Notice of Annual Meeting and of Election of Board of Trustees (Meeting and Elections: November 6, 2016; Nominations: October 2, 2016)

Annual meeting

The members of the corporation shall meet annually on the first Sunday in November following the regular monthly Forum to elect a Board of Trustees. Members as of September 1 (the record date within the meaning of Ga. Code Sec. 14-3-707) preceding the annual meeting shall be entitled to notice of this meeting in writing at least 30 days (see Ga. Code Sec. 14-3-705) prior to the meeting. Notice contained in the monthly newsletter mailed in September shall be deemed sufficient notice of the meeting. The Secretary shall prepare an alphabetical list of the names and addresses of the members as of September 1. The list shall be made available for the inspection of any member two business days after the notice of the meeting. See Ga. Code Sec. 14-3-720.) Forty percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, the existing trustees shall continue to serve as trustees.

Method of Election of Board of Trustees

Nominations for positions on the Board of Trustees shall be held on the first Sunday in October following the regular monthly Forum. The person making the nomination and the nominee must be present (in lieu of the nominee’s presence a written statement that the nominee accepts the nomination shall suffice). A quorum need not be present. Any member may be nominated for a position on the Board of Trustees. A member may offer himself for election. All nominations must be seconded. At the annual meeting, a volunteer member or members (not a Trustee) shall be appointed to count the ballots. Each member shall by secret ballot vote for a number of different names from among the nominees equal to the number of open trusteeships. The top vote receivers shall be elected as trustees whether or not the nominee receives a majority of votes. In the event of a tie at the bottom, any trusteeships that can be determined will be determined and the nominees tied shall be voted on again immediately by the members present. If the run-off vote between tied candidates does not resolve the tie, the election will be decided by coin-toss.
### Invitation to Lifetime Membership

The Fellowship of Reason extends our heartfelt thanks to our Lifetime Members:

| I. | Mary Ampola       |
| II. | Dan Barber       |
| III. | Peter Brookner  |
| IV. | Toni Brookner    |
| V.  | Scott Carper     |
| VI. | Linda Cowen      |
| VII. | Martin Cowen    |
| VIII. | Carlos Franco  |
| IX. | Claire Gloeckner|
| X. | William F. Greene|
| XI. | Sally Hull       |
| XII. | Ron Menich      |
| XIII. | Michael Norman (deceased) |
| XIV. | Vera Norman (deceased) |
| XV. | Randy Sekeres    |
| XVI. | David Van Mersbergen |
| XVII. | Tom Welch      |
| XVIII. | David Ziebell  |

Because of these lifetime members FOR carries a cash balance nearly $9,000 thus establishing our long-term financial stability. Because all of our helpers are volunteers and because our Board of Trustees is so frugal, our annual budget is usually only slightly in deficit, meaning that **our income from regular and contributing members does not pay for all of our annual expenditures.** (We suffer about a $1,000 per year deficit ignoring lifetime memberships.)

We rely upon our lifetime memberships to balance our budget.

Many of our members can use the charitable gift tax deduction to which donors to the Fellowship of Reason, Inc. may be entitled. FOR is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

We invite our non-lifetime members of the Fellowship of Reason, especially our world travelers, to Lifetime Membership. **Please send your check for $700 (a one-time payment) to Fellowship of Reason, P.O. Box 28891, Atlanta, Georgia 30358**

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**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 derives 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.
Anniversaries call for reflection upon the past and plans for the future. On Sunday, October 2, 2016, we will celebrate our 216th consecutive FORum. Our first was Sunday, November 1, 1998, eighteen years ago. Eighteen times twelve equals 216.

In addition (no pun intended) to numbering our days, we like to label ourselves. We have called our monthly meeting “Celebration,” “FORum,” and a “Celebration of Human Achievement.” We have settled upon “FORum.” The allusion to the public meeting space in an ancient Roman city appeals to some of us.

We call ourselves “Eudaimonists” meaning “well-being-ists.” Works for us, one supposes, in a general way. Let us consider these labels, too: “Philomath,” “Autodidact,” and “Bibliophile.” Given the eighteen-year history of the Fellowship of Reason, we have reason to call ourselves “lovers of learning,” “self-taught,” and “book lovers.” Consider the following evidence:

Those of us who participated are proud of our nearly four-year close reading of James Joyce’s Ulysses.

We had hoped to learn why Ulysses is number one on the Board’s list “100 Best Novels” of the Modern Library. One answer is that Ulysses is like a great final examination on the Western Literary Tradition. A person who can read Ulysses has an education at least slightly comparable to one of
the most educated geniuses of the 20th Century, James Joyce, February 2, 1882 to January 13, 1941.

These days some of us are following our poetic leader Frank Vickers down poetry lane.

We are exploring the United States Poet Laureates using the book *The Poets Laureate Anthology*.

