



## Art of Womanhood

**Mission Statement:** “To defend womanhood and families worldwide by inspiring each woman to seek personal guidance from a higher source of truth, to further her education, to enhance her unique gifts, and to understand the inherent roles and attributes of true womanhood.”

### The Heart of Womanhood: Our Husbands

By Stephanie Francom

As I heard my co-examiner ask the question, I struggled to appear calm to the woman to whom we were administering this oral exam. I knew that her answer to this question was the most important ingredient in our approving her status as a mentor for Art of Womanhood. “If a woman in your study circle had a dysfunctional family background that resembled yours, and she asked for your advice, how would you counsel her?” My heart began racing with anticipation, as I realized she had been set up with a trick question. Showing no signs of distress, she calmly replied, “I would encourage her to do what I did.” (My anxiety level increased ten fold.) She continued, “I would encourage her to counsel with her husband, to go deeper into the issues, to receive further direction, and to work on healing.”

Hooray! She passed!

Art of Womanhood is NOT about counseling or group therapy. Art of Womanhood is an educational organization committed to defending the family. We recognize that the surest defense for every family is to encourage each woman to strengthen her own Family Executive Council (FEC) by building her relationships with her husband and her higher source of truth.

We teach women how to identify true principles from the classics of womanhood, assist them in comparing those principles to the ones found in their own core classics, encourage them to gain consensus in their own FECs on the correct interpretation of said principles, and support them in developing plans for personal application.

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### The Family Way

By Oliver & Rachel DeMille

In the past year, we have witnessed a groundswell of people wishing to work on their fathering, mothering, manliness, and femininity. The conveyor belt has stripped our society of clear understandings of our basic roles as men and women, and it is exciting to see this rapidly growing interest among those striving to revive a considered family culture in their homes.

As students of society, history, and family culture, one thing we would like to see as part of this trend is for the various groups, writers and promoters of true manhood and womanhood to keep the family central. This may seem obvious to many, but perhaps it isn't as obvious as it should be.

Modern Feminism has been very successful at attacking the family, even among those who disagree with them. Whether the forum be political, entertainment, or media, it seems that we have become acclimatized to women's voices being the ones which define societal norms and standards. The problem with this is obvious to those who share our traditional point of view: the standards proclaimed by the Feminists conflict with our values and bode ill for our children's children.

Perhaps it is less obvious when such viewpoints are seemingly more harmonious with our values; yet the unseen danger still lurks. Here is the question we would pose: shouldn't major decisions about such core issues as childbearing, child rearing, nutrition, education, and whether a woman works outside the home be made by wife and husband sitting down together with God and prayerfully deciding what's right for the family? That's The Family Way!

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There are a handful of women who have already experienced the fruit of this process. One lovely woman believed she was in a marriage that would cause her misery for the rest of her life. Trust had deteriorated, communication was limited to defensiveness and the raising of voices, family time had dwindled, and couple time was non-existent. However, with the application of correct principles of womanhood and a commitment to taking personal responsibility for improving her family life, she has witnessed a miraculous change in her marriage. Walls of blame and anger are crumbling. Understanding is being restored. The blossoms of communication are opening. Family ties are being forged, and peace has again been established in her home. After years of having no desire to be in the same room together, she and her husband have just returned from their second “couple get-away” in the last 3 months.

Art of Womanhood is debuting Dr. Oliver and Rachel DeMille’s “Family Way” in our first newsletter in order

to communicate the depth of our commitment to upholding the correct form of family government. This means that the man is the leader of the home, and his wife is his companion and counselor. As an organization we are setting up systems to ensure that our participants are not seeking counseling from us and our mentors are strictly focused on mentoring women. They do this by teaching them how to extract principles from the classics and encouraging them to go to their FECs to apply those principles in their lives. We believe that by following the proper hierarchy of family government, our organization will be well positioned to defend families throughout the world.

