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I've been volunteering a lot lately.

I've also been taking a "deep dive" on the numbers and analytics for the ENT podcast.

As well, I've been reading a lot of older philosophy, returning to a long-standing interest from decades ago.

Finally, on the day we're recording this episode, my older son Ethan is turning 16. I am proud beyond words of the outstanding young man he is and is turning

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into. He also shares the same birthday, some 28 years removed, from my younger sister Sara! In terms of volunteering — I've been tutoring for a couple of organizations both in schools and other locations. This has been an outstanding opportunity to expand my educational practice while waiting for the next significant "paid" educator role to appear. I've also been volunteering at a local food bank. These activities have caused me to ~~go~~^{go} outside my comfort zone, which is always

for one's own betterment!

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In terms of self-learning —
I've been greatly enjoying
Plato's The Last Days of
Socrates — a collection which
contains few of Plato's many
Socratic dialogues. These are
all thrilling reading —
philosophically, but also as
literature and from the view
of history.

Frank Cronin was one of my
favorite professors at St.
Thomas University in Frederick.
Plato was the subject of
Dr. Cronin's only published
book — and Frank's courses

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on Plato strongly motivated me to pursue a philosophy minor in my BA, which formed the basis of my social studies teachable subject within my B.Ed, years ago leading directly to my career as an educator — and, by default, this podcast. As I prepared these notes, I tried locating Dr. Cronin's book — A Cock for Asclepius — and as it is long out of print — the only place I can find it is the UNB library — so this will provide an opportunity to take out an alumni

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membership here at UNB - SJ —
and request the book delivered
from the main campus in
Fredericton. Were it not for
Socrates, Plato, Dr. Crois, and
STU and UNB, I would not
have these significant life
opportunities — the life of
the philosopher — or anyone
seeking education — is "not
knowing, wanting to know".

This speaks to the theme
of lifelong learning which
we often address on this
podcast.

Reading The Last Days of

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Socrates, I'm reminded how learning truly is a lifelong endeavor - Socrates was literally teaching up until the moment of his death. I was also reminded of how very little I know about Socrates, Plato, philosophy and in general - the vastness of our lack of knowledge should be enough to make anyone humble and "not knowing, wanting to know".

There's lots to process in all four of the dialogues I've been reading this week. But of particular significance

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For this episode - from the Phaedo, the account of Socrates' death - is the notion that all knowledge is a form of remembering what the soul knew before being born. As per Google AI, this is termed "anamnesis". And while reading Plato - through - Socrates' demonstration of how this could be true - I felt as though I'd encountered this before, whether in seminars with Dr. Cronin in the mid-90s - if not before - through the very phenomena being described!

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At minimum, because these notes are going quite long, it would seem to be an interesting perspective - essentially that all learning is self-learning.

No doubt I will have more to say about this during our recording session tomorrow!

In terms of analytics, we've only begun tracking visits to our website or counting numbers of video views

relatively recently. These are all metrics by which we hope to monetize the

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podcast, to be sure. They're also interesting in and of themselves - for example, as of today our site has attracted 182 visitors in less than one month! This is significantly more than we would normally attract as viewers for any of our videos. This makes me feel good - in that nearly 200 people have engaged with the podcast and notes in whatever way. From an educational standpoint, this feels like significant impact, relatively speaking, compared to

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what we might have expected!
Analytics can help us refine
what we share on the show, and
how we do it. Higher numbers are
conducive to our purposes of
engaging with as many people
as possible on these matters
of education, technology, and
culture! Definitely we'll have
more to say on these matters
going forward, particularly
as we move ahead with the
EIT book initiative!
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We are making this up as  
we go and leaving a lot

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in the process - and we wouldn't want it any other way! Besides, maybe, getting paid financially for it! But we're not too fussed either way!

Finally ~ happiest of  
birthdays ~ #16 to my  
amazing son Ethan Stranach

It is a privilege beyond words to be your dad and I couldn't be prouder of you or your brother. Learning to be a dad has been the best part of my life by far!