

The official newsletter of  
Fellowship of Reason, Inc.



## The Past, Present, and Future of FOR

By  
Kathleen Allen

Thank you everyone for joining us today at FORum, where we are celebrating ten years of the Fellowship of Reason. I want to add to the welcomes already extended this afternoon, to personally welcome each of you—those of you who have been around since the very beginning, those of you who have joined us along the way, and those of you who are visiting us for the first time.

As I spoke of in a prior oratory, three summers ago, I found the Fellowship of Reason on Dan Barber's bumper sticker. Many visitors and new members found us through the internet and our Meet-Up site. Whatever drew you to notice us, or to look for us, and however you found us, welcome!

Having not been around since the early days, I do not share the history of the founding fathers and mothers of our organization. My understanding, and the old-timers can correct me if I'm wrong, is that, over ten years ago, Martin Cowen wrote a book titled, "Fellowship of Reason: A Moral Community for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," which inspired local readers, who gathered together to form this club.

Before we get into all that, let us look at our titular founding father, Martin Cowen. I will give you his brief Amazon.com storefront bio, which I must rely upon because Wikipedia has yet to devote a page to him personally, though they have an entry for the Fellowship, which I will share with you shortly.

*"Martin L. Cowen III was born in 1951. He read Ayn Rand's "Atlas Shrugged" in 1971. After law school, he practiced family and criminal law for twenty years. A student of Objectivism for thirty years, Martin wondered why this brilliant philosophy had so little cultural impact, while religion remained a powerful cultural force. Martin asked, "What*

*is the value of religion?" He discovered the answer and invented the Fellowship of Reason. This book, eventually published in 2001, describes the world's first rational moral community and the philosophy of reason upon which it is based. The book answers the question, "How should I live in order to achieve happiness on earth?"*

So Martin and his coterie of like-minded associates gathered together. We can be thankful they did not name their new group the First Mount Atlanta Congregation of Latter-Day Redeemed Objectivists. Instead, they went with the inspiring and classy moniker, the Fellowship of Reason.

Just as the founding of our nation was not the quick and easy effort our grade school textbooks lead us to believe, I am sure there was more drama and detail to it than that, but my speech is not a complete oral history of this fine group. Suffice it to say that at some point, these founding members agreed on, or at least accepted insofar as to join and remain in the group, a set of common beliefs and intents for themselves and the organization.

Before listing those beliefs, the question is posed, "What does FOR believe in?"

Notice the positivity of that very inquiry? It isn't, "What does FOR *not* believe in?" or "What is for against?" but what is FOR *for*?

In response, *"The Fellowship of Reason does not impose any dogma on its members. However, all our members share a belief in Reason as the best method of understanding reality; in the importance of freedom, individual rights and individual responsibility; and in the practice of benevolence toward one's fellow human beings. In order to be eligible for membership, a person must agree with the following Statement of Belief and Intent:*

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- *I believe that Reason, not faith or superstition, is the best means of understanding reality.*
- *I believe that personal happiness and individual well-being are the cornerstones of any valid ethical system.*
- *I will set ambitious goals for myself, based on my own good judgment, and will strive diligently to achieve them.*
- *I will treat my fellow human beings with benevolence, fairness, and respect.*
- *I will seek the fellowship of like-minded people.*

So, there lies the foundation of our Fellowship of Reason. What have we become over the last decade? I'll give you the Wikipedia version of our existence. Longtime members can judge for yourselves how well Wikipedia documents your reality.

*"The Fellowship of Reason is a moral community based in Atlanta, in the United States. Its founder, Martin L. Cowen III, calls himself a "non-theist", and says that although he does not believe in God or other things supernatural, he nonetheless thinks that churches serve a useful function by providing "moral communities." Wishing to have a moral community that is not theistic (although not officially opposed to theism) he founded that organization.*

*The purpose of the organization is to provide a social context in which participants may find it easier to achieve personal flourishing, meaning in life, and happiness. This is done through adult education, philosophical discussion, the recognition of personal accomplishments, the promotion of purposeful living and personal reflection, and the celebration of cherished values and important life events.*

I will now change the pronouns to "our". *Our philosophical stance, a form of Eudemonism, has a number of influences, notably: Abraham Maslow's writings on self-actualization, Joseph Campbell's study of myth, as well as Aristotle's and the Stoics' ideas regarding Eudemonia as the ultimate aim of life. We advocate human relations based on reason and goodwill.*

Participants in the Fellowship of Reason practice:

- **Fellowship:** We gain greater awareness of ourselves through friendships with others of similar values.

