



FELLOWSHIP OF REASON®

September 2018, Vol. 20 No.3

The official newsletter of
Fellowship of Reason, Inc.

Martin Cowen, Editor

Officers:

Claire Gloeckner, President
Frank Vickers, Vice President
Susan Menich, Treasurer
Susan Menich, Secretary

Notice of Annual Meeting and of Election of Board of Trustees (Meeting and Elections: November 4, 2018; Nominations: October 7, 2018)

Board of Trustees:

Martin Cowen
Claire Gloeckner
Ron Menich
Susan Menich
Frank Vickers

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

"The Aftermath"	2
Celebratory Announcements	10

The Aftermath

By
Ron Menich
FORum August 5, 2018

My evening run has an unwelcome visitor this evening: that blaring! It is getting louder as I power up the hill. Goosebumps. Louder still. More sweat than usual. Yet even louder.

I round the bend and the truth I feared is revealed: a car, a tree. I draw closer. Tendrils, wisps of steam or smoke or both. That blaring! God, is that annoying.

Finally, I am upon it. She is not facing this way. I guess it's a she, with that long hair. Her hair is longer and prettier than mine is. I wonder what she uses. Her hair might be prettier, but she is dead now. Oh my God, where do these thoughts come from? Shut up!

I stand transfixed. Now how often do you see something like that? It's macabre, but I could stand here for hours and just soak it in, if it weren't for that blaring.

My mind is trying to visualize an instant replay in slow motion, trying to reconstruct how she got into that strange position. But I can't make sense of it. Strange angles. It is too late for her, I can tell, not just because she's perfectly still. Bodies do not bend like that naturally.

I should do something. But with that blaring, I just can't think what it is that I should do. There is no cell coverage this far out. I'll just go back.

I start back, walking. Usually I would run, and fast too, but I feel drained. After a while, I see a truck in the distance. It's Daddy, I can tell! That is odd, I do not think I am yet late getting home.

He drives alongside and stops, yelling through the open window:
"Sweetie, get in, you look terrible!"

I climb in and suddenly hug him awkwardly across the cab and burst into tears. That is really weird: I'm strong, I hunt, I'm an athlete. But I guess this is a bit much. It is a good day to have Daddy come looking for me.

After a minute, I collect myself enough to retreat to my side of the cabin and burble.

"That way, half mile, go!"

Then I strap in. Oh yeah, and I double and triple-check that my belt is properly fastened.

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
P.O. Box 28891
Atlanta, Georgia 30358
(770) 471-9800

E-mail
info@fellowshipofreason.com

The Aftermath

Daddy starts moving. When I was at the scene, I felt like staying there and taking it in, but going back a second time fills me with dread. How weird is that? I am going to have to start going to a shrink like those rich girls down in the city.

In my peripheral, I can see Daddy stealing concerned sidelong glances at me. Keep your eyes on the road, Daddy! I do not want to end up like her!

We approach the scene and he stops.

"Do you want to stay in the truck?"

I shake my head no and we both exit.

I can see that Daddy is, how shall we say? "Processing" the event. His eyes are blinking rapidly and his chest is heaving a bit. Man up you wimp! Oh, shut up! Shut up! That blaring really messes with my head.

I break the trance:

"Daddy, maybe we should take down some information."

He snaps out of it.

"Yeah, why don't you use that notes thing on your phone and copy down the tag, the color of the vehicle, and I'll..."

Then there is a long pause.

"... and I'll look inside for a purse or something."

He girds himself for battle, gives a tremendous sigh, and then heads towards the other side of the car that I had avoided.

I don't want to look at Daddy at the moment when he looks into her face. I wonder whether her eyes are wide open. I wonder if Daddy will have nightmares tonight. Yuck. This is really twisted.

The blaring stops. Thank you, Daddy! What a relief. I don't think I want to know what he had to do to get the blaring to stop. My ears recover and I hear the normal evening medley of insect noises. An owl hoots.

"Daddy, something's really familiar about this car. I know I've seen it around town."