**Gift From A Son** By Jenny Hanson

Applied reflection from the book ~ *Gift From The Sea*  
By Anne Morrow Lindbergh

It is 2:00 am. The house is cooling from the heat of the day. It is still and dark, except for the glow of the lamp above me. I am sitting on the couch finishing up *Gift from the Sea* and quietly reflecting on its incredible content. My two year old Hunter comes stumbling out of the bedroom. When I first hear him, I hope he will go back to sleep. I don't want my solitude interrupted. This is my time, my moment of pondering sliced out of the stillness of the night.

I see his little diapered body walk around the corner, and I look up at him and smile. He returns the gift with an added twinkle in his eye that says he is glad to see me. “Hello, my baby,” I say, and I set my book and journal to the side, opening a spot for him next to my heart. My former thoughts of frustration at his waking are washed away by my love for him and my heart’s deep desire to nurture him. He crawls up beside me and lays his head on me. He is content and still. So am I. In coming to me at this obscure hour he has brought me a pearl, a little treasure, an opportunity to apply what I have learned from Lindbergh’s message. I have been thinking and reading for three hours. I have had my solitude, my time to reflect. Now I get to snuggle with my son.

I stroke his smooth back. I pet his warm apple cheeks. I rejoice in the knowledge that I am this boy’s mother, a stewardship I hold dear. He falls back to sleep. I breathe him in deeply. He is mine, and we are alone-- together.

Often throughout the day I experience the zerrissenheit, or “torn-to-pieces-hood,” that Lindbergh refers to in her book. I have so many duties to perform, so many directions to go, so many souls that need attending to. Here in the quiet of the night I have moved past that. I have become more centered. I am more welcoming of my little visitor.

I have time to reflect. As his little heart beats against mine, my thoughts flow. I can open a space to be creative. The dishes are done. My whole family is still. My mind ponders on the glory of creation, manifested in this little boy and his rounded toes, his sky blue eyes, his pink ears, and his summer-dirtied fingernails. Such intricate details culminate into a perfectly formed treasure. Heavenly Father gave my body the ability to create this miracle!

I am so humbled.

I think of his blond hair. He is just like his daddy, a true Scandinavian tow head. His father’s paternal ancestry is from Denmark . What did those forbearers look like? What were their hopes and dreams? What was their experience leaving their native land to come to the American West? I marvel at their faith and their obedience to an unseen God. If not for their courage and sacrifice, I would not have my beloved husband, and this miraculous little package would not be on my lap. What a thought. What gratitude I feel.

Hunter is mine; I am his mother. My heart soars. What a joyous reality. How often I am an island unto myself. When I am in the trenches of domestic life, I can become so caught up in survival that I revert to instinct and neglect my favorite role—that of nurturer and teacher. I don’t want to be working so feverishly that I am tuned out to my family. I desperately want pure relationships with all those around me. I realize I have not taken the time to become whole so that I can have the quality of relationships that I dream of. Lindbergh describes it this way, “When one is a stranger to oneself, one is a stranger to others” ( p.33).

I resolve here and now to simplify, to seek solitude, and to become whole. I want to shed all those things that congest my life and mind, including the material possessions, the people I don’t feel free around, and “...the tradition, convention, and dogma” ( p.98) that rob me of my central force. I no longer want my life to be clogged with irrelevance. I am going to anxiously engage in a new appreciation of the present. I am going to develop my inner connection so I can be constant, steady, and grounded. I am going to commit to seek replenishing, to first fill my bucket so I can fill others.

It is late. I lay my boy back in bed, smooth his hair, and kiss his cheek. I wonder, what woke this child up? Was it sheer coincidence—or was it something more? An act of God, a gift, a pearl dropped just for me? I believe it was a miracle, a gift given by my Father in Heaven, through my boy, to me, in the still and solitude of the night.