- **Reflection:** We take time to quietly reflect on the challenges of our lives in order to improve our ability to meet them.
- **Orientation:** We remind ourselves of our chosen values and principles regularly.
- **Learning:** We discuss philosophy and literature to learn to live more wisely.
- **Enjoyment of Art:** We enjoy art as a means of gaining emotional fuel.
- **Celebration:** We participate in ceremonies that symbolically mark significant life events or uphold important values.

My experience over the last few years is that these are my beliefs and intents and these are my practices outside and within the group. I'm encouraged to see how many of my fellow members engage in these practices with me. For I am not an island, and neither are any of you. We are doing these things together and we have built ourselves a community. And today we celebrate doing so for the last ten years.

So that was how we came to be and an overview of who we are. Now the question is, who are we going to be? What will the Fellowship of Reason become in the future?

Raised from infancy to be an atheist, taught to focus on the present with an eye to my future, I recognize that I will never live in my future. It simply continues to waken me each day as my daily present. So I consciously strive to flourish in my present, knowing that doing so will improve my future as well.

Because no one here dictates dogma from on high, we must, in some ways, fend for ourselves and figure out how to live by our morals. But as a moral community, we must also take the opportunity to share with one another what we've learned, so we can learn from one another and contribute to each other's flourishing. I want us to lead better, more rationally moral lives.

Recently, there has been philosophical discussion between some FOR members about the merits and weaknesses of the moral values of altruism and benevolence. Altruism is anathema to some members, who also seem concerned that promotion of benevolence can lead to it.

To make sure we're clear on our terminology, here are definitions of these two terms:

### About the name "The Eudaimonist"

A eudaimonist (pronounced "yoo-DIE-mon-ist") is one who believes that the highest ethical goal is individual happiness and personal well-being. The term is derived from the ancient Greek word eudaimonia, which means, roughly, "well-being."

### Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in the columns appearing in this newsletter are those of the author and not necessarily the views of the organization. The Fellowship of Reason, Inc speaks only through its Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, and the actions taken by the Board of Trustees as a board and recorded in the minutes of the corporation.

**Fellowship of Reason, Inc.****Mission Statement**

The Fellowship of Reason® is dedicated to the personal flourishing of our members through reason.

**Fellowship of Reason, Inc.** is a Georgia nonprofit corporation and a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation

**Fellowship of Reason**  
P.O. Box 5564  
Atlanta, Georgia 31107  
678-641-9321

E-mail  
info@fellowshipofreason.com

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**Regular membership:**  
\$35 per year

**Contributing membership:**  
\$70 per Year

**Lifetime membership:**  
\$700

**Contact Information**

To talk to somebody about Fellowship of Reason call:

Martin at 678-641-9321  
Dan at 770-595-6106

## Atlas Shrugged Book Discussion Group

**ATLAS SHRUGGED  
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays 7 p.m. Norcross

Why after 50 years is "Atlas Shrugged" still affecting people's lives so dramatically?

I think it is because Ayn Rand challenges our filters, our automatic prejudices about our perceived reality; she calls this our "sense of life."

Through a clearer understanding of this

principle, we can see how we each sanction our own flourishing or our own destruction because of our learned and accepted foundational moral codes. This fuels our automatic responses, which produces our ultimate ends.

Come participate in this discussion only if you wish to be challenged and be, possibly, completely out of your comfort zone. I believe that learning requires a bit of discomfort!

Dan Barber

## Sandy Springs Pub Night

**SANDY SPRINGS PUB NIGHT**  
Second Wednesday of the month  
Five Seasons Brewing, Sandy Springs

FOR is happy to announce a new Pub Night! Conveniently located in the Prado in Sandy Springs, the 5 Seasons Restaurant and Brewery is a microbrewery with award winning food, full bar, great ambiance, pool tables, darts, and an outside patio. Come join us the 2nd Wednesday of every month for intellectually stimulating fun!

Marianna

## Apply Now For 2009 Classic Film Appreciation Course

Steve Whiteman's course in the appreciation of classic film will return in 2009 for its third year, at his newly upgraded wide-screen, surround-sound home theater in southeast Atlanta. Applications are now being accepted for twice-a-month, once-a-month, and space-available attendees. While there is no charge for the course, attendees will have certain responsibilities. Enrollment is limited.

