



FELLOWSHIP OF REASON®

September 2016, Vol. 18 No. 3

The official newsletter of  
Fellowship of Reason, Inc.

Martin Cowen, Editor

Officers:

Claire Gloeckner, President  
Erik Bauer, Vice- President  
Susan Menich, Treasurer  
Susan Menich, Secretary

Board of Trustees:

Mandy Bauer  
Martin Cowen  
Claire Gloeckner  
Ron Menich  
Frank Vickers

## 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.

### Individual Highlights

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## Invitation to Lifetime Membership

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

### 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**

### 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.

**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**

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(770) 471-9800

E-mail  
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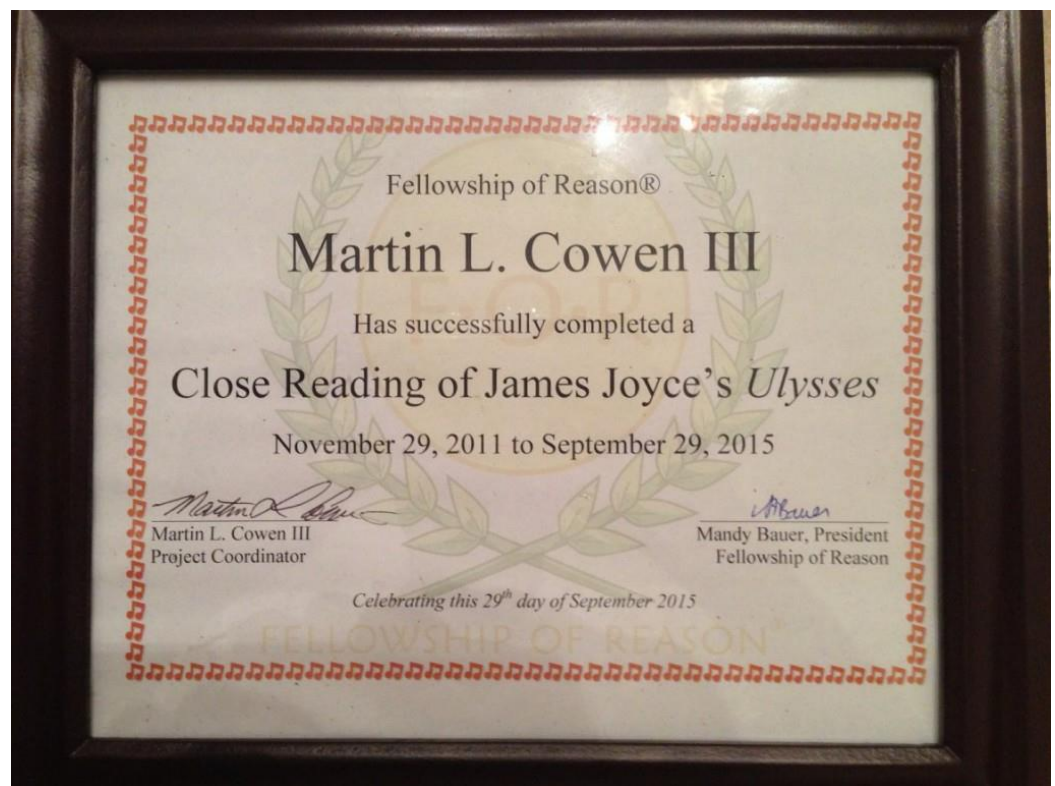
## 216<sup>th</sup> Consecutive FORum

Anniversaries call for reflection upon the past and plans for the future. On Sunday, October 2, 2016, we will celebrate our 216<sup>th</sup> 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:

