

HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

Libraries of Hope Newsletter

"I HAVE NO
SPECIAL TALENT.
I AM ONLY
PASSIONATELY
CURIOUS."

--ALBERT EINSTEIN

For our Month 8 topics, we'll be visiting Abraham Lincoln who held our nation together through a time of war and strife. We associate him with the issue of slavery as he was the one who issued the Emancipation Proclamation. As we take a look at the hardships suffered by our African-Americans, we are led back to their roots--the continent of Africa. And if we travel back in time, we can see the pyramids and civilization of Ancient Egypt on that continent.

Our nature topic is a big one--but also a favorite one of children, especially: Animals.

The Mother's University topic for April is History where we are reminded that stories bring the events and people to life so we can learn from them. Where will your explorations take you?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--Families are loving our new monthly magazine--the Belle Ame Explorer. It's one of your benefits if you sign up for any membership level at belleame-dream.org. Each month, I post a podcast giving you some additional back stories or highlights or insights. You can listen [here](#).

If you missed this month's edition, a digital version is available for you in the BAAH community.





--New in our BAAH community:

Young adventurers! Join a band of fellow explorers in Pinehurst Academy, an online gathering for lads seeking to craft, create, and discover. We meet twice monthly via virtual assemblies to share our works, tackle engaging projects, and cultivate the virtues of noble character.

For the Esteemed Guardians: Pinehurst Academy is a journey of discovery, an expedition into the realms of knowledge and character. We invite young lads to join us in this noble endeavor, to cultivate their minds and hearts, and to embrace the timeless virtues of honorable gentlemen.

--We have a lot of exciting events going on!

Registration has opened and is going strong for our May 19th Con-

ference at Thanksgiving Point Gardens! I'll be speaking in the morning along with Gayle Holdman of Holdman studios. In the afternoon, our Belle Ame campus director, Tim Hall, will talk about "What about our boys." The day will end with a presentation from John Muir Laws, a world renowned naturalist. We'll also have artful living experiences led by our BAAH teachers and other fun things.

At night, we have reserved the entire Ashton Gardens for our community. While the day is for moms, bring your family to the evening event where we will have live storytellers, dancing, singing, and other fun. Come meet Angela Johson who will be in her sculpture gardens. Bring your kids to meet John Muir Laws who will be roaming the gardens. It's going to be a memorable event.

We hope you can join us. You can see all the details and register at [belleamedream.org](https://www.belleamedream.org).

Do invite your friends! This is a perfect event to introduce them to what our WEH community is all about. <https://www.belleamedream.org/come-to-my-garden>

And then on May 31st, we will be holding another event at our Weatherby, MO campus. We are calling it Simple Gifts: A Founders' Day Gathering. We are establishing a yearly Founders' Gathering around June 1st of each year for the women of our Belle Ame community and other friends.. It will have a different flavor and purpose than the Utah Conference. This one will be more intimate and the purpose is to keep the purpose and vision alive of why we are building this campus as well as to honor the many gifts and contributions of our founding members. It's a day for building friendships and community.

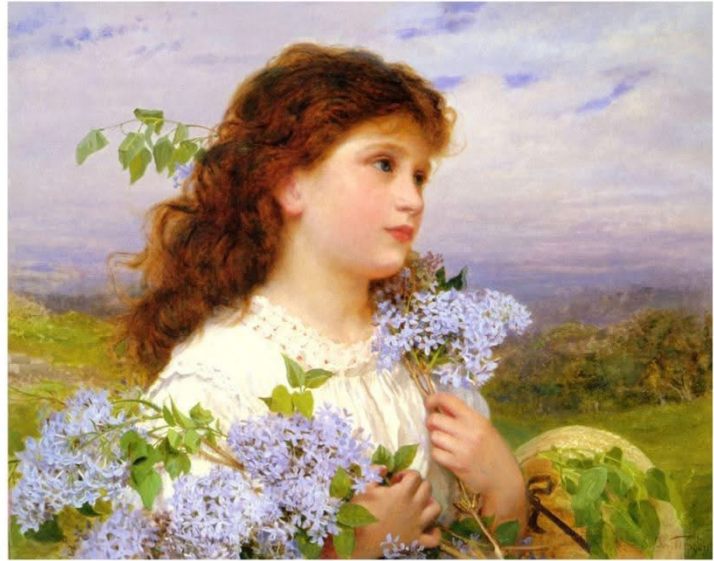
This year, we will be paying tribute to Debbie Mayne who took a property covered with debris twenty years ago and transformed it, with her husband, into the beautiful property you see today. You see her care and love of this beautiful land everywhere. She also took a giant leap of faith in allowing a new non-profit to buy the property on contract, making it possible to move forward with building our Belle Ame Center for Artful Living.

Sadly, she was packing to fly west to see her grandchildren--the joy of her life--when she suddenly and unexpect-

edly passed away a few months ago. Just a week before her passing, she was showing Tim, our campus director, her favorite flower that she loved to plant everywhere. It's called the Live Forever plant and is the flower you will see on our invitation and registration page. Plans are for us to plant more Live Forever plants on the property as part of our gathering in her honor. What a perfect reminder of our Builders' Creed--that we, as mothers and grandmothers, believe in an eternal life, as did she. Her spirit and love will forever be woven into this special place.

