

July 1, 2019

## **LANGUAGE GAPS**

Back to the journal after a wonderful weekend at the Montreal Jazz Festival with 3 of my best friends. It's an annual tradition that has taken us from the Jersey Shore to the Motown Museum and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Montreal was interesting for a lot of reasons. First it is a great city, clean and easy to navigate. We stayed near McGill University and I took a walk to the ADPhi Chapter House. No one was home, but it was made interesting because the last time I was there was 1972... story for another time. The music festival was fantastic... half a dozen outdoor stages, constant and consistently good performances and just superbly organized.

The most interesting part was that while just about all introductions were in French, all the singing (except for a Latin band and a couple world music groups) was in English. So when we attended a truly unique and beautifully evocative tribute to Joni Mitchell (one of my musical goddesses), we knew the songs but could only guess at the extended introductions. Didn't spoil the show but made me feel like I missed something valuable in translation.

I got to thinking about the "language gap" between me and the undergraduates. Sure, we all speak English, but I'm not going to pretend that I get their lingo, music and attitudes. The best we can hope for is that we share our thoughts openly and have the patience to work towards acceptance. I don't expect them to immediately trust me or I them, but the goal is acceptance and mutual respect.

One of my Montreal travel mates hit me with a good line...

Your career is what you get paid for

Your calling is what you were made for...

The trick is to marry the two.

Have to remember that when we are working on career counseling!