

The official newsletter of  
Fellowship of Reason, Inc.



## Hyderabad

By  
Ronald P. Menich

### Celebration of Freedom FORum, September 2008

*The presentation began with Ron showing the audience photographs of his colleagues in the Hyderabad, India office of JDA Software. He accompanied the presentation of each photo with comments on the work the person does and some notes of personal interest.*

For today's Celebration of Freedom, I would like to celebrate the freedom of U.S. companies to hire excellent software engineers in India at very reasonable prices and thereby to bring value to their customers and shareholders, which they might otherwise be unable to do with a higher-cost U.S.-based workforce.

Software engineers in Hyderabad --- like the very fine, talented and real people I just showed you --- earn approximately 1/3 of their U.S. counterparts. Largely because of these low labor costs, but also because of India's English language heritage, South India's relatively stable and business-oriented political climate and good universities, many U.S. software companies have set up shop in Bangalore, Hyderabad or Chennai. For example, on the plane on my way to visit JDA Hyderabad, I sat next to a U.S. project manager from Microsoft who was on his way to visit Microsoft's Hyderabad software factory. JDA recently announced its intention to acquire i2 Software, a supply chain firm; it turns out that i2 has a shop in Bangalore that is actually bigger than ours in Hyderabad.

It is my (perhaps unsupported) conjecture that the productive harnessing of South India's software talent to the world economy has done more to lift the standard of living than all government foreign aid

programs ever, combined. The fine engineers I showed you have jobs, good jobs. Thirty years ago, they would not have had such opportunities and their talents and aspirations would never have found an expression. (One only needs to go a mile or less from JDA's Hyderabad offices into old India to see examples of the crushing poverty these fine people might have endured had they not had the software engineering opportunities they now have.) Today, Hyderabad is booming. Everywhere there are roads under construction. The glittering new international airport opened a few months before I arrived. Apartment and office buildings are springing up like weeds. There is energy and enthusiasm in the air of this third-world city.

JDA and its predecessor companies formerly had large concentrations of software engineers in Rockville, Maryland and other U.S. locations. Over the last 5 years or so, the size of the U.S. software development workforce has shrunk and correspondingly the India-based workforce has grown.

It is because of this last point that many U.S. citizens fear globalization. They fear that their jobs will be eliminated and transported to India or elsewhere. That fear, frankly, is not entirely unfounded and I will not attempt in this short talk to offer counterarguments as to why globalization is in fact a good thing; we will save that for another day's discussion.

But what I will note is that I now have acquaintances 8300 miles away in Hyderabad with whom I've shared food, laughs, sightseeing and hard work. These are real people whom I generally like. I do not think of them as foreigners stealing jobs from U.S. citizens; no, I think of them as my colleagues: they and I are on the same team, together we are on the JDA team. They are committed to the success of the software development effort that is at least 60% my branchchild. I went to India to explain the design of the software to them, the design I hatched, and they are now making it happen in a timely and cost-efficient manner. For this, I am grateful.

#### Individual Highlights

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## Thank you from Vera and Michael Norman for the gift of Lifetime Memberships

Dear Jim, Kate, Leanna, Carla, Wendell, Ditty, Mike, Peter, Toni, Allison, Scott, Eleanor, Linda, Martin, David, Marsha, Bill, John, Bruce, Jack, Beth, Sally, Ellen, Ron, Susan, Chris, David, Denise, Frank, Marv, Tom, and the three people who remain anonymous:

Thank you so much for buying us, Michael and me, a permanent lifetime membership in FOR. Martin came over after Forum, presented us with the plaque, and read his affirmation to us. We felt so honored by all of you, and I was so overcome with emotion I cried. FOR means so much to us not only because we approve its tenets, but because through FOR we have met and befriended so many people we enjoy immensely and more than a few we have come to cherish as life long friends.

As all of you know, I have been sick for several months now, and although radiation and chemo are doing their best to kill off this cancer, I am not certain how much time I have left. I am hoping I will be around for a long time to come—I love life and I have not finished all my projects and even if I did, my friends, you know I would create more projects for myself. I have not been able to participate in as many of the FOR events as I used to. I have tried to persuade Michael to go to events without me, but prying him away from my side has been almost impossible when I am not feeling well, and when I do feel well, we both go. In the event Michael will come to be alone, I am counting on you to draw him out of loneliness and into the warm circle of fellowship.

Dear friends, let me say "thank you" again and again for your affection and trust in us. We feel loved and appreciated and lifted by your friendship.