The Feminist and Anti-Feminist viewpoints both seem to have a problem with this. For example, if a couple decides for the woman to stay home, the Feminists label the men chauvinistic and the women as victims or “doormats.” If the couple prayerfully decides for the woman to be in the workforce, the Anti-Feminists call her a Feminist, or at least misguided. They shake their heads, wag their tongues, and fear for the children and the marriage.

It is true many Feminists argue that women should never be homemakers. According to them, it’s degrading to the woman, and she is a drain on a society. They say she should be a producer, or in some way add value to the economy outside of the home. With the same dogmatic zeal, the Anti-Feminist declares that a godly woman will never work outside of the home. You could substitute a host of other issues with similar results: conflicting points of view, both dictating to the family a strict behavior with a normative value.

Granted that it is good and right to promote motherhood, femininity and homemaking; that there should be an acknowledged standard that mother and father magnify their roles in nurturing and providing for a happy home, with priorities in line with godly ideals. Does it necessarily follow that there is a checklist that such families will adhere to inflexibly?

Will such an inspired couple never decide that Mother accepts employment outside of the home? Or: will such a couple always homeschool every child? Will their children necessarily be delivered by a lay midwife at home, never be immunized? Will antibiotics never be administered? Shall such parents never take steps to limit the size of their families? Must they always grind their own wheat? Will every aluminum can be recycled? Will they never eat packaged macaroni and cheese?

We know of many situations where families we respect and admire have not followed the checklist. We have no reason to doubt that their choices are honored by God; we even like their children. We hope that the Feminist “thesis” and Anti-Feminist “anti-thesis” will give rise to the dialectical “synthesis:” The Family Way. It is our belief that the basis of our society is the marriage relationship—specifically the sovereignty we give to married couples to prayerfully determine what is best for their family. We call this process, and the body that carries it out, The Family Executive Council. The Family Executive Council consists of the husband, wife, and divine inspiration as an executive triune; each is a voting partner, and all decisions are based on consensus of the three.

We purposely carry the examples to the extreme (and we dearly hope that these examples seem absurd to the thoughtful reader), to demonstrate that many well-intentioned women, and men, are recommending a standard to families over whom they have no stewardship, when they could be recommending a *process*, or a *form*, which answers any and all questions of family government. This knee-jerk advice endangers noble parenthood as surely as those who would confuse the roles of men and women beyond recognition.

The danger is not because the recommendations are ill-considered, but because they threaten to unseat the Family Executive Council and thus endanger all decisions and roles. In our opinion, this is among the greatest dangers facing our families today. It is more subtle and insidious than some of the great evils we vigorously guard against: addiction, infidelity, debt, etc. And yet, a family where the core unit—the married couple—is not regarded as sovereign has little defense against the things that threaten it, no matter what their source or intention.

Women in particular benefit greatly from supportive friendships where they can help and lift each other. But when the confidence and intimacy of these friendships supplant or threaten the communication between spouses, or between the couple and inspiration, these friendships can be a poor substitute at best—and potentially much worse. Wise women can enjoy healthy friendships that actually strengthen them in the roles as spouse and mother. They can encourage youth in honoring their roles as men and women.

Along with teaching our young men and women the arts of manhood and femininity, shouldn’t we teach them The Family Way—married couples prayerfully finding out and implementing what’s best for their family? And trusting instead of worrying what society thinks? And not second guessing the sovereignty of someone else’s Family Executive Council? If so, maybe we can all be sure to continually promote The Family Way whenever family topics come up.

## Art of Womanhood Mentor

# Retreat



Left to Right: Mindy Heath, Rachel Van Hauwaert, Meghan Schulthies, Stacy Harmer

*Spontaneously, women formed discussion groups to form solutions. Minds were unified and bonds were strengthened within the organization as members saw their potential to impact the world for good.*

### Changing Hearts - Building Lives

By Stacy Nicol

Art of Womanhood held its first Mentor Training November 3-4, 2006, in Highland, Utah. Forty five women from across North America gathered to hear messages of commitment to family unity, leadership education, and true womanhood. It was a life-changing weekend for many participants. In the words of one woman, "I felt my paradigms shifting. I knew that I wouldn't --I couldn't--be the same after this retreat."

