

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.

WHAT GOOD IS A MORAL COMMUNITY IF IT DOESN'T PUSH YOU?

Morality answers the question, "How should I live in order to achieve health and happiness?" Because human beings do not instinctually know the answer to this question, we need a set of principles to guide us. The principles are learned from our culture or discovered by exceptional individuals. Every individual must select from among these principles and test them to see whether they work well in his own life. Just like every other domain of human activity there is a division of labor that assigns the science of ethics—the task of discovering, articulating, and classifying moral principles—to a specialized group of individuals called moral philosophers. Socrates, Aristotle, and others are among the moral philosophers we esteem.

Among the principles advocated by the Fellowship of Reason® are these:

1. Know Yourself
2. Love Yourself
3. Become Who You Are
4. Improve Yourself

One of the jobs of a moral community is to encourage its members to remember and apply the commonly held principles.

Perhaps the most challenging thing that we do during Celebration is to participate in a group line dance lead by Linda S. Of course, **participation is completely voluntary**, but we do this activity for the following reasons:

1. To add variety to the show—Celebration has mostly intellectual content. In order to break up the passive reception of educational and entertaining information, we stand up and dance for 4 minutes. It's fun for many.
2. To get used to risk taking—Life requires courage and risk taking. Personal growth involves extending yourself beyond self-imposed limits. One of our unexamined American cultural myths is that all public performance must be of professional quality. I became aware of this myth when once in Europe at a group dinner I was called upon to sing a song from America. I did not have the courage to perform though all of the Europeans in the group did, and not a "professional" among them.
3. To perform an exercise in self-acceptance—We all have strengths and weaknesses. Generally speaking our weaknesses are obvious to others. Our attempts to hide our weaknesses are frequently successful only with ourselves and then only marginally. Furthermore, we tend to inflate the importance of our own weaknesses unreasonably.
4. To exercise our faculties in accordance with virtue—Everyone is entitled to dance. Dancing is a celebration of your body and an act of sheer joy.
5. To *do* something together—We are after all a moral *community*. We do a number of activities together. Dancing together, being a *bodily* activity, is perhaps the most intimate thing we do together.

A moral community should, by nature, push you. It is up to you, as a sovereign individual, whether or not to move.

**So far this is the lineup for August 2001
Celebration:**

Welcome

Special Program: We have a special program this month. Professor Massimo Pigliucci will speak on "Sci-Phi: The Unity of Science and Philosophy."

FOR's Potluck supper

Second Saturday Evening following Celebration:

No pot luck this month. We have, instead, a house warming party at Chris' new home in Roswell on Saturday, July 28, 2001 at 7 p.m.

FOR's Café Discussion Group

Third Saturday Morning following Celebration:

Our discussion group happens at Après Diem, 931 Monroe Dr. NE. Atlanta, the Midtown Promenade, on Saturday, July 21, 2001, at 11 a.m. Our subject is yet to be determined. Do you have a suggestion?

FOR's Philosophy Tapes

Each Thursday Night: FOR is sponsoring a philosophy survey course that is free to attendees. We meet every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. at Vera's house.

Celebration Schedule 2001

- Sunday, August 5, 2001—Massimo Pigliucci: "Sci-Phi: The Unity of Science and Philosophy"
 - Sunday, September 2, 2001—Personal Moral Progress, Part I
 - Sunday, October 7, 2001—Personal Moral Progress, Part II
 - Sunday, November 4, 2001—Personal Moral Progress, Part III
 - Sunday, December 2, 2001—FOR is NOT a church!
 - Sunday, January 6, 2002—Felix the Cat is my God
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Contact information:

To receive e-mail from the Fellowship of Reason®, please subscribe to our Yahoo! Group by sending an e-mail to reason-subscribe@yahoogle.com

To receive this newsletter in the mail send your U.S. Mail address to mlcowen@mindspring.com

To talk to somebody about FOR call Vera at 404- or Martin at 770-471-9800.

Fellowship of Reason® is a non-profit, unincorporated, volunteer-supported association.

Our web address is <http://www.kindreason.com>