

Fellowship of Reason®

April 2000 Newsletter

"Celebrating Being Human"sm

Volume 2, Number 4

Mission Statement

The Fellowship of Reason® is an open, benevolent, and vital rational moral community in which we celebrate our lives, our freedoms, and our philosophy of reason.

A Unique Institution

A moral community is different from other social institutions.

To an employer you are an input to production.

To the government you are taxpaying statistic.

To a retailer you are a paying customer.

To an entertainment provider you are a ticket holding member of the audience.

To an educational institution you are a race or sex who will satisfy their affirmative action program.

Most social institutions relate to individuals from a narrow aspect and not as a whole person.

An employer, a government, a retailer, an entertainer, and a university all take inputs of capital and labor from one group and create a product for another group.

A moral community takes inputs of capital and labor from **its members** to create a product for **its members**. That product is relationships to the individual member as a **whole person** and not from a narrow aspect of the member.

The purpose of morality is to teach you to enjoy yourself and live—life and happiness. The purpose of a moral community is to bring together people who want to assist one another in the task of achieving life and happiness.

As a child, your family served this function. A family nurtures its members, values them, helps them to grow, and respects them. As an adult, your moral community serves this function. Since the growth curve of an adult is not as steep as that of a child, one does not "live" within his moral community as a child "lives" within his family. Periodic stops to refuel are all that is necessary.

One's moral community (specifically, the people in her moral community) relates to the individual as a whole person. She is not merely an input to production, or a statistic, or a race, or a sex, or a paying customer. She is a whole person. She is infinitely valuable to herself and entitled to respect. She is valued for the person she is. She is a work-in-progress, as is everyone, necessarily.

A whole person is always in part a potential—that which he is becoming and is capable of becoming. A whole person is always growing and improving.

In a moral community, the members come together **deliberately** in order to exchange psychological visibility as whole, growing persons and to provide mutual assistance in the process of growth.

There is no other social institution that performs this function.

Make the Fellowship of Reason® your moral community.

May's Special Celebration

Philosopher in private practice **Gregory R. Johnson** will make a special presentation during Celebration on Sunday, May 7, 2000, at 12:30 p.m. He will talk to us about his philosophical counseling practice.

Greg is a regular contributor to the Daily Objectivist web site. He teaches adult education classes in philosophy. He is a founder of the Atlanta Philosophical Society and of the Invisible College.

Greg is one of the best teachers I have ever encountered. You will enjoy his talk and be benefited by it.

Please come.

A personal note to members of the Fellowship of Reason® who want to actively help our group grow and flourish—Greg is in contact with over 400 people in Atlanta who are interested in philosophy. Many of these people are very likely to have values similar to our own. I hope that every member who can come, will come to help welcome Greg and the new people we may meet as a result of hosting Greg's talk.

Celebration Schedule 2000

I have two more special Celebrations planned in 2000—one in September and one in November. These special Celebrations are intended to make our organization known to other specific groups who are likely to have values in common with us.

- Sunday, June 4—**Ken** will give the oratory during this regular Celebration. We need other performers.

- Sunday, July 9—a regular Celebration (notice that this is the 2nd Sunday because of the TOC summer seminar). We need all performers.
- Sunday, August 6—**Tom** will give the oratory during this regular Celebration. We need other performers.
- Sunday, September 3—a special Celebration. No other performers needed.
- Sunday, October 1—a regular Celebration. We need all performers.
- Sunday, November 5—a special Celebration. No other performers needed.
- Sunday, December 3—a regular Celebration. We need all performers.

So far this is the lineup for June 2000:

Welcome
 Celebration of Freedom
 Celebration of Visitors
 Celebratory Announcements
 Celebration of Each Other
 Ellen's Corner—Ellen
 Celebration of Art
 Celebration of Heroes
 Celebration of Talent
 Oratory—**Ken**—"Morality made simple"
 Celebration of Amateur Talent
 Celebration of Personal Mission
 Spiritual Exercise
 Closing Quotation

Contact information:

Martin L. Cowen III is the director of the Fellowship of Reason®.

Fellowship of Reason® is a non-profit, unincorporated, volunteer-supported association. The association uses the service mark with the express permission of the owner of the mark.

Fellowship of Reason® is a service mark registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Reg. No. 2,191,966. Martin owns the mark.