
PLANT A MOI GROUP IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Getting Started...

A few years ago we came across the remarkable story of Mrs. Petty. In 1949 she and her family traveled to the Holy Land and as they prepared for the return trip she slipped two 7-inch cedar of Lebanon saplings into her purse. Incredibly, they survived the entire 7,000 mile journey home! It was decided that the first tree would be planted in her own front yard, and the other was given to the head gardener of her church temple grounds in Salt Lake City, Utah. That very tree is still growing there today. Of course, we can only guess at Mrs. Petty's motives, but we love her story so much. It seems she wasn't content to just admire the beautiful ancient forest she had seen, she seemed determined to plant a piece of it close to her own home.

We know that taking those first few steps to gathering your own Mothers of Influence group can feel like carrying a tiny sapling all the way home in your purse and then trying to figure out what it needs to thrive in your climate. Now seems a perfect opportunity to let the women who have already "planted" a group in their neighborhood share their personal experiences with you.

We hope you'll use their examples as a starting point for your own situation. There are "many ways to MOI" and we're confident that you'll find yours. We know it would be so much easier if we just gave you a checklist of things to do - but truly, *the greatest suggestion we can make is to simply look heavenward*. Gather the women that are coming to your mind, share your vision of heart-warming with them, and then allow the structure of your group to grow outward from your hearts together; it will be inspired and it will make all the difference.

We're here cheering you on and providing encouragement and help wherever we can. Reach out to us anytime - you're an inspiration to us and we love hearing & sharing your stories!

With much love,
Marley, Jen, and Marlene





"I feel like sometime in our brains we think it's going to be harder to present to people what we're doing than it actually is. I realized sometimes the best thing for me to do is to just send them to the website and then say - this is a really cool group I've started doing and I love it. Then I send them the Mothers of Influence and Libraries of Hope links. Once they've (been to the websites) ... they kind of understand it better than if I just start diving in. Then we can (meet together and) have a great discussion." KP

Gathering & Sharing

Beginning really is as simple as inviting a few women over and asking them to share a song, story, picture, or poem that has some meaning to them. Rather than focusing on what MOI "is", focus on showing what it is to you by helping each woman feel something. Sometimes that happens in one meeting and sometimes it takes longer, but the first step is all about catching the vision!



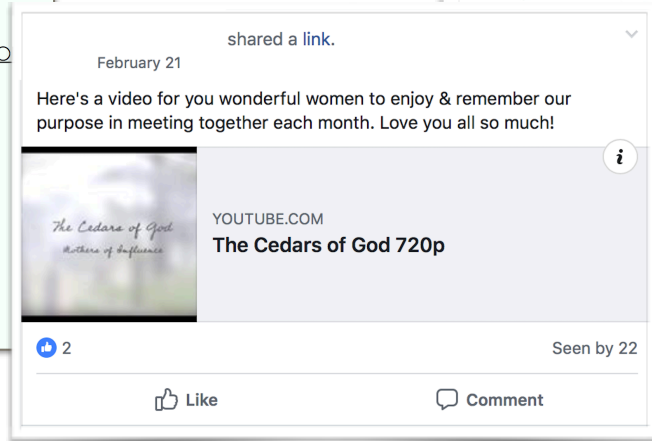
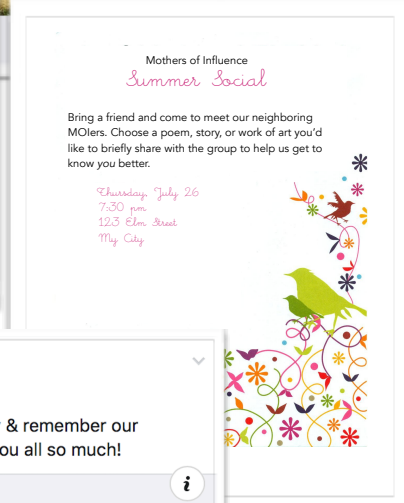
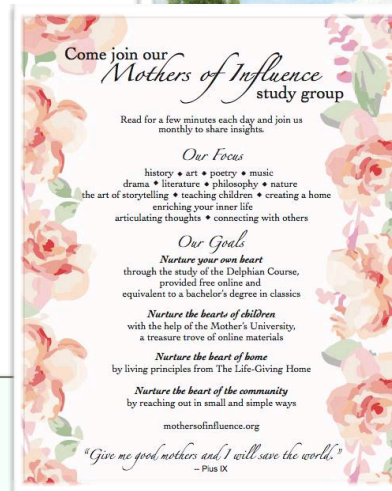
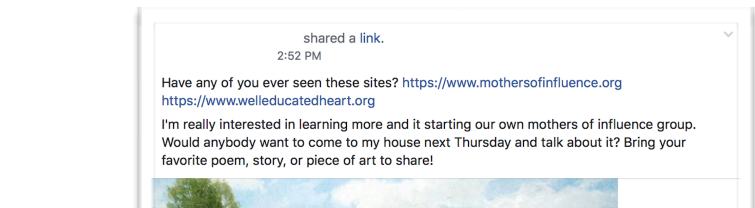
A few resources to explore