The training began with a simulation. Women were given a hypothetical national crises and asked to respond as members of AofW. Spontaneously, women formed discussion groups to form solutions. Minds were unified and bonds were strengthened within the organization as members saw their potential to impact the world for good.

Speakers in the rest of the training covered a range of topics, from spiritual to scholarly. Gaylene Hatch, guest speaker from George Wythe College and West Wind Seminars, opened her lecture with a Native American ceremony called smudging. She demonstrated brushing the smoke from burning sage over her body to cleanse negative energy and assist in personal healing. Gaylene shared her belief in women's ability to heal others through remembering their heritage, and she urged women to understand and honor their own spiritual and cultural heritages so that they could be healers in their homes and communities.

Jodie Palmer presented "The Art of Successful Oral Exams" with confidence, experience, and intelligence. Women were given the tools needed to

communicate effectively in a variety of settings. Later that evening, members took their own oral exams as part of AofW's mentor training program.

Audrey Rindlisbacher presented "Scholar Skills." She reminded members that "all action is based on principle." She shared the importance of finding principles, or universal truths, through study and applying them to real life.

Lectures titled, "Changing Hearts Empowering Lives," given by Antoinette Montandon and Jeanette Skouson; "Changed Hearts," from Stacy Harmer; "Fulfilling the Role of Woman," from Suzanne Jensen; "The Hand that Holds the Pen Can Change the World: The Power of Writing to Transform You and Your Readers," from Heather Burton; and "I'm out of my Depth: Do I Sink, Swim, or Soar?" from Debi Watson changed lives one lecture at a time. "I felt every presentation was meaningful and helpful, inspiring and powerful."

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Left to Right: Julie Whitehead, Kristine Simpson, Jodie Palmer, Angie Schultz

## ...Retreat continued

Everyone was so well prepared spiritually. They fed my soul in a way that will change my life forever.” wrote Christine Isom.

Saturday afternoon was dedicated to “Tending to Your Temple,” and “Tailoring your Outside Beauty to match your inside Beauty.” Members learned to dress credibly, look feminine, and nurture their health to reflect their divine attributes within. Vice President Sandy Stapley presented, “Womanhood: More Than Pumps and Pearls.” Guest presenter Denise Warner color draped women, and board member Stephanie Harris spoke of “Overcoming the False Idol of Food.”

All Breakfasts, lunches and dinners were skillfully prepared by Tr`es and John Hatch of Tr`es Bon Catering. All accommodations for the retreat were graciously provided by the families Rod & Sharon Bluth and Gordon & Mariann Bluth.

Stephanie Francom, president and founder of AofW, concluded the training with a lecture entitled “The Weaving Circle: From Tiny Threads to Masterpiece.” Stephanie presented the key



Left to Right  
Kari Witbeck,  
Lisa Dickson,  
Kathy Harline,  
Heather Burton,  
Stephanie  
Francom

principles that transform AofW study groups into weaving circles. These were: gathering like minds and hearts; learning skills; work; friendship and trust; commonality and differences; encouragement; and education. These principles beautifully summed up the two day event.

AofW is pleased to announce that the next Mentor Training will be held November 1-3, 2007. More paradigm shifts will be on the agenda, no doubt.

### EDUCATION FOR LIFE ~ RESTS ON FIVE INGREDIENTS

By Heather Burton

Joan peaked around me, disbelieving. “You’re going to make cookies without a recipe?”

“Joan,” I admitted, “I ran out of time for recipes five children ago. Now I make most of our meals using what I have and some simple principles. The product varies a bit from time to time, but it works.”

My friend curved an eyebrow skeptically.

