked our crocheting teacher if she'd teach you how to make granny squares. You'll find the first one in this month's lesson in the BAAH community. Now if they can just teach their granny how to do it. :)

The fun thing about granny squares is you can use bits and pieces of yarn. I bet if you ask around, you'll gather all kinds of yarn. My mom was a big crocheter and I had boxes of different colored yarns I gave to my granddaughters to see what they could do with it. I think they will make her proud.

We have a new Watercolor Memories class with Kristell Fox. When my 15-year-old granddaughter made her first page, she said, "Just looking at this makes me so happy!"

Miss Kerri has changed the focus of her music class as we explore some different options. Come join her for some fun sing-alongs and build your repertoire of songs to sing.

Be watching for a new layer of drawing starting in March with our Art teacher, Jennifer Mathson. She will be using lessons from Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain. More information will be forthcoming.