As part of our tradition, we will unveil special gifts to our campus. This year we are incredibly grateful for the generosity of Angela Johnson who is donating her first sculpture of Jesus Christ to our Belle Ame campus, which you see pictured here. He stands over 7 feet tall. Her story of faith and allowing the Spirit to work through her willing yet untrained hands is at the heart of our work. We will share her story as we place it in its new home, in a special garden we will be creating down by the lake near where the sheep are grazing. As part of that garden, in time we will lay the bricks of the 399 founding families who took a leap of faith and signed up for BAAH when there was nothing there to even see and stayed with us that whole first year. They largely generated the funds needed as a down payment to acquire the land. We want to honor them.

As participants of this gathering, your \$39 registration fee will help fund these projects. We are creating a special keepsake album that will commemorate these events where you will sign your name as one of the participants. You will become part of our history.



COME TO MY GARDEN

A ONE-DAY CONFERENCE

MAY 19, 2025

ASHTON GARDENS

LEHI, UTAH





Of course there will be singing and dancing and artful living experiences where friendships can grow and memories can be made. You will be served a delicious homemade lunch, prepared by the loving hands of members of our community. We'll be joining the granny squares being donated, continuing to work on the paint by number we started last year, as well as engage in presentations to inspire and lift your hearts.

The event will be from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. But no one will chase you away at the end. :)

Register at belleamedream.org



--This is an inspiring story of the power of the arts in the lives of you and your children (author unknown):

Eight-year-old Anthony Hopkins sat alone at his desk in 1946, the muffled laughter of his classmates buzzing around him. He wasn't part of their world a fact he was painfully aware of. At Cowbridge Grammar School in South Wales, Anthony was an outsider, a boy who struggled to fit in. His classmates found joy in games and jokes, but Anthony's mind wandered elsewhere, consumed by a persistent sense of detachment. Even his teachers labeled him as "slow," a judgment that hung over him like a cloud, further isolating him from the group.

An incident from his school years vividly illustrates his solitude. During a break, while others played in the yard, Anthony chose to sit alone on a cold bench, clutching a sketchpad. He drew intricate shapes, creating imaginary worlds far removed from the chaos around him. That day, a teacher noticed his work. "You have a gift," she said, handing back his drawing of a castle perched atop a jagged cliff. For Anthony, those words were rare--one of the few instances where he felt seen.

The piano became another refuge. By the age of nine, Anthony had discovered the dusty old piano in the school's music room. While other boys gathered in cliques, Anthony would slip away, pressing the keys tentatively at first,

then more confidently as he taught himself to play simple melodies. Music became his language, a way to express emotions he couldn't put into words. It wasn't long before his parents noticed his growing passion and scraped together what little they could to buy him a secondhand piano. In the evenings, after school, Anthony would lose himself in the music, finding solace in the melodies he created.

His isolation wasn't just social it was emotional and intellectual. "I felt like an alien," Hopkins would later recall. At school, he struggled with dyslexia, a condition that went undiagnosed at the time, leaving him frustrated and misunderstood. His inability to keep up academically only deepened his sense of inadequacy, and he would retreat further into his creative world, sketching and playing music for hours on end.

By the age of twelve, his artistic pursuits began to take shape as more than just hobbies. His sketches grew more detailed, his piano playing more sophisticated. Yet, the loneliness persisted. He watched from the sidelines as his peers bonded effortlessly, their lives seemingly filled with connections he couldn't grasp. But instead of succumbing to despair, Anthony turned inward, channeling his feelings into his art. The solitary hours he spent with his sketchpad or at the piano honed his ability to observe, absorb, and express a skill set that would become invaluable in his future career as an actor.

Anthony's mother, Muriel, played a pivotal role during this time. Sensing his struggle, she often reassured him. "You don't have to be like everyone else," she would say. "Being different is not a weakness; it's a strength." Her unwavering belief in his potential gave him the courage to embrace his individuality, even when it set him apart from everyone else.

As Hopkins transitioned into his teenage years, his world began to change subtly. The creative outlets he once used to escape loneliness became his anchors. His love for the piano and art evolved into a deeper understanding of himself. He began to see his outsider status not as a curse, but as a gift--a perspective that allowed him to observe human nature in ways his peers could not.

This profound observation of life, born from years of solitude, would later infuse his acting with extraordinary depth. Hopkins' ability to portray complex, layered characters can be traced back to these formative years when his loneliness forced him to see the world differently.

Anthony Hopkins' early struggles with loneliness and alienation weren't merely hurdles to overcome; they were the crucible in which his creativity and empathy were forged. In isolation, he found clarity. In being an outsider, he discovered the power of introspection. His journey from the lonely boy with a sketchpad to one of the greatest actors of all time is a poignant reminder that sometimes, our greatest struggles are also our greatest teachers.

**"DON'T JUDGE EACH DAY
BY THE HARVEST YOU REAP
BUT BY THE SEEDS
THAT YOU PLANT."**

--Robert Louis Stevenson

Art credit: Spring Night in the Garden
by Nikolai Astrup