The movies will be recognized classics, the majority from Hollywood's Golden Age—the 1930s and 40s—and the rest from other eras or other countries, with broad exposure to key directors, actors, and genres.

Programs will include a cartoon and/or short

subject; coming attractions; the feature film; and clips and commentary on personnel, techniques, and relevant popular culture, with discussion interspersed. Books and films will be prizes in the regular trivia contests.

The course will meet twice a month, on the evening of the first and second Saturdays. To join the group, for more information, or to be on the mailing list, email Steve at [classic.film@yahoo.com](mailto:classic.film@yahoo.com).

*"If you're looking for an antidote to movie mindlessness, look no further than Steve Whiteman's movie course. It is enjoyable, educational, thought provoking, and just plain fun." — A 2007-2008 Participant*

## The Past, Present, and Future of FOR (continued from page 2)

### Altruism – noun

1. the principle or practice of unselfish concern for or devotion to the welfare of others (opposed to EGOISM).
2. *Animal Behavior*. behavior by an animal that may be to its disadvantage but that benefits others of its kind, as a warning cry that reveals the location of the caller to a predator.

### Benevolence – noun

1. desire to do good to others; goodwill; charitableness
2. an act of kindness; a charitable gift.
3. *English History*. a forced contribution to the sovereign.

The key difference between these two moral concepts relates to the actor, not the beneficiary of the altruistic or benevolent act. If the actor suffers giving to others, he is being altruistic. Benevolence does not address the actor sacrificing for his kindness, unless we rely upon the historical English definition, which I'd wager few of us do in common parlance.

What I find interesting about these definitions are their antonyms. Dictionary.com lists the antonym of altruism to be egoism, while we know the opposite of benevolence is malevolence.

Now, knowing that there are members of my moral community who espouse what they term "ethical egoism," who are opposed to altruism and wary of benevolence, and given my personal beliefs, what am I to practice and what am I to teach my children? I understand the necessity of altruism in certain dire situations, but how am I to teach my little kids the difference between that and benevolence? How am I to give examples of benevolence and opportunities to engage in benevolent acts, without pushing them to altruism?

Furthermore, how am I to get my kids to understand the concept of ethical egoism, which I have a difficult time understanding myself. To borrow a phrase from our nation's current vice-presidential candidate, Mrs. You-Betcha, putting "ethical" in front of "egoism" is like putting lipstick on a pit bull.

Ultimately, I must set aside lofty philosophical debates, and attend to the business of raising rational, moral children. So I'd like to share with you a true, real-world scenario demonstrating how I'm teaching my reasoned morals to my kids.

The first week of October, I took my 4½ year old son Cooper and my 2½ year old daughter Annalisa to the dentist. Because of a lapse in insurance, neither had been to the dentist in over a year. Both were a bit apprehensive, but their appointments went well; they were brave and cooperative and were rewarded with stickers and balloons at the end of their visits. As the dental hygienist escorted us out to the waiting room, I prompted both kids, "What do we say before we leave?"

*"Thank you for the balloons and Lightning McQueen stickers and bye, bye,"* came their unison sing-song replies.

Knowing that both kids would have to return in a few weeks for cavity fillings, I wanted to end on a positive note, so they'd be less stressed the next time. So I asked them, *"Do you wanna give loves goodbye to the nice nurse?"*

Coop readily gave the gal a hug and then a high five. My son NEVER misses the opportunity to hug a pretty older woman – whether she's a big first grader or a grown-up with kids twice his age!

But Annalisa refused, shyly hiding behind my knee, studiously concentrating on her new red balloon. I did not push her. I said goodbye to the hygienist, and we left.

Two weeks later, Annalisa and I returned for her follow-up appointment. Because of her young age, the dentist and hygienists had to put her head in a foam vice, then strap her wrists to her side with Velcro bracelets and encase her legs in a heavy blanket papoose. Apparently, they know from experience that even laughing gas fails to subdue toddlers sufficiently, though it worked just fine for her older brother the day before.

I was allowed to stay in the room during her treatment and was reassured that she didn't suffer, though just by watching her feet twitch and her fists clench, I could sense her discomfort and apprehension a few times during the procedure. Overall, she was a fine patient and once the nitrous oxide mask came off and she was released from her bonds, she sat up smiling and hopped off the exam chair.