Frank works up the poet of the month and presents to a small band of loyal followers on the fourth Saturday of every month 4 p.m. at San Francisco Coffee, 676 N. Highland Avenue, NE.

As Ron Menich averred during September 2016 FORum, Frank’s activity is
quintessential  Fellowship of Reason. A member is on fire about some subject. He or she works it up and presents it to fellow FOR members for our pleasure and education. The “fountain” metaphor comes to mind. We are all independent fountains of value showering ourselves and our families with values. Some of us are sufficiently bounteous to shower others with values, too. Frank is a magnificent fountain of values showering us with value.

Note that this “value-showering” happens during every FORum with every performer. We simply note here by way of emphasis the extraordinary production necessary and present in the case of the monthly creation of Poetry Group by charter member Frank Vickers. He is a model for us all.

Speaking of “value-showering,” consider lifetime charter member Sally Hull. For over fifteen years, Sally has hosted FOR members in her home for various activities, sometimes three or more times per month.

While we are doing a different Yale University online course now at Sally’s house, our all-time favorite teacher is Tamar Gendler. Doctor Gendler is the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Yale today.

Over the years in FOR Sunday School, we have had occasion to study Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*.

This study occupied one year.

We also enjoyed working through the first, most famous and most influential book of political philosophy ever, *The Republic of Plato* translated by Allan Bloom.
Currently in FOR Sunday School, members are allowing the writer to explore his current fascination with art. In 30-minute monthly segments, we have learned a little about the following artists among many others.

This painting (above) is John Martin’s (1789-1854) Sadak in Search of the Waters of Oblivion. This apocalyptic British painter is a source of the experience of the sublime. Sadak is a character in James Ridley’s Tale of the Genii (1764).
The Raft of the Medusa (above) by French Romantic painter Théodore Géricault (1791-1824) is located in the Louvre and is huge 16' x 23'.

Fishermen at Sea (1796) (above) by J.M.W. Turner (1775-1851) is 2.5'x3.5' and is located in Tate Britain, London.
Don’t you just love this?

*Bal du moulin de la Galette* (1876) by Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841-1919) located in Musée d’Orsay, Paris, is about 4’x6’.

Given our history of continuing adult education, we are safe calling ourselves Philomaths, Autodidacts, and Bibliophiles.

Looking to the future, our next FOR Sunday School (November 6) subject is likely to be John Ruskin (1819-1900) English art critic who we have run across a few times while reviewing the artists of the 19th Century. There is a 2015 film entitled *Effie Grey* (Ruskin’s first wife) that might be a good primer.

What a great pleasure it has been, is, and will be to learn with fellow Philomaths in our Fellowship of Reason!

*What is your passion, dear friend? Inquiring minds want to know.*
Events

Adult Sunday School at FORum: 1st Sunday 10 a.m.
Members and friends of FOR are invited to attend Adult Sunday School before FORum on the first Sunday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Atlanta Freethought Hall, located at 4775 N. Church Lane, Smyrna, GA 30080.
Martin Cowen coordinator: 678-641-9321

Fiction Book Club: 2nd Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
Fifteen members and friends of FOR meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at an undisclosed location.
Sally Hull coordinator: 404-257-0454

FOR Pub: last Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.
Members and friends of FOR like to meet at Manuel’s Tavern, 602 N. Highland Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30307, on the last Wednesday, at 7 p.m. to adult beverages and fun.
Martin Cowen coordinator: 678-641-9321

Poetry Club: 4th Saturday, 4:00 p.m.
Members and friends of FOR like to meet on the 4th Saturday of every month at a local coffee shop to share their enjoyment of poetry.
Frank Vickers, coordinator

FOR Rocks Stone Mountain: Saturday before FORum at 3 p.m.
Strong members of the Fellowship of Reason hike up Stone Mountain starting at the Confederate Hall Historical Center on the West side of the mountain near the outdoor restrooms.
Claire Glockner, coordinator

FORum: A Celebration of Human Achievement: First Sunday 11 a.m.
FOR’s premier event. Meet and greet at 10:30 a.m. The program starts at 11 a.m. Presided over by FOR’s 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 at 12 noon sharp. We enjoy post-program conversation at local restaurant for further fellowship. Children’s Program babysitter from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 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, near Candler Park at the Flying Biscuit, 1655 McLendon Avenue Northeast, Atlanta. Breakfast at the Flying Biscuit follows at 9:15 a.m. Breakfast lovers, walkers, and joggers welcome! Martin Cowen: 678-641-9321

Taped Lectures/Discussion Group: 1st/3rd Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.
A small group of friends listens to taped lectures in a private home on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Free.
Sally Hull coordinator: 404-257-0454

Birthdays

| September 19 | Jim Ainsworth |
| September 22 | George Lane |
| September 23 | Jennifer Webster |
| October 20   | Larry Woods  |
| October 21   | David Ziebell |
| October 26   | Ron Menich  |
| October 31   | Martin Cowen |
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!