“I learned about this kind of cooking in a book, one of my core homemaking classics: *The Encyclopedia of Country Living* by Carla Emory. To make cookies, you need ground/rolled grains, fat, binder, sweetener and leavening...five basic ingredients. Today’s oatmeal cookies will have whole wheat flour and oatmeal, butter, eggs, honey and a little Succanat, and baking soda.” I explained the ratios—this many cups of flour to this much fat and so on—and started dumping ingredients in a bowl.

Twenty minutes later we were serving warm, chewy cookies to our appreciative children.

Joan and I and a number of other women in our circles of acquaintance share a different, somewhat unusual

recipe, this one related to what I’ll call education for life. We’re aware of five basic ingredients that are helping us, our husbands, and our children eagerly engage in the kind of learning that will prepare us to make positive contributions wherever our lives may lead. We have the benefit of the great ideas of all time, and access to the finest offerings of humankind in every area of endeavor from art to literature, music to math, healthful living to homesteading...not to mention the sanction of God in our search for Truth. This recipe, really a philosophy of life-long learning, is called “Thomas Jefferson Education,” or sometimes, “Leadership Education,” and is based on Dr. Oliver DeMille’s studies into the educations of eminent men and women in history.

Dr. DeMille discovered five common elements or “pillars” in the lives of great people: they studied the classics available to them; they had mentors—caring individuals a step or two or more ahead of their students; they had practice or simulated experience using what they learned; they applied their knowledge in real life situations, often with

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an express mission to serve their fellow men; and they had a core belief in God and/or universal Truth. Their educations were self-initiated, individualized, founded in a search for truth, and immediately applicable to the pursuit of understanding about life.


The mission of Art of Womanhood is, ultimately, to strengthen families by encouraging education that leads to true, lasting happiness. It is the conviction of the founders of Art of Womanhood that this vital pursuit can be accomplished using the Five Pillars Dr. DeMille identifies. In Art of Womanhood, we study classics, works of lasting worth, in the company of caring mentors who have prepared to help us extract true principles. Our mentors may, as appropriate, lead us in discussions, simulations, and in writing experiences. We have the opportunity to listen to lectures related to the principles we're learning.

Importantly, we take these principles into our family


leadership councils in order to best determine how to apply what we have learned. Always, we—mentors, learners, leaders alike—seek the guidance of God and our alignment with Truth as we work to fortify ourselves and our homes.

These five basic ingredients—classics, mentors, simulations, field experience, and attention to the ultimate source of Truth, combined with our own sincere seeking—constitute a recipe that will help us learn how to achieve our unique vision of delightful, nourishing, satisfying family life.

To understand the Five Pillars of education for life, read *A Thomas Jefferson Education: Teaching a Generation of Leaders for the Twenty-first Century* by Oliver DeMille. This book, and help in pursuing a leadership education, are available at [www.gwc.edu](http://www.gwc.edu).



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The Clarion are graciously accepted at  
[www.artofwomanhood.org](http://www.artofwomanhood.org)**



THE CLARION invites you to share your message with our readers. Articles, essays, and poetry related to the Art of Womanhood mission statement, program, and readings may be submitted by email to:

[stacyanne31@yahoo.ca](mailto:stacyanne31@yahoo.ca) We respectfully ask you to complete the following prior to sending us your writing:

- \*have your piece read, proofread, and peer edited by five people
- \*have your piece read, proofread, and peer edited by one other member of Art of Womanhood.

Although all submissions will be read and considered for publication, we may not be able to reply regarding each submission individually. At this time, there is no remuneration for your published article, just heartfelt appreciation. Please ensure that you keep a copy of your writing in the event that a submission is lost in cyberspace. Thank you to all those who have contributed thus far.

There have been some changes in the organization. We are so grateful to all those who gave of their precious time, diligent efforts, and brilliant talents to help build Art of Womanhood. Thank you with all our hearts. We wanted to make note of the changes and send a warm welcome to:

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**Finally a Special Thanks to the Editorial Staff for Helping the Clarion Come Alive**  
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