- [Introductory Course](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
 - #4 Delphian course
 - #15 Educating the Educator
 - #18 Special Announcement: MO
 - #171 The Nuremberg Stove
 - #181 When Queens Ride By

- [Take 5](#)



Or click [here](#)





Enhancing Influence Through The Four Nurtures

Nurture your own heart

Nurture the hearts of children

Nurture the hearts of families

Nurture the heart of your
community

Cultivate Inspired Growth Together

Sometime during your first few gatherings you'll want to determine what you'll do together every month. Each MOI resource has a purpose and is connected to the four nurtures, but you don't have to do them all at the same time. Decide on the areas you'd most like to focus and then make a plan for how you'll approach sharing in your gatherings.

The [Introductory Course](#) : This is where you'll learn about the pattern for learning and the philosophy of the Well Educated Heart. Take your time here - even if it's the only thing you study together for a season. Even established groups have found value in revisiting it every now and again.

[Mother's University](#) is the heart of Mothers of Influence. Spending time here will help awaken the languages of the heart within yourself and give you tools that will help you create an environment of learning that follows the pattern for learning. The Mothers University is set up like a buffet and your group can determine how you want to approach the topics together - some follow the rotation as outlined and others mix it up. Don't feel like you have to do it all each month.... you'll be back around again and can pick up where you left off.

We love books like [Sally Clarkson's The Life-giving Home: Creating a Place of Belonging and Becoming](#). It's filled with simple and practical heartwarming ideas for every month of the year. We've found this book to be a nice complement to the monthly rotation

of the Mother's University and particularly strong in its message of nurturing the heart of your home and family.

The [Delphian Reading Course](#) Marlene has said "If I could have designed a college level course of study for the moms in this group, this is what it would look like. This is a study for the heart -with an emphasis at looking at the languages of art, music, poetry and literature of the ages with just enough history to put it in context. And I especially love that when you study the Ancient Egyptians or Babylonians or Greeks or Medieval times, you get a glimpse into their homes and their family lives; their systems of education and learning, things that are relevant to us in our everyday lives." If you choose to follow the method laid out by the Delphian Society you'll cultivate articulateness together as you practice formulating and expressing thoughts and ideas by heart. It may not be the study you begin with, but we want you to know it's here when you are ready. As a note: Marlene has broken down many of the Delphian topics and placed them right into the Mother's University where you can have a little taste each month.

Articulate: to clearly express how you feel about something & why.

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"I love that MOI is a place where mothers unite in love and learning to strengthen each other and then like the roots of a tree, that strength goes out to nourish families and communities." RV

WHAT DOES

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"I honestly could not have anticipated the joy I felt as I have left our meetings. I feel like shouting Hallelujah! I've had book clubs for years but I've never left feeling the way I do as when I leave these glorious gatherings." TR

MOI FEEL LIKE?

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"I know I was led to the women in our MOI group for a reason. I always feel uplifted and inspired after our meetings... I feel like I have changed over this past year. My heart now aches for beautiful nature, enjoys poetry and desires art through painting, drawing or viewing. Somehow our spirits are linked to the arts. Maybe it's the pondering and connection to the creator. I love it! BNT

Many ways to MOI...