Again, the hygienist escorted us to the

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front office, where she let Annalisa pick out her own color balloon. Annalisa did not need my prompting to say a hearty, "Thank you for da red barroon!" (her pronunciation, not mine). The gal commented that Anna's smile was thanks enough.

I did ask Annalisa if she wanted to give the nurse "loves goodbye". After the previous no-go effort, you might wonder why I bothered. Because parenting is a perpetual repetition of lessons. I believe in benevolence; so I continue to point out situations in which she might be benevolent. I trust that someday it will come naturally to her and I will not have to point out such opportunities.

I believe benevolence, even small acts of kindness, extended to others, brings joy. And I KNOW that damn near everyone enjoys a small, sweet child wrapping her arms tightly around their knees and physically giving them a bit of her love.

Unlike two weeks prior, Annalisa showed no reluctance to give the lady a big squeeze. The hygienist bent down and gave Anna a proper hug in return and made a big show of exclaiming to my daughter, "Oh, why thank you! I hardly EVER get such nice hugs from my patients." Both of them were beaming. And on that cheery note, we left and I drove Annalisa back to school.

Given recent discussions, altruism, benevolence and ethical egoism were on my mind as I drove home. I'd given Annalisa opportunities to be benevolent. When she resisted that first day, I didn't push her. To have done so would have been encouraging her to be altruistic.

I imagine altruism not merely as "taking one for the team" but as momentous as "sacrificing one's life to save others" which is closer to the scientific use of the term, so I don't take it lightly. Frankly, I do not want my daughter, or my son either, to grow up feeling they have to give, or even share, their hearts, minds or bodies if they don't want to. Self-sacrificial giving to others is not a value I want taking root in their psyches, until they have a strong ego, a mature mind, and solid foundational experience with benevolence. Then, I believe that they will recognize many opportunities to be benevolent, but will resist petty calls for their altruism. If a rare and dire situation calls for it, they can make a reasoned choice to engage in an altruistic act.

Coming back to the notion of ethical

egoism, perhaps while I was trying to teach Annalisa to be benevolent, she was asserting her ethical egoism. Maybe she was trading value for value and it was not that she gave and lost *nothing*, but that she only gave because she *got* something. The first time, Anna saw little or no value in giving, and wanted neither to be altruistic nor benevolent, so she refused to oblige. Unfortunately, this is dicey to discuss philosophically, because the definition of benevolence does not address the selfishness or selflessness of the actor, it simply addresses the positive nature of giving.

So, put that lipstick on it if you wish; emphasize the rational self-centeredness of Anna's act. I prefer the elegance of benevolence, but I recognize this can be open for debate for another ten years. So let's start talking about the present and future of the Fellowship of Reason.

When I was asked to serve as FOR's President for 2008, the task given me was to establish a Children's Educational Program. With help from parent volunteers, our program is up and running; I am encouraged by its progress thus far and excited for its future. It has become an empty political cliché to proclaim that, "*Children are the future*". Duh, of course they are.

In reality, given the requirement to be 18 to be eligible for official membership, it is more accurate to say that our kids are the distant future of FOR – a decade or two from now. In the meantime, what about *us* in the next ten years?

As I was raised outside of any church setting, I had little experience in communities larger or more formal than a public school classroom. I wasn't a sorority sister and was never much of a club joiner, so prior to FOR, I never belonged to, let alone created or built an organized community, like the rational moral community of the Fellowship of Reason.

My husband however, was raised "in the Church", though in his case, it was within a few churches, so he has more knowledge of the growing pains of moral communities. As we have discussed the last year of my involvement with FOR, he commented that we seem to be going through a common phase of development.

The Fellowship has coalesced from a casual gathering of like-minded friends to an IRS identified organization with articles of incorporation, by-laws, leadership positions, *infrastructure*. But, *what* are we? What do we want to be?

As Eric told me, every church he attended growing up had to decide how Evangelical it would be. His observation is that FOR is at a similar juncture. Before you get upset by my terminology, I'll share with you that prior to my hearing that my husband's former employer,

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Microsoft, actually had employees whose Job Title is Evangelist, I'd never heard the term outside the context of Protestant churches either.

As I learned, the first five definitions of evangelical all relate to churches. However, one of its least-known definitions is "marked by ardent or zealous enthusiasm for a cause." So, it makes sense that Microsoft pays senior developers to step away from their computer keyboards and sends them out to universities across America and the world to espouse the virtues of Microsoft technologies.

