

The official newsletter of
Fellowship of Reason, Inc.



Trust Me, I'm a Scientist

By
David Ziebell

Maybe you've heard this one: Following a scientific briefing at the CDC in Atlanta on the 2009 swine flu pandemic, Vice President Biden, asked what should Americans do? Said yesterday, and I quote- "Run for your lives!" Within minutes, White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs noted to reporters "what the Vice President meant to say was that 'running is good for your health.'"

No, really – TRUST me! I'm a scientist.

Or try this one: Scientists last month reported that posterior beta and anterior gamma oscillations predict cognitive insight. Pioneering neuroimaging studies on insight have revealed neural correlates of the emotional "Aha component" of the insight process. The effects occurred up to 8 seconds before the subjects consciously knew about it.

Trust me – I AM a card-carrying scientist (Fig. 1).

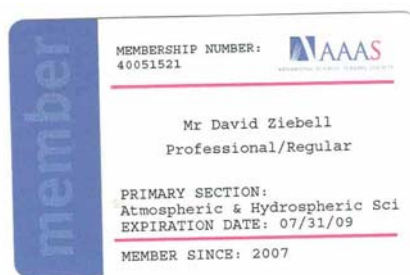


Figure 1 Scientist Club Membership Card

Well, ok then. Not really. Maybe I'm only a scientist groupie, or a guerilla scientist, but I know how to trust scientists. I have confidence in my ability to judge the sorts of scientific claims that matter to me. And the point of this essay is: you can, too. My purpose today is to share the experiences of my life that put me in a position to be effectively skeptical of the knowledge claims made by scientists. And to share some of the lessons I've adopted.

In sharing my experiences, I hope also to

convince you that the actions I take are easy enough for you to do, that the steps I take are not difficult or mysterious or require special intuition. They do, however, take some practice and some commitment on your part to do a certain amount of work. So, this discussion is a form of advice: If you try these methods, make them your own, you will flourish better because you'll better decisions about some big issues that matter to you.

And the issues are important. Life and death important, in some cases. Remember global cooling? The ozone hole? Now, global warming. Naturalistic cosmologies - the big bang and relativity - to debunk creation myths. Medicine, with a pill for everything (none of them to be taken with alcohol or while operating heavy machinery, sadly). Genetic engineering, including what the Europeans call genetically modified food but what drought stricken Africans call salvation. Stem cells, the use of which are championed by real people with real problems, like Michael J. Fox with Parkinson's and Christopher Reeves with a busted spinal cord. Cognitive science, finally – how do we really think? And what is conscious rationality, really

You probably have other hot-button issues. I believe what I am about to recommend can be adapted by you to help you investigate for yourself the hot-button issues you want the truth about.

How I became a part-time guerilla scientist and full time scientist groupie:

I read a book by Isaac Asimov – The Universe: From Flat Earth to Quasar in 1968 when I was 14. It pretty much ended my flirtation with being born again. I'll claim now that the key lesson was that the big questions could be understood without resorting to mystical methodologies. Where did the universe come from? Where did I come from? The deeper personal lesson was that it helped me overcome the fact that I had been stuck with rote-learned science. But the step-by-step integration of the little bits rote knowledge I

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had gained was now within my grasp, and that transformed the rote knowledge into something that was easier to hold on to. I had a theory, a theoretical framework, at last.

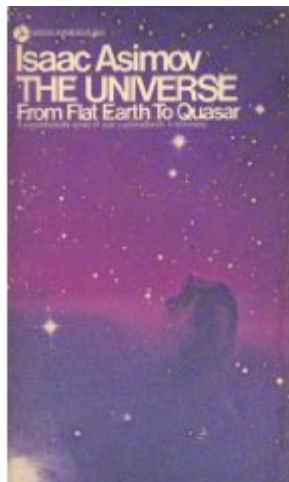


Figure 2 An Easy Read (but waaayy behind the cutting edge)

1973, my sophomore year of college, Jacob Bronowski's *The Ascent of Man* aired on PBS. This made the notion of connecting the historical dots real to me. The notion that one's world view matters. That science and art, politics and philosophy – in sum, one's beliefs or world view - have consequences of themselves because one's beliefs largely play out in a social world. I look to that experience as showing me how to understand the social use and abuse of knowledge, which is itself a big picture – different from a cosmological theory, but hugely important.