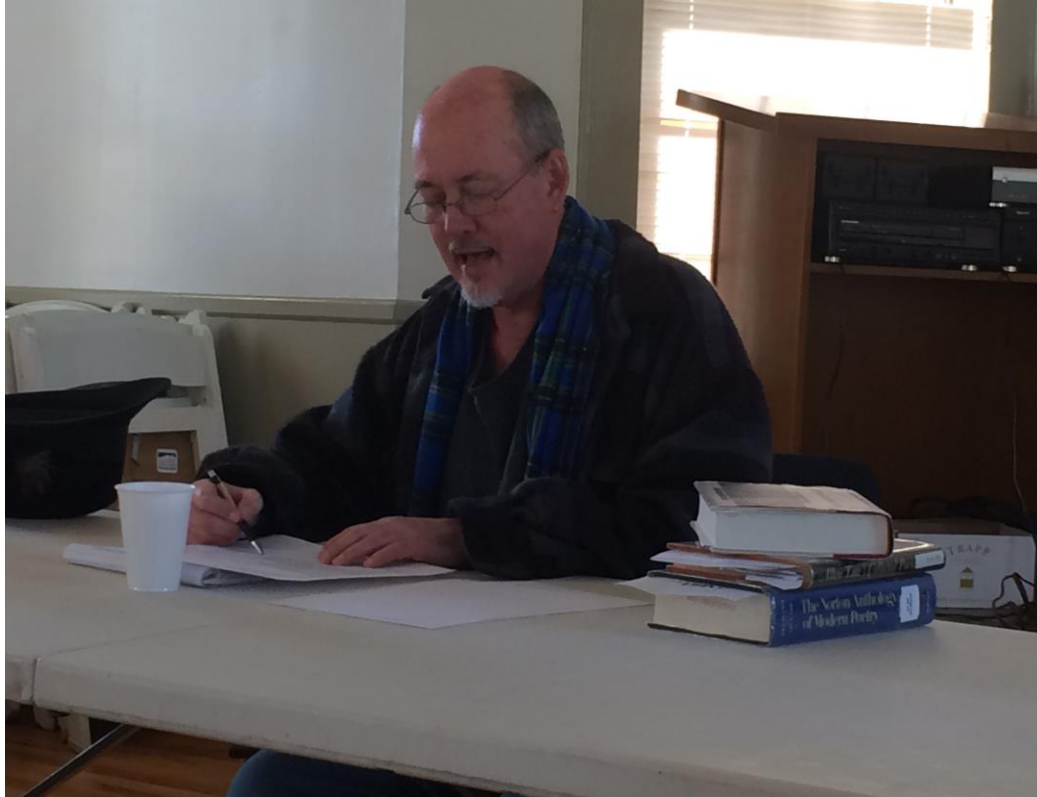
Those of us who participated are proud of our nearly four-year close reading of James Joyce's *Ulysses*.



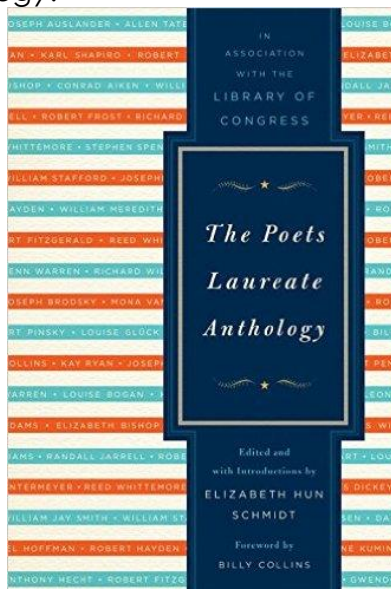
We had hoped to learn why *Ulysses* is number one on the Board's list "100 Best Novels" of the Modern Library. One answer is that *Ulysses* is like a great final examination on the Western Literary Tradition. A person who can read *Ulysses* has an education at least slightly comparable to one of

the most educated geniuses of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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

## 216<sup>th</sup> Consecutive FORum

(continued from page 4)

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

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

**Lifetime membership:**  
\$700

**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.

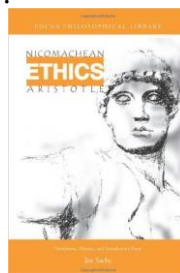
Note that this “value-showering” happens during every FORum with every performer. We simply note here by way of emphasis the extraordinary production necessary and present in the case of the monthly creation of Poetry Group by charter member Frank Vickers. He is a model for us all.

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.

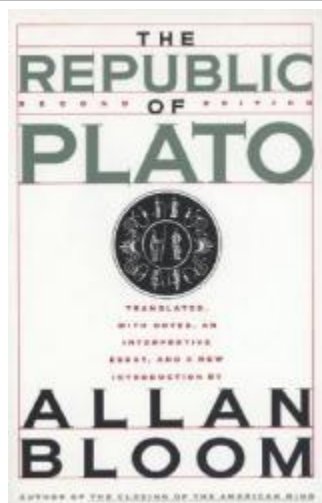
### Contact Information

To talk to somebody about  
Fellowship of Reason call:

Martin at 770-471-9800  
Susan at 678-358-8415

## 216th Consecutive FORum

(continued from page 5)



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).

## 216th Consecutive FORum (continued from page 6)



*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.

## 216th Consecutive FORum

(continued from page 7)



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 19<sup>th</sup> 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

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

### Adult Sunday school at FORum: 1<sup>st</sup> 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

### 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: 1<sup>st</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

### 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

**Join us for our  
next monthly  
FORum:**

**4775 N. Church  
Lane, S.E.,  
Smyrna, GA  
30080**

**October 2, 2016  
Sunday 10 a.m.  
(Special Program  
in October 2016)**

**Adult Sunday  
school  
(NEXT FOR  
Sunday School  
will be Sunday,  
November 6,  
2016, due to  
special  
programming in  
October)  
10 a.m. to 10:45  
a.m.**

## 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!



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**Fellowship of Reason**

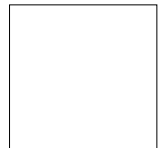
P.O. Box 28891  
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**E-mail**

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A Reason-Based Moral  
Community

**FELLOWSHIP OF REASON, INC.**  
P.O. Box 28891  
Atlanta, Georgia 30358



**We are on the Web!**

See us at:

[fellowshipofreason.com](http://fellowshipofreason.com)