So, how do we define ourselves now and how will we going forward? I posit for your consideration a key difference between activist and evangelical organizations. Unlike other free-thought societies around Atlanta, we do not seem to be activist atheists, gathering together to shout, "*We Reasoned folk are right and the faithful are wrong.*" My sense is that most of us, having visited such groups, think their members end up *preaching to the choir*, and we are done with the same old song and want to move on to interesting speeches and celebrations.

If you will recall the beginning of my speech, our focus is, "What is FOR for?" During my years of participation, I've never sensed that we were particularly evangelical, making an effort to go out, and not tell others they are wrong, but nevertheless try to convince all who will listen, "*We are reasoning and reasonable and moral and all kinds a good! Won't you join us?*"

Rather, we exist, welcoming those who come to us, being diplomatic to those turned off by our ideas. Some members may think we have been too deferential to theists around us, that we are overly concerned about not fluffing our feathers and ruffling the feathers of others.

Looking back, one of the actions I undertook this year has made us a bit more evangelical. With Board of Trustee approval on behalf of the Fellowship, I placed an advertisement in **Atlanta Parent Magazine** that is running for six months to introduce our Children's Educational Program to an audience beyond our current members, friends and conversation partners.

As I drafted the ad, I was reminded of a quote from Holly Hunter's character in the movie, "**Broadcast News**" where she proclaims, "*I'm beginning to repel those I'm*

*trying to attract, but that's the perfectionist's burden.*" The ad was diplomatic, cautious not to repel more than it attracts. And I wasn't too much of a perfectionist, but I did avoid use of the term atheist, or its less-common alternative, non-theist. Instead, I wrote that we welcome, "*parents who are looking for alternatives to traditional, theistic Sunday School for their kids.*" I figured, let parent readers define themselves, none of us needs me to do so for them.

Just as I checked out the web address on Dan's bumper sticker, visited the FOR website and happily proclaimed to my husband, "*Hey honey, I found an atheist church to attend!*", if they see themselves in our ad, they will visit our website and come meet us in person.

The ad will continue until the January issue, so it is too early to tell how much of an impact it will have. We have ample opportunity to consider, debate and decide our next steps.

Are we to be an evangelical, non-theist, reasoned moral community? If so, what are the next evangelical moves to make? Would stepping back from evangelism slow our growth? Do we care? Or are we to be an activist atheist community? How might the two be different in practice?

Or are we to remain an archipelago? A community of reasoned moralists in a sea of believers?

Before we consider our evolution, are we still in agreement over what we are now? How has the organization changed since its creation a decade ago? What actions might we undertake in 2009 that might change the group further?

I leave you with these questions. It is not for me alone to answer them here. And I know we haven't time for all of us to stand today and declare one way or another. Rather, I ask us all to take some time in the coming weeks to contemplate our past, consider our present and ponder our future.

Then I ask you to speak up and share your thoughts and ideas within *our* community, for we are a *fellowship*. Our fellowship requires our presence and flourishes with the *active* participation of all of us. Thank you.

**FOR's mission is to promote the personal flourishing of our members through reason.**

*Fellowship of Reason, Inc.*  
PO Box 5564  
Atlanta, GA 31107



Martin L. Cowen III  
Founder  
Telephone: 770-471-9800  
[mlcowen@yahoo.com](mailto:mlcowen@yahoo.com)

*The World's First and Only Reason-Based Moral Community*

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November 2, 2008

Vera and Michael Norman

Re: Award of Lifetime Charter Memberships to Michael Norman and Vera Norman

Dear Vera and Michael:

The Fellowship of Reason celebrates its Tenth Anniversary today. As the founder of FOR I am proud of achieving this milestone with the help of many people. I marvel at the great people of FOR with whom I have become friends. Personally, the last ten years of my life have been my best because of my friends in the Fellowship of Reason.

While several people have contributed mightily to my enjoyment during those ten years, one person stands out for me, personally.

There is one person who is distinctly my intellectual, life-experience, and educational superior. She is a person whom I deeply revere and honor. She has been more loyal to FOR (by participation and attendance at FOR activities) than most. She has brought more members to FOR than most. She is the person whose participation is, for me, among the greatest values of FOR to me. She is Vera Norman.