Then, while I was in the Navy in 1980, came Carl Sagan's *Cosmos, A Personal Journey*. This was nearly coincident with my first reading Ayn Rand in the form of *The Fountainhead*, and a science survey book *A Natural History of the Min* by Gordon Taylor. In short order, I'd read every book ever written by Rand and began to wonder a bit about her approach, which I still take as being nearly anti-scientific (ignoring cutting edge science and politicizing much of the rest). But I fell in love with the notion of integrated, non-contradictory knowledge as being the best, the most robust kind. I saw that it was my responsibility, and a joy, for me to integrate and test my own knowledge. The deepest learning from all of this was the realization that Sagan's subtitle is apt. Knowledge is a personal journey. One has to do it for oneself.

My life to this point was not without a certain rote schooling and drill-type practice that formed a context from which I operate today. Between 1972 and 1981 I'd attended college, learned some math, physics, chemistry, and become a nuclear officer in the navy.

In the navy, I actually had to do some experiments to do my job as a steely eyed killer of the deep. 1981-82 I attended graduate school for a year studying psychology, instigated by my questioning of some comments about psychology in general and John Locke, William James, and John Dewey in particular by Rand.

So, since that time, I've been interested in knowledge – what it is, how to get it, how to use it, the systems view, the mind, and the self in society. Along the way I've constructed from many sources and experiences a theory, or a world view, that is quite conventional in terms of the modern world. I'm quite free of the conundrums raised in philosophical history (which was unable to benefit from structured empirical evidence, because science hadn't been invented yet). And because it is free to discard structural conundrums that 2500 years of philosophical inquiry have not yet solved by seeking additional evidence, so far, everything fits.

Two Techniques

Your autobiographical mileage may vary – in fact it probably does. I do not recommend you have to be passionate about the same things I'm passionate about. But if you think about how you think, you will discover that you do have a world view already. The issue I'm trying to address is that unless you've tried, repeatedly, to test how new scientific facts might fit into your world view, you might have some anxiety, because science is evolutionary and disruptive – every new fact is a little "inconvenient truth" until it is incorporated with whatever else you know. I assume everyone has a world view, and I'm not trying to change it. Directly. But if you want to expand your capacity to make your own decisions about your knowledge, you might find that you could use the following two techniques I use.

The first technique is the broad survey, and the second is the deep dive. Both are practices designed to stretch one's own skills and knowledge, but more important, to test the integrity of one's entire knowledge base against the standard of non-contradiction.

Many of you might point to a broad survey experience similar to what I report – *The Universe*, *The Ascent of Man*, *Cosmos*. There are surveys of art, of history, of many things. Those of us in the habit of doing philosophy tapes might consider reaching elsewhere in the Teaching Company, to topics such as the joys of math or the history of science. My advice is: keep it up, keep looking for yet another survey course you haven't experienced.

But there are caveats. Take a survey course or read a high level survey book from someone who is a passionate elder for the topic, meaning that they actually contributed to and

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.

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Contributing membership:
\$70 per Year

Lifetime membership:
\$700

Contact Information

To talk to somebody about Fellowship of Reason call:

Martin at 678-641-9321
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House Fire (With a moral)

(the following is extracted from e-mails among FOR's Parenting Group)

Posted by: "Beth"

Some excitement here - my dishwasher motor caught fire yesterday while I (fortunately) was in the kitchen. It was impressive - flames flared out of it (while it was running). Telephone didn't work to call 911 (electrical cut off). I couldn't find my cell phone. I evacuated the house (all the neighborhood kids were over), fortunately my neighbor heard my calls (okay they were probably screams) for assistance and saw smoke and came over with a fire extinguisher (the only thing that would work to put out the flames under & at the sides of the dishwasher - (located wedged between the cabinets so no easy access - so the old baking soda solution my mom always used for stove fires couldn't work).