Vera and Michael

### 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

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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

## New Board of Trustees and Officers

**Kathleen Allen  
Mike Brady  
Martin Cowen  
Ron Menich  
Tom Welch**

**Are the new Board of Trustees of the Fellowship of Reason, Inc.**

**David Ziebell, President  
Scott Carper, Vice President  
Larry Woods, Secretary**

**Are the new officers of the Fellowship of Reason, Inc.**

## New Policy at FORum

***The President, the Vice President, or their designee will serve as Master of Ceremonies during FORum every month, ex officio.***

## Quote of the Month

Contributed by Trustee and Lifetime Charter Member Tom Welch

"I moved from the world of faith to the world of reason.... Having made that journey, I know that one of those worlds is simply better than the other. Not because of its flashy gadgets, but fundamentally, because of its values."

Ayaan Hirsi Ali, *Infidel*



## 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."*

# December 2008

December 2008							January 2009						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	15	16	17	18
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	19	20	21	22
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30	31	25
29	30	31											

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	7:30pm Philosophy Tapes (Sally's house)	7:30pm Invisible College			8:00am ATC (Marietta, GA) 7:00pm Classic Film Appreciation Course (Steve Whiteman's house)	12:00pm FORum (NWUUC)
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7:30pm PMAC	7:30pm Fiction Book Club (Beth's house)	7:00pm FOR Pub Sandy Springs (Five Seasons Brewing) 7:30pm Invisible College			7:00pm Classic Film Appreciation Course (Steve Whiteman's house)	8:00am FOR Runners (Flying Biscuit)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	7:30pm Philosophy Tapes (Sally's house)	7:30pm Invisible College			12:00pm HD Opera 7:30pm Potluck Christmas Party (Martin & Linda)	Bill G. bd 8:00am FOR Runners (Flying Biscuit)
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			Christmas 8:00pm FOR pub (Manuel's Tavern)		Leanna bd 6:30pm Movie Night (John's Studio)	8:00am FOR Runners (Flying Biscuit)
29	30	31				
	Mike bd					

# January 2009

January 2009							February 2009						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			January 1, 2009 New Year's Day	2	3	4
					7:00pm Classic Film Appreciation Course (Steve Whiteman's house)	12:00pm FORum (NWUUC)
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	7:30pm Philosophy Tapes (Sally's house)	7:30pm Invisible College			1:00pm HD Opera 7:00pm Classic Film Appreciation Course (Steve Whiteman's house)	8:00am FOR Runners (Flying Biscuit)
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
7:30pm PMAC	7:30pm Fiction Book Club (Beth's house)	7:00pm FOR Pub Sandy Springs (Five Seasons Brewing) 7:30pm Invisible College		David S. bd	7:30pm Potluck (Volunteer)	Vera bd 8:00am FOR Runners (Flying Biscuit)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	7:30pm Philosophy Tapes (Sally's house)	7:30pm Invisible College	8:00pm FOR pub (Manuel's Tavern)		1:00pm HD Opera 6:30pm Movie Night (John's Studio) 6:30pm Movie Night (John's studio)	8:00am FOR Runners (Flying Biscuit)
26	27	28	29	30	31	
		7:30pm Invisible College		Mark bd	Sally bd	

## 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. Meet and greet at 12:30 p.m. The program starts at 1 p.m. Presided over by FOR's President or Vice President, members give presentations such as Celebration of Freedom and Celebration of Talent. A 15 to 20 minute Oratory on an ethical subject highlights the program. A short conversation called FORum during which audience members share their thoughts concludes the program. We enjoy post-program conversation until 3 p.m. when those interested adjourn to a local 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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### Invisible College: Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.

Doctor of Philosophy reveals the secrets of philosophy in a live two-hour lecture. There is an enormous fee and limited seating. Adepts and initiates only.

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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. CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our next Potluck is Saturday, December 20, at 7:30 p.m. Remember it is potluck, so bring something good to eat and drink to share. Host: Martin Cowen

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### Two Pub Nights: 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, December 27, 2008, at 6:30 p.m.

John Grover coordinator: 404-872-4555

*Join us for our  
next monthly  
FORum:*

**December 7,  
2008  
Sunday at 1 p.m.**  
(Meet, Greet at 12:30)

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

## Birthdays

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

- |              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| • January 16 | David S. |
| • January 18 | Vera     |
| • January 30 | Mark S.  |
| • January 31 | Sally H. |

## 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**

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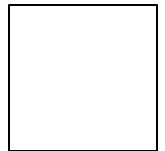
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Community for the 21<sup>st</sup>  
Century



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