

# Inquiring Minds: *Lessons in Courage*

Issue #43 February, 2017 "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." W. Churchill

Intent Back Issues: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) [11](#) [12](#) [13](#) [14](#) [15](#) [16](#) [17](#) [18](#) [19](#) [20](#) [21](#) [22](#) [23](#) [24](#) [25](#) [26](#) [27](#) [28](#) [29](#) [30](#) [31](#) [32](#) [33](#) [34](#) [35](#) [36](#) [37](#) [38](#) [39](#) [40](#) [41](#) [42](#)

## Little Lo Takes to the Slopes!

(See the clip: <http://jobarlives.com/lois.skiing.mov>)



I admit I was a bit nervous even watching the above video that John (Lois's dad) took and sent. I admired the courage in him to encourage her so, and her taking up the challenge. Children are so fearless.

## A Courageous Senator Silenced, Temporarily

Senator Elizabeth Warren was officially shushed, silenced, and embarrassed by Rep. House Majority Leader Mitch Mc Connell when she tried to read as testimony a letter by Coretta Scott King which questioned the character of Jeff Sessions for Attorney General. I could detect a slight quaver of nervousness at being so shut down by a callous old codger who somehow twisted Rule #19 to stifle her right to testify, not just this once but for the entire hearing. One wonders if her civil rights were violated, but as everything, that's up to interpretation. She may have lost the battle but may win the war in the long run, as bullies are being stood up to.

## My Latest Mini Adventure and Challenge

A little over a month ago, I stumbled upon a published poet who was conducting a workshop of Spanish writers. Having taken a couple of years of college Spanish, six years of Latin and even some Greek, I thought I might give it a try. Why not just plunge in. It was informal, I had the time, I dabble a bit in poetry, and it looked interesting. It turned out that the class was mostly Spanish-speaking Latinas, who were very friendly and accepting of me, *un obtruso*, an interloper, as I branded myself.

Picking up on this and the fact that there was *un zorro* (pronounced *sorro*) in an upcoming play, one of the other guys conned me into playing "a small part" of *el zorro*, the fox. So *Zorro* became my nickname.

Make a long story shorter, I hung on for four weeks, hoping that the rapidly spoken Spanish would stick to my teflon brain. It didn't, and after every four hour meeting my head was throbbing. I finally concluded the matter in [writing a poem](#) and a brief bio which they want to publish in their upcoming book.

## Three Movies of Courage or Compassion

The most outstanding movie for us was *Hidden Figures*. It honored and recognized the talented black women trained in math and science who helped NASA put a man in space, even while they endured the prejudices of the time. Inspirational, redeeming.

Two other films are not as well known, but are worth seeing on Netflix or On Demand. The first was a documentary of someone I had never heard of, Harry de Layer. The movie is [Harry and Snowman](#).

I had to force myself to watch the next movie because it seemed like such a downer. *Cardboard Boxer* is about a homeless man seeking redemption and finding kinship with a young tormented girl whose diary he found. A real eye-opener.

## New Checks and Balances Revitalized

In the recent winter of our discontent, there are some rays of sunshine on the horizon: the press, peaceful protestors, the Federal Court system, and the embarrassing realization by more and more regular people that our President has no clothes. Nightly I take consolation in the professional and capable reporters of PBS and MSNBC and the people they interview: authors, professors, and experts in their fields. On Demand allows me to watch [SNL](#) too.

The silent majority are not so silent anymore, and this is even before some inevitable disaster will take place when "45" (as my brother calls DT) will inevitably blunder by his own inexperience, temperament, ignorance, and arrogance. His whole agenda now is undoing what the previous administration has done. It's easy to destroy, but much more difficult to create. Look at the terrorist bombers of antiquities. Bad-boys are appealing for only so long before people catch on. JB