We've had an odor and water remediation company here the night of the fire - which was yesterday at 6:00 (apparently they come at all hours - they got here at 9:00). Everything is a BIG mess! And despite the 2 industrial sized odor eating machines there is still a distinct chemical smell in the air.

The kitchen is less than 5 years old. ...

...

Moral of the story:

- don't leave appliances on when you are sleeping or leave the house!

- Keep a fire extinguisher handy and in view (of course I have several but I couldn't remember where they were in my panicked state counting the kids to ensure everyone was out)

Posted by: "Linda"

Oh my! I'm glad everyone is OK. Stuff can be replaced, but not the people.

More to the moral: make sure the fire extinguishers that ARE nearby work. They do "expire".

Take care.

Posted by: "Beth"

Funny you should mention that...

I have the extinguishers all over the house and outside (next to the grill), but since they weren't visible, and I was panicked, I couldn't remember where they were. So at that point I was more concerned about getting the kids, shutting off the electrical board, shutting all internal the doors, and finding a phone to dial 911.

However, after the fire was put out I noticed/remembered that there were 2

extinguishers within 5 feet.

... I'm the kind of person that checks expiration dates and replaces them regularly. So my next step is to find a better place for them. Despite the fact they are ugly, I intend to attach an extinguisher to the counter where it is visible to everyone (including BABYSITTERS and forgetful grandparents).

The neighbor that bought the first extinguisher over found it didn't work because indeed it was expired! This cost precious time and resulted in more loss.. The next neighbor that came did have a working one. This was what kept the fire from spiraling out of control.

Posted by: "Susan"

Beth, I'm glad you and the kids are all right. I imagine the dishwasher company is going to be hearing from you about this.

Even with the fire extinguishers in plain sight, I sometimes forget they are there, just because they are always there and I don't really see them anymore. In fact, I just went to take a look at the one in the kitchen, to verify it wasn't expired, and was rather surprised to notice that there are in fact 2 fire extinguishers in my kitchen. (I'm not sure where the second one came from.)

Yesterday was "spring ahead" day, and there's been a big campaign in recent years to try and train folks to replace smoke detector batteries twice a year on time-change days. Maybe they should add "check your fire extinguishers, too".

Everybody: If you've never actually used a fire extinguisher, it's a good idea to practice with one. The building management at my office has safety marshal training every year (we're the ones who get to wear the orange vests and blow the whistles during fire drills), and someone from the fire dept comes out and talks about the dangers of fires in high rise buildings. They replace the all the fire extinguishers in the building every so often,

just before they are due to expire, and last year we got to use the old ones for practice.

The fireman took us out back and lit some gasoline on fire in a big tub, and we got to practice pulling the pin on the fire extinguisher (fairly easy to do, but who has time to stop and read directions when there's a real fire?), pulling the trigger and aiming the spray at the base of the fire, not the flames. It was a good lesson, and I'm glad I got to try it once in a non-emergency situation.

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became a recognized spokesperson for at least some of the work surveyed. Take a course where the presenter has a strong inspirational approach, is convinced that the subject matter is profound and meaningful, and can translate it to personal step-by-step demonstrations. And, make it your mission to prove to yourself that you grasp the big picture, that you can relate to another what the core message is. Give yourself a chance to be inspired by it. The challenge to yourself should not be to defeat the course or find flaws in it, but to see how much of the content can you incorporate in your own thinking.