He is looking through her purse and, after a while, finds her license and some other stuff.

"Yeah, she's Jaimie McIntire from up Saw Valley. She works down at Tractor Supply."

"Yeah, that's right; I know I've seen her before."

The writing and the investigation and finding are calming us down now.

The Aftermath

We are transformed into detectives now, hot on the case. And there's no blaring any more.

"Daddy, why'd you come look for me? I wasn't late getting home."

"Your Mom and I were in the garden and we heard a tremendous crash all the way across the valley. Your Mom suggested --- rather strongly, I might add --- that I go to check on you."

My lip curls a bit in a grin, hearing how Mom suggested, "rather strongly" that Daddy go check on me. I see that Daddy is studying me, he was checking to see if I was ok by phrasing it that way. I should be the one checking on him: given how his mother died, this scene must be really tough.

"Ok, let's get back in the truck and head down the road until we get coverage, and then call 911. You drive, I'll make the call."

"Ok"

I do not know why he wants me to drive, but whatever: neither of us is going to win prizes for World's Most Rational Mind this evening.

So, I get in the driver's seat and we pull away. As soon as the wreck is no longer in the rear view mirror, I feel a tightness in my chest I didn't know I had begun to release. And then, sudden weariness.

I hear Daddy talking with 911. I am just trying to focus on the road and not fall asleep. That would really be tragic.

The stars are coming out now. A shooting star comes out of nowhere, flares, and then dies.

Invitation to Lifetime Membership

Regular membership:
\$35 per year

Contributing membership:
\$70 per Year

Lifetime membership:
\$700

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

Lifetime Members

- I. Mary Ampola
- II. Dan Barber
- III. Randy Boudwin (our newest lifetime member 2018)**
- IV. Peter Brookner
- V. Toni Brookner
- VI. Scott Carper
- VII. Linda Cowen
- VIII. Martin Cowen
- IX. Carlos Franco
- X. Claire Gloeckner
- XI. William F. Greene
- XII. Sally Hull
- XIII. Ron Menich
- XIV. Michael Norman (deceased)
- XV. Vera Norman (deceased)
- XVI. Randy Sekeres
- XVII. David Van Mersbergen
- XVIII. Tom Welch
- XIX. David Ziebell

FOR's our long-term financial stability is enhanced by our lifetime members. 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 an annual deficit without our 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**

Contact Information

To talk to somebody about Fellowship of Reason call:

Martin at 678-641-9321
Susan at 678-358-8415

Events

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

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

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.

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

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

Members and friends of FOR meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at an undisclosed location. Potluck supper precedes the event.

Poetry Club: 4th Saturday, 3:00 p.m.

Members and friends of FOR like to meet on the 4th Saturday of every month at San Francisco Coffee, 676 N. Highland Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30307, to share their love of poetry.

Frank Vickers, coordinator

It is Greek to Me: Every Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

A Classics Professor leads an elite group of members and friends of FOR on a yearlong journey to learn the ancient Greek language. We have reached our capacity of 10 students. The event is closed to newcomers. Language learning is **very** difficult. Weekly lessons and daily practice will be required for success. The course is free, but participants purchase their own textbooks.

Martin Cowen, Coordinator: 678-641-9321

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

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

**October 7,
2018**

Sunday 11 a.m.
(Meet, Greet at 10:30 a.m.)

Adult Sunday school
10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Birthdays

September 23	Jennifer Parker
--------------	-----------------

October 20	Larry Woods
October 21	David Ziebell
October 26	Brandon Bartlett
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!

Fellowship of Reason

P.O. Box 28891
Atlanta, Georgia 30358

E-mail

info@fellowshipofreason.com

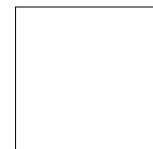
A Reason-Based Moral
Community



FELLOWSHIP OF REASON®

FELLOWSHIP OF REASON, INC.

P.O. Box 28891
Atlanta, Georgia 30358



We are on the Web!

See us at:

fellowshipofreason.com