

~ Inquiring Minds, Searching Souls ~

We get to make a living; we give to make a life. - Winston Churchill #13 January 23, 2012

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NEWEST HERO HELPS RESTORE FAITH IN HUMANITY

I had just finished *Time* magazine's cover story (Jan.23) on Warren Buffet written by Rana Foroohar, but was unable to read it aloud to Patricia at the breakfast table without getting all choked up because I was so moved: by the man, his life, his success, his generosity, and his fierce willingness to help advise this country on how to proceed without seeking office or compensation for doing so. So Patricia read it aloud for the both of us.



I found great joy and happiness in finding a new hero, and seeing him get the press he deserves, especially in these times where heroes are so desperately needed.

Here is a billionaire, the third richest person in the world who has pledged to give away 99% of his wealth to charity (largely to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation).

Some other ideas and/or facts which impressed me about Warren are:

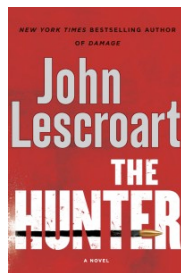
- 1) his simple way of living, spending \$150, 000 a year on his personal expenses; driving a simple car without a chauffeur, and living in a modest house he bought in 1958. (a la Jerry Brown, another hero)
- 2) his support of humanitarian causes, such as civil rights where he quotes Martin Luther King, who said: "It may be true that the law cannot change the heart, but it can restrain the heartless."

- 3) his willingness to act on principle. When dared by a Republican congressman Mitch McConnell to write a check to the US treasury to make himself pay more than the 11% tax rate he is in (as a rich person), he replied one better, that he would match every Republican in the Congress who did the same dollar for dollar, and to McConnell, 3 to 1. (don't mess with him)
- 4) his keeping an "inner scorecard" (conscience?) and he believes in the trickle-up theory of William Jennings Bryan who believed that "if you legislate to make the masses prosperous, their prosperity will find its way up and through every class that rests upon it." (interesting take)
- 5) higher taxes on the rich, taxing profits from overseas companies to keep jobs in the US., holding CEO's responsible for being bailed out, reform health care, seen as "a tapeworm in America."

Buffett does hold other ideas which cannot be categorized as liberal: maybe abolishing of private schools to bring up the quality of public; not taxing corporations heavily, and so on. He is his own man, although he generally supports Obama over others.

I highly recommend the article itself found in the latest Jan.23 issue of *Time*, or here at: [p1](#), [p2](#), [p3](#), [p4](#), [p5](#).

PLUGGING MY BRO-IN-LAW'S LATEST NOVEL: THE HUNTER



Another starred review in the prestigious trade review, *Publishers' Weekly*, and another place on the NY Time's Best Seller List (#15), [John Lescroart's](#) twenty-third novel is in his (and my) opinion one of his best. Set in San Francisco,

it tells how PI Wyatt Hunt solves the 40 year old murder of his mother.

FREE AUDIO BOOKS (CLASSICS) AND PODCASTS AVAILABLE

Sidelined from golf and tennis because of a nagging back injury, my only exercise to keep my legs from atrophying is to walk. I like walking and talking with someone, but the next best thing is to walk and listen to an audio book or podcast downloaded to a mp3 player--being careful not be so absorbed as to be hit by a car.

LibriVox is one such site where volunteers read one or more chapters from the classics. My latest book was Jack London's *White Fang*, which I thoroughly enjoyed. London has a way with words and ideas that can really place the reader in the mind and heart of his main characters. A master of description is this artist of old.

Howstuffworks.com is a site which has many podcasts on all sorts of topics. The two I have listened to are [Stuff You Missed in History Class](#) and [Stuff Mom Never Told You](#). The latter features two young women, Caroline and Kristen, who converse back and forth on one of many given topics, which are mainly of interest to women. It is very well researched and presented in a light conversational manner which is even playful at times.



I am new to this use of the internet, and love my ipod touch and ipad2 because either can be used in bed or reclining on the couch. The ipod is more portable, and I often use that when I walk by myself .

Well, friends, keep me in your thoughts and prayers. I have had 64 healthy years, and now fear the buzzards have come home to roost. Not really, but be careful out there. -J