The deep dive is the notion of "look it up" taken to the point of stretching, expanding, exercising beyond the point you have exercised before. Little deep dives are real easy today. For example:

There really is an article in the April 18, 2009 Economist, in the regular section "Science and Technology" titled "Incognito." The topic is clearly labeled "Conscious and Unconscious Thought" and the subtitle is "Evidence mounts that brains decide before their owners know about it." Does that notion get your juices flowing? It does mine. WHAT owners??? Darn dualists. Dualism is dead. (Grumble). Especially when the article concludes with "Conscious thought, it seems, does not solve problems." (Harrumph.)

This immediate emotional reaction that I had is something I look for, to give me a learning opportunity. This obviously required a deep dive. How deep? In this case, I googled the two author's names and the word "insight," all from the second paragraph of the article. On April 28th, when I did this, the 2nd hit gave me a link to the pre-publication uncorrected proof of the article on one of the author's websites – it's a PDF with a "uncorrected proof" watermark of the actual article, since published in the actual on-line Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience, where you can get the actual article for free. This is simply amazing. April 18 Economist, and you could have pulled the thread on the 19th of April and found the scientific paper, peer reviewed and ready for publication, before the journal actually published it. You could be (and I was) up to the exact cutting edge of science in a matter of two mouse clicks.

So, great. But now you have to understand the article, which turns out to be titled: "Posterior Beta and Anterior Gamma Oscillations Predict Cognitive Insight." The abstract states: "Pioneering neuroimaging studies on insight have revealed neural correlates of the emotional 'Aha!' component of the insight process, but neural substrates of the cognitive component, such as problem restructuring—a key to transformative reasoning, remain a

mystery. Here, multivariate electroencephalogram signals were recorded from human participants while they solved verbal puzzles that could create a small-scale experience of cognitive insight. Individuals responded as soon as they reached a solution and provided a rating of subjective insight.... The effects occurred several (up to 8) seconds before the behavioral response. Our findings indicate that insight is represented by distinct spectral, spatial, and temporal patterns of neural activity related to presolution cognitive processes that are intrinsic to the problem itself but not exclusively to one's subjective assessment of insight."

Immediately, it is obvious that there is both more and less to the scientists' paper than is reported in the Economist magazine. And this is one of the features about science and your capability to judge it that I'd like to point out. The popular press is different that the scientific press. The Economist is very, very good at dispassionate reporting in this section, but their goal is not to advance knowledge, it is to sell magazines. That is one reason why the deep dive is so useful. You can now make a direct assessment of your popular press newspaper or magazine by taking one step closer to what actually happened in the lab, instead of relying on some third party's opinion about what happened in the lab. With two mouse clicks, you can generate an up tic or a down tic in your assessment of your favorite source of information. Keep score on these little tests, and you will have better data on which to judge the credibility of what you read in the popular press.

Another thing I'd like to point out is that a single deep dive, your first one, is likely not going to be immediately easy to read. Scientists write like idiots sometimes, acronyms and strange arcane words all over the place. But you probably won't be interested in deep diving every topic, you will probably only have a few areas where you repeatedly wish to inquire further. Concentrating your effort in this way, every time you do dive deep, the papers get easier to read. You have to Google new terms less and less.

And you'll find that scientific papers are very structured. The abstract is very important. In this example, I'm astonished to see that it is apparently acceptable for scientists to talk and measure a thing called the "emotional aha component" of something called "insight." This gives a sense of progress: in our lifetimes, it was essentially forbidden for scientists to address consciousness, because they didn't have the tools.

And on reading the paper, what they call insight is – exactly – what you and I think it is – not some neurophysical cartoon reduction or

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

PUB NIGHT *Help Wanted!*

PUB NIGHT needs some help, a volunteer to carry on. (Thanks Scott and Marianna for getting them started.)

Our regular sponsors have changed situations that make it difficult to sustain these recurring events.

We had been meeting on 4th Thursdays at Manual's Tavern, and on 2nd Wednesdays at 5 Seasons Brewery. You could continue at either of those venues, or pick your own. Contact Scott or David Z if you can volunteer.