The following thirty-four members and friends of the Fellowship of Reason hereby award Vera and Michael Norman life memberships in the Fellowship of Reason. The cost, paid by us, was \$1,400 (\$700 for each life membership). The gifts to FOR earmarked for this award totaled \$2,175.00.

Contributors: Jim Ainsworth, Kate Allen, Leanna Ampola, Carla Bauer, Wendell Bettis, Ditty Boaz, Mike Brady, Peter Brookner, Toni Brookner, Allison Byrd, Scott Carper, Eleanor Cowen, Linda Cowen, Martin Cowen, David Dreading, Marsha Enright, Bill Greene, John Grover, Bruce Herr, Jack Hill, Beth Holley, Sally Hull, Ellen Lewit, Ron Menich, Susan Menich, Chris Snider, David van Mersbergen, Denise Taggart, Frank Vickers, Marv Watts, Tom Welch, and three anonymous contributors.

We love you, both!

*Martin*

Martin L. Cowen III

*Fellowship of Reason, Inc.*  
PO Box 5564  
Atlanta, GA 31107



Martin L. Cowen III  
Founder  
Telephone: 770-471-9800  
[mlcowen@yahoo.com](mailto:mlcowen@yahoo.com)

*The World's First and Only Reason-Based Moral Community*

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November 2, 2008

Dan Barber

Re: Certificate of Recognition for Ten Years of Achievement and Contribution

Dear Dan:

Without you, Dan Barber, the Fellowship of Reason would not now exist. You were our first President. You have served for all ten years of our existence on our Board of Trustees. You have been my faithful, sometimes brutally honest, adviser in good times and in difficult times. You are the only person who I choose to call regularly to seek your advice, counsel, and feedback. And, Brother, do you give it!

Your beautiful wife and charter member Theresa Barber has blessed us with a number of fantastic weekend river rafting adventures. Theresa has participated in organizing other trips for her friends in the Fellowship of Reason. Theresa and you have been the gracious and indefatigable host and hostess for countless lake parties and other celebrations.

Your children, Nick and Jessica, have grown up in our presence and they have been a delight to me, personally, and to all who know them.

Little known to others, but greatly appreciated by me, is your constant support of my activity, FORum: A Celebration of Human Achievement. Practically every month for 10 years you have arrived first in the room to set up. You have made our coffee and brought snacks. You have hosted visitors during the InFORmation Hour and otherwise. Not one among us, even me, the Founder of the Fellowship of Reason, has a greater facility for talking about FOR, connecting with others, and drawing them to our group. You have presented and MCed at FORum dozens, perhaps over one hundred, times.

By listing a small number of your achievements, I risk leaving out others of your contributions to FOR. I dare not omit the fact that you are our single largest financial contributor.

Thank you, Dan, for being my friend and among the greatest friends of the Fellowship of Reason.

I love you, Brother,

*Martin*

Martin L. Cowen III



## Interested in Viewing and Discussing Classic Films?

A classic film appreciation group entering its third year is looking for congenial film buffs to attend screenings when regulars are unavailable. The *Life is Too Short...* film course screens classics in an intown Atlanta home theater twice a month. Would you like to receive email notification if seats come available? There is no charge, although attendees are asked to observe a few simple guidelines (see below). To sign up for the mailing list or for more information, email Steve at [classic.film@yahoo.com](mailto:classic.film@yahoo.com).



### The Programs

The movies are recognized classics, the majority from Hollywood's Golden Age, the rest from other eras or countries. Programs include a cartoon and/or short subject, Coming Attractions, the feature film, clips and commentary on personnel and genres, with discussion interspersed.



### Guaranteed Seating for 2009

In addition to space-available participation, a few regular slots with guaranteed seating are still available for 2009. Be sure to request information if you think you might be interested.



### Attendee Responsibilities

In lieu of tuition, Attendees should:

- Give advance notice if they are unable to attend a film.
- Review the modest reading material before class.
- Expect to discuss the merits of the film, not its shortcomings or any controversial issues it might raise.
- Consider a voluntary contribution of two dollars per class to help defray the cost of prizes for the movie trivia contests.



### About the Instructor

A long-time member of the late, lamented Atlanta Film Society, Steve is teaching this course in the hope of re-creating the informed enthusiasm of that congenial organization – and because life is too short to watch lousy movies.