"Our first hour we discuss the Introductory Course. We have a different leader that leads that discussion each month. Our second hour we have people just "report" or share about the individual learning they've done during the month. We all try to have something prepared." KP

"We're following the Mother's University in order. Whatever someone wants to do under the topic we say go for it. We bring books to share and talk about things we've read and studied. Everyone has a different background but we find things in common. Our group has a lot of interest so we have little mini Zoom meetings outside of our monthly meeting. For example, some of us wanted to review the federalist papers and there were some that wanted to read Ben Hur. Over the summer some of us read 90 days from a book of scripture. We do all of these things in our little sub groups to keep things agency based." TM

One family is doing what they call "Families of Influence" over Skype. Each week they meet together online to share their insights and discoveries from the Delphian course and Mother's University. "It has bridged relationships and changed our whole family dynamic." said BI

"We have four books we study from each month. We don't read the four books cover to cover in one month, we study a little each day & focus on the content we gain rather than completion. We rotate whom hosts by volunteering. The host creates an event & asks for four-five volunteers to share something they've learned from their studies & this becomes what we discuss. We discuss to deepen our learning & understanding." NW

"There are just three of us and everything is pretty new so we decided to start with the introductory course. We trade houses each month. We like bringing some art or a story or poem that we really loved during the month to share with each other and then we talk about what we learned while we did the introductory class. It's hard because we want to do everything but I think we'll start the Mother's University. [One of us] is really excited about the Delphian so she's going to share things with us too." AG



Nurturing an Encircling Reach

"Because I'm the leader I've been at every meeting - The biggest blessing has been for me. Every time I feel so uplifted. If you could see the women in my group - they're just spreading light in amazing ways. These wonderful women are making a difference. There might be a lot of darkness [in the world] but there is still a lot of light. I really feel this is women's time to shine in this way and it's different from all the ways the world is telling us to shine...." Katie from ID



"I wanted to take on leading a group because I knew it would help me to be prepared myself. One suggestion is to be careful and navigate agency...try to find ways to inspire your group to participate but not force anyone." LD

"I feel like my biggest leadership role is to keep people connected. We have a facebook group and I post the meetings there and remind everyone what we're going to study during the month. During the meetings I try to help facilitate the conversations and make sure everybody got to share what they wanted. But honestly my group makes it so easy. Everyone is always so ready to talk about things especially when they've spent the month in the mother's university and with the Delphian. The hardest part is stopping - we want to stay up all night talking." EG

"I think it's important to make sure the meetings feel safe. I try hard to keep things on topic and to be sure we're avoiding gossip. Everyone knows we're going to share what's touched our hearts. We, as leaders, have to be vulnerable too. We have to trust each other and share from our own hearts." BI

"One of the things I've done as a leader is to have a check-in meeting once or twice a year. We just kind of evaluate how things are going and brainstorm what we want to adapt." MT

Suggestions from Katie for leading your own MOI group...

1. If you're thinking about it - just do it.
2. Keep things as simple as possible
3. Have a vision for your group
4. Be courageous
5. MOI isn't for every woman - be okay with that
6. Leader = facilitator
7. Be consistent and don't give up.

[see an interview with Katie on the website](#)

*Let me make songs for the people,
songs for the old and young;
Songs to stir like a battle-cry
Wherever they are sung.*

*Not for the clashing of sabres,
For carnage nor for strife;
But songs to thrill the hearts of men
with more abundant life.*

*Let me sing for little children,
Before their footsteps stray,
Sweet anthems of love and duty,
To float o'er life's highway.*

*Our world, so worn and weary,
Needs music, pure and strong
To hush the handle and discords
Of sorrow, pain, and wrong.*

*Music to soothe all its sorrow,
Till war and crime shall cease;
And the hearts of men grown tender
Girdle the world with peace.*

Frances Harper





A few final thoughts....

It's been said that the world works from the outside in, but that God always works from the inside out. When our friend Shalae Tippetts created this image of the cedar tree for us we instantly loved how it seemed to emanate light from within - and so do you!! MOI is simply a way to add to that light.

We can't say it enough - *tend to your own heart*. You're building a reservoir of abundance. Deepen your roots and connect them to living water - everything else will flow outward from there.

"In Earth's economy, the richest person is the one with the most money.
In Heaven's economy, the richest person is the one with the greatest capacity for light."

Marlene Peterson

Gather a friend and
join with us!

Plant a tree in your
own neighborhood
- and on the map at
[mothersofinfluence.
org](http://mothersofinfluence.org)



The Cedars of God by David Kurani