President's Note: **Managing an Oxymoron?**

Fellowship of Reason, as an organization, acts at times like a collection of activities. Some of the activities have been rather stable over time (Ten plus years of FORum!) and others have gone through periods when interest and attendance fall off. Currently, the Children's program is taking off – attendance and interest from visitors is steadily increasing (Thanks, Beth G, Kate A, and others!). And recently reborn is the non-fiction book club (Thanks, Allison B!).

As I talk with members, it's becoming clear to me that even with our somewhat limited size, we have several distinct demographic groups, each with enthusiasm for different kinds of activities. This is so very much like larger communities that I cannot help but be pleased and supportive: of an overall Fellowship of Reason community that has a variety of environments to please a variety of people. It's like Prego spaghetti sauce – you can have it as you like it: Cheesy, chunky, meaty, with vegetables, spicy, whatever. As long as it's sauce, for spaghetti.

It does pose challenges for us as we strive to remain focused on what is special about Fellowship of Reason, and grow the scope of what we strive to be as an organization. There's no single perfect spaghetti sauce – just different kinds for different people to enjoy, even for the same people to enjoy at different times. Similarly, there is no perfect Fellowship of Reason Experience – just different things at different times for people to choose from and enjoy. Note, I'm convinced that Fellowship of Reason has a real center, a real function. This function is supported in many different ways, but there are some, even many, activities that would not form any part of our central function, and we will continue to avoid. (An example of a community function where we would not conceivably have a role would be writing insurance policies.)

We are beginning to face the challenge of having many different ways of being who we are. For example, May 16 we had two potlucks. Thanks to both the hosts! Chris and Allison hosted one, and Leanna and Jim hosted another. (As of this writing, both are in the future; I hope everyone has a good time.)

Why would this be a bad thing? Or rather, how can this be a good thing?

It would be a bad thing, obviously, if we let this be a divisive problem, and it caused a split. It would be a bad thing, I think, if we assumed we could only do one thing at a time, if we felt the need to declare that one of the two potlucks was "official" and the other was only unofficial, or even "competing." But there is an easy alternative to this assumption. We can recognize that the two hosts have different circumstances; in this case one volunteer wanted and was able to host a family-friendly event earlier in the day, and another volunteer

wanted and was able to host an adults-only event later in the day. This view turns the same situation into more or less a good thing – we are an organization that fosters friendships among willing participants.

Perhaps, if the need to have multiple flavors of Potluck persists, we can expand our repertoire and have one on the second Saturday of the month. I'm just thinking out loud here – but I think we can find a way for those of us who would have liked to attend both to do just that.

This mechanical solution to good thing/bad thing considerations masks an underlying problem that the executive committee is working to resolve. Historically, FOR was adults only, and technically per the bylaws still is. But recently we created a Children's Program (with strong consensus toward building community). This was a big change, and I believe has the unintended consequence of opening the door to some confusion or misunderstanding.

Specific examples of potential confusion or misunderstanding include the following: Some members might believe that other people's children are creating demands or entitlements that the members "must" accommodate. Other members might believe that not including children in particular events is anti-social and anti-fellowship. The debate I've witnessed on this topic is highly polarized. Also, in my opinion, neither of these two beliefs is complete. This is largely because the two sides have yet to inquire about "what else is also true?" within the others' philosophical positions.

What can we do? I think we need to get our principles and priorities mutually understood again, and the Fellowship of Reason, Inc. needs to publicize a set of expectations on this that we all can live with. It'll take some time, because on the surface the notion of "a community of individuals" is an oxymoron.

But I think it is the best kind of community.

Eudaimonia!

David Ziebell

dziebell@comcast.net
404-316-9823

PS My e-mail and phone number are listed above for a reason.

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black box concept. You can see this by comparing the abstract's terminology to the reference list in the article. I recommend you always scan the reference list: you will begin to see the dialogue and be able to name the players in the scientific community who take this very personally indeed, and know they are speaking sensibly, even though the words initially seem strange to outsiders.