Some comments from regular Attendees:

*"If you're looking for an antidote to movie mindlessness, look no further than Steve's movie course. It is enjoyable, educational, thought provoking, and just plain fun."*

*"The course is marvelous. Good variety of films and interesting course materials to read before seeing the movies. Steve's wonderful commentary brings it all together."*

*"I have learned so much in this class about film-making, differences in directing and film editing that I can now recognize some of the major styles which characterize a director or a period."*

## Events

For detailed info on all upcoming events, visit  
<http://www.fellowshipofreason.com/calendar.htm>

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### FORum: A Celebration of Human Achievement

First Sunday noon  
 FOR's premier event. Starting at noon with an InFORmation Hour conducted by Dan Barber for visitors and new members. Meet and greet at 12:30 p.m. The program starts at 1 p.m. and lasts one hour. We enjoy post-program conversation until 3 p.m. when those interested adjourn to a restaurant for further fellowship. Children's Program from noon to 3 p.m.

Martin Cowen director: 678-641-9321.

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### FOR Runners: Sunday 8 a.m.

We meet every Sunday morning at 8 a.m., except FORum Sundays, at the southwest corner of Piedmont Park on 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Breakfast at Flying Biscuit (corner of Piedmont and 10<sup>th</sup> Street) follows at 9 a.m. Breakfast lovers, walkers, and joggers welcome!

Martin Cowen coordinator: 678-641-9321.

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### Philosophy Club: 1<sup>st</sup>/ 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.

Philosophy tapes are played to a small group of friends in a private home on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Free.

Sally Hull coordinator: 404-257-0454

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### Fiction Book Club: 2nd Tuesday 7:30 p.m.

Members and friends of FOR meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Tele's house across the street from Sally's house. For book selections and more information, go to:

[www.fellowshipofreason.com/fiction.htm](http://www.fellowshipofreason.com/fiction.htm)

Tele Holt coordinator: 404-843-1886

[telehold@gmail.com](mailto:telehold@gmail.com)

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### Potluck: 3rd Saturday 7:30 p.m.

Our next Potluck is Saturday, November 15, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. Remember it is potluck, so bring something good to eat and drink to share. Host: David and Janet Ziebell.

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### Pub Nigh ts: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday and 4th Thursday

Members and friends of FOR meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at Five Seasons Brewing at 7 p.m. and on the 4th Thursday at Manuel's Tavern at 8 p.m. for adult beverages and conversation.

Scott Carper coordinator Manuel's:  
 404-964-6697

Marianna coordinator Five Seasons Brewing:  
[mashoonya@yahoo.com](mailto:mashoonya@yahoo.com)

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### Movie Night: 4th Saturday, 6:30 p.m.

Members and friends of FOR meet on the 4th Saturday of every month at John Grover's photography studio to enjoy potluck and a movie. FOR's next movie night is Saturday, November 22, 2008, at 6:30 p.m.

John Grover coordinator: 404-872-4555

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### Atlas Shrugged Book Discussion Group:

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays in Norcross  
 Everyone is invited to discuss this epoch shaping book.

Dan Barber discussion leader: 770-595-6106

*Join us for our  
 next monthly  
 FORum:*

**December 7,  
 2008**

**Sunday at 1 p.m.**  
 (Meet, Greet at 12:30)

Come early for the  
**InFORmation  
 Hour**

At noon  
 Moderated by Dan Barber for  
 visitors and new members

**FOR Children's Program**  
 from noon to 3 p.m.  
 Educational Program from  
 12:30 p.m. to 12:50 p.m.

## Birthdays

- |               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| • November 2  | Mary A.  |
| • November 3  | John G.  |
| • November 12 | Randy S. |

- |               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| • December 21 | Bill G.   |
| • December 27 | Leanna A. |
| • December 30 | Mike B.   |

## Celebratory Announcements

Do yourself a favor and remember a good thing that happened to you this month:

Please, write it down: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Now do the membership of FOR, Inc. a favor by relating this fact during FORum next month!

\_\_\_\_\_



**Fellowship of Reason**

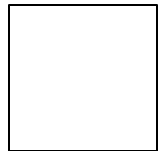
P.O. Box 5564  
Atlanta, Georgia 31107

**E-mail**

[info@fellowshipofreason.com](mailto:info@fellowshipofreason.com)

A Reason-Based Moral  
Community for the 21<sup>st</sup>  
Century

**FELLOWSHIP OF REASON, INC.**  
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Atlanta, Georgia 31107



**We're on the Web!**  
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[fellowshipofreason.com](http://fellowshipofreason.com)