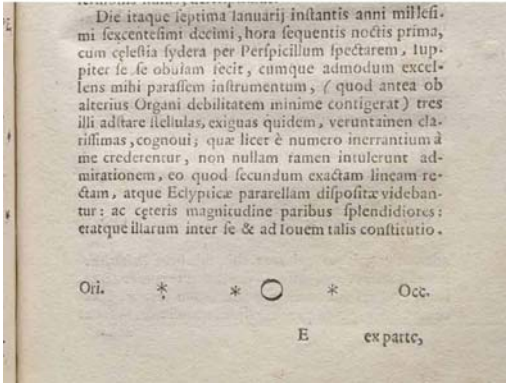


Figure 3 Another Deep Dive: What Galileo Galilei saw on Jan 7, 1609 (Detail from *Sidereus Nuncius*, or "The Starry Messenger")

My Top Rules, Heresies, and Niggling Details for Reading Science:

1. Rule: Be curious. Be curious about what happens, not about what people say happened, or what people like about what happened. Make something happen, and watch it. Or, watch other people make something happen, and observe what happens. (This in effect is what reading peer reviewed journal articles do. The publishing authors have to very honestly say what they tried to make happen, how they tried to make it happen, and then they have to say exactly what actually, measurably, happened, without omission or hedging. Only then can the author briefly opine.)
2. Rule: Connect the dots, learn meaningfully, and strive to integrate new ideas into what you already know. Respect your world view enough to grow it. Don't end your broad surveys or deep dives end with you concluding: "that's nice, it's logical, in itself, but I still don't think it matters to me." Find some consequence for you personally in what is being said. If you can't, then that would be a good time to read some scientific editorial commentary on the deep dive or the broad survey you just did.
3. Heresy - Realize that scientists are money grubbing backstabbing politically motivated just like everyone else, and this is much of what you read about in the popular press. But the rules of science pretty much keep that out of the peer reviewed papers they are required to

write. So be willing to hold your nose long enough to dig through the popular press and move to the original sources occasionally. And don't just go to the books written by mid-career scientists – that's normally part of the backstabbing game. Go to the articles – scientists don't often let each other get away with murder in scientific journals.

4. Niggling detail. Know some math.

Graphing, especially. If you don't think you know math, read an old book called 1,2,3, Infinity by George Gamow. Also, be able to use exponential numbers and idiot check numerical claims heard in the press. Example – TARP cost 750 billion dollars. Is that 24 dollars per man, woman and child in the US, or is that 24 hundred dollars, or is that 24 thousand dollars per person?

5. Niggling detail: Persevere in the face of difficult reading. Keep Google and Wikipedia handy. Follow up on the references cited in the articles you dive in to. Sadly, scientists talk in gibberish at the fringes of normal usage. Look things up and compare different articles using the same word or set of gibberish to decide for yourself what these guys are really talking about. You'll find they are seldom talking about meaningless things – just things that are precisely limited and that few people have ever talked about before. No wonder the language is arcane. It's brand new, in many cases.

6. Rule (for groupies) or Heresy (for scientists): Be interested in the subject, care about the issues philosophically or politically or personally. I think a great place to start is when you hear somebody telling you what to do. There's a science claim behind every "ought" statement you hear in the press. If the ought statement makes your stomach churn, you might be interested enough to have some fun doing a deep dive (or several) on the topic.

Summary:

I have pointed out the mind-opening experiences in my life, and you heard many of the early ones were broad survey-type exposures. If you don't consider yourself capable of judging scientific claims, you could do worse than start with any of the suggestions I personally benefited from.

Do a deep dive daily. Don't delay.

If you do these things, pretty soon you'll be proud to say to yourself, for yourself: Trust me – I'm a scientist.

◀ May 2009 ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 7:00 PM Classic Film Appreciation Course RSVP Now
3 12:00 PM Fellowship of Reason Monthly FORum and Children's Education Program RSVP Now	4	5 7:30 PM Philosophy Club RSVP Now	6	7	8	9 11:00 AM Non-Fiction Book Club RSVP Now 12:30 PM Met Opera HD - La Cenerentola RSVP Now 7:00 PM Classic Film Appreciation Course RSVP Now
10 8:00 AM FOR Runners RSVP Now	11	12 7:30 PM Fiction Book Club RSVP Now	13 7:00 PM Sandy Springs Pub Night RSVP Now	14	15	16 7:30 PM Potluck Supper RSVP Now
17 8:00 AM FOR Runners RSVP Now	18	19 7:30 PM Philosophy Club RSVP Now	20	21	22	23
24 8:00 AM FOR Runners RSVP Now	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 8:00 AM FOR Runners RSVP Now						

Did you know? Our most up-to-date calendar is on MeetUp.com?

Help our meeting organizers by RSVP'ing at:

<http://www.meetup.com/FellowshipofReason/calendar/>

or

www.fellowshipofreason.com and click on "Events Calendar"

◀ June 2009 ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:30 PM Philosophy Club RSVP Now	3	4	5	6 7:00 PM Classic Film Appreciation Course RSVP Now
7 12:00 PM Fellowship of Reason Monthly FORum and Children's Education Program RSVP Now	8	9 7:30 PM Fiction Book Club RSVP Now	10	11	12	13 7:00 PM Classic Film Appreciation Course RSVP Now
14 8:00 AM FOR Runners RSVP Now	15	16 7:30 PM Philosophy Club RSVP Now	17	18	19	20 7:30 PM Potluck Supper RSVP Now
21 8:00 AM FOR Runners RSVP Now	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 8:00 AM FOR Runners RSVP Now	29	30				

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<http://www.meetup.com/FellowshipofReason/calendar/>

or

www.fellowshipofreason.com and click on "Events Calendar"

Events

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

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.

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 10th Street. Breakfast at Flying Biscuit (corner of Piedmont and 10th Street) follows at 9 a.m. Breakfast lovers, walkers, and joggers welcome!

Martin Cowen coordinator: 678-641-9321

Philosophy Club: 1st / 3rd 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

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.

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

Tele Holt coordinator: 404-843-1886
 telehold@gmail.com

Potluck: 3rd Saturday

Our next Potluck is a two parter! Part 1: Saturday, June 21, 2009, at 4:ish p.m. for Families. Remember it is potluck, so bring something good to eat and drink to share. Host: Ron and Susan Menich

Part 2: Saturday, June 21, 2009, at 7:ish p.m. for Adults. Remember it is potluck, so bring something good to eat and drink to share. Host: Ron and Susan Menich

Pub Night: 2nd Wednesday (Five Season's Brewing)

Members and friends of FOR meet on the 2nd Wednesday at Five Seasons Brewing at 7 p.m. for adult beverages and conversation.

Marianna coordinator Five Seasons Brewing:
 mashoonya@yahoo.com

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, March 28, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

John Grover coordinator: 404-872-4555

*Join us for our
 next monthly
 FORum:*

**June 7, 2009
 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

- | | | | |
|----------|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| • May 2 | Frank Vickers | • June 2 | David Dreading |
| • May 10 | Gerry Rehert | • June 22 | Chris Snider |
| • May 29 | Carla Bauer | • June 29 | Allison Byrd |

Celebratory Note to Self

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

Please, write it down: _____

Now do your friends in FOR a favor by relating this fact during FORum next month!



FELLOWSHIP OF REASON®

Fellowship of Reason

P.O. Box 5564
Atlanta, Georgia 31107

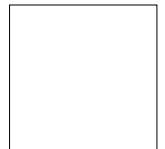
E-mail

info@fellowshipofreason.com

A Reason-Based Moral
Community for the 21st
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We're on the Web!

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fellowshipofreason.com