

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. We study ethics.

Time

I met a pecan farmer in May. He owned 6,000 acres of trees 90 miles south of Atlanta. Some of the trees on the land aged over 100 years. He planted others this year. Seven years under irrigation must pass in order for a young pecan tree to become productive. The farmer himself has lived 70 years.

The house in which he lives predates the Civil War.

We visited his neighbor who owns 10,000 acres of trees. The neighbor's family has owned their farm for 100 years. My host, born in France, has lived in America for only 20 years.

Coming from Europe, my host routinely dines on Sundays for hours. My family and I enjoyed his hospitality at the table for over 2 hours. After dinner we retired to the living room in which 10 leather easy chairs arranged in a circle provided a comfortable setting for lengthy and pleasurable conversation.

Coming from the peasant side of the French Revolution my host might object to this characterization, but he is a nobleman, a noble man.

I became aware that my host lived his life in longer chunks than I normally experience. He planted trees that would only produce 7 years from now when he will be 77. Starting with 2,000 acres, he has been accumulating land and wealth in America for 20 years—a long time in my frame of reference, but only one-fifth of the time his neighbor's family has been accumulating land and wealth.

My host is intentionally living in periods of time as short as 7 years and as long as 100 years. He intends, I am sure, that his grandchildren take over his farm upon his death and continue to produce pecans.

Even his routine daily activities are on a time scale larger than I am used to. My usual Sunday dinner lasts 15 minutes not upwards of 2 hours. And I don't sit down with 10 friends and family afterwards for hours more of easy conversation.

I sense that my noble host is more human than I am.

He exists on one end of a continuum, the noble end. At the other end, the base end, is the crack addict, father of countless pitiful and abandoned souls, who lives from moment to moment for the next drug-induced high or the next orgasm. He supports himself, not by productive work over decades, but by theft large and small, by welfare (institutionalized theft), and by beggary (a beneficiary of the well-intentioned, but misguided generosity of others).

Thinking about time it occurs to me:

1. It takes 20 years to raise a child.
2. It takes a lifetime to enjoy the full benefits of a marriage.
3. It takes a lifetime to be a great friend.
4. It takes decades to build a small business—an auto repair shop, a life history video business, a sci-fi web site, a photography practice, a private Montessori school, a gift box business, a pharmacy, a furniture building business, or a medical practice. It takes eight years to write a novel.
5. It takes decades to acquire a classical education.
6. It takes 20 years to complete a career in the military to retirement, even longer in private business.
7. It takes decades to become a millionaire.
8. It takes centuries to maintain a free country
9. It takes generations to build a moral community.
- 10. It takes a lifetime to build you.**

Regarding yourself as a project is almost unheard of, but it is *the* project of members of the Fellowship of Reason®. Building your character and creating your external values takes time. It takes a perspective of time to which some of us are not accustomed—decades. Acclimate yourself to living in longer chunks of time.

"*One thing is needful.* 'Giving style' to one's character—a great and rare art! It is exercised by those who see all the strengths and weaknesses of their own natures and then comprehend them in an artistic plan until everything appears as art and reason and weakness delights the eye. . . . For one thing is needful: that a human being attain his satisfaction with himself." Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*, aphorism 290.

What you should know:

- Human beings live across decades.
- Animals live only in the moment.
- The one needful thing: That you attain satisfaction with yourself.

July 7, 2002 Celebration:

Welcome—
Celebration of Freedom—
Celebration of Visitors—
Celebration of Each Other—
Celebratory Announcements—
Celebration of Art—
Celebration of Heroes—
Celebration of Literature—
Celebration of Personal Mission—
Celebration of Talent—
Oratory—"Elements of Poetry" by Vera
Non-celebratory announcements—
Closing Quotation—

Invisible College

Dr. Glenn Magee is lecturing on Modernity every Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. at Vera's Intellectual Salon. Price: \$60 per month. Call Vera at 404-577-7968 for more information. In August this event will move to Thursday nights.

Philosophy Tapes

Philosophy tapes are played to a small private audience in the living room of a volunteer on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. The next playing is at Randy's house on Tuesday, June 18, 2002, at 7:30 p.m. Free.

FOR's Yard Sale

FOR, Inc. is having a yard sale from Chris' house on Saturday, June 22, 2002 starting at 7 a.m. To donate stuff call Chris at 678-585-0406.

New Monthly Event: FOR's Film Night

This is a new event in addition to potluck. We will enjoy a movie at John's studio using his extraordinary equipment. Saturday, June 29, 2002. Arrive at 6:30 p.m. Doors will be locked for safety! Movie starts at 7:15 p.m. Free.

FOR's 2nd Annual River Rafting Trip

Friday July 12 through Sunday July 14, 2002. We descend the Ocoee River on Saturday, July 13. We share cabins on Friday and Saturday nights. Call Dan at 770-831-3010 for more information.

Philosophy Café

Attend Steve Stoke's Philosophy Café at Border's in Buckhead on the second Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. and at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore in Duluth on the third Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m.

Celebration Schedule 2002

- Sunday, January 6, 2002
- Sunday, February 3, 2002
- Sunday, March 3, 2002
- Sunday, April 7, 2002
- Sunday, May 5, 2002
- Sunday, June 2, 2002
- **Sunday, July 7, 2002**
- Sunday, August 4, 2002
- Sunday, September 1, 2002
- Sunday, October 6, 2002
- Sunday, November 3, 2002
- Sunday, December 1, 2002

2002 Membership Information:

FOR, Inc. has 36 charter members, two newsletter-only subscribers and two substantial donors.

- Regular membership: \$35 per year if paid prior to October 31, 2002
- Contributing membership: \$70 per year if paid prior to October 31, 2002
- Lifetime membership: \$700 if paid prior to October 31, 2002

Contact information:

To talk to somebody about FOR call Vera at 404-577-7968 or Martin at 770-471-9800 or Dan at 770-831-3010.

To receive e-mail notice of FOR's activities send your e-mail address to mlcowen@mindspring.com

To receive this newsletter free for 3 months in the U.S. mail send your U.S. Mail address to mlcowen@mindspring.com

To participate in unmoderated e-mail chat, please subscribe to our Yahoo! Group by sending an e-mail to reason-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

A subscription for 12 monthly issues of this newsletter is \$15 per year.

Fellowship of Reason, Inc. is a Georgia nonprofit corporation.

How can you help support the Fellowship of Reason, Inc., the world's first and only reason-based moral community?

If you would like to support our activities, including our building fund, consider these opportunities:

1. Attend our activities
2. Perform at Celebration
3. Recruit a person of like-mind and values
4. Bring donuts
5. Volunteer your home for a pot luck or other activity
6. Donate cash or property
7. Make a testamentary gift
8. Subscribe to our monthly newsletter
9. Become a regular member
10. Become a contributing member
11. Become a lifetime member
12. Locate and help us apply for a public or private grant

Make checks payable to Fellowship of Reason, Inc. and mail them to 8188 Pembroke Terrace, Jonesboro, GA 30236-4179.

To make a Last Will and Testament with a gift to FOR, Inc. contact your attorney. If you live in Georgia, Martin L. Cowen III, Attorney at Law, without charge, will prepare and supervise the execution (inside the perimeter or within 10 miles outside of I-285) of a simple will with a minimum unrestricted testamentary gift to FOR, Inc. of \$1,000. Call 770-471-9800 for more information. This offer may be withdrawn at anytime without notice. Mr. Cowen, a license Georgia attorney, and not FOR, Inc., is solely responsible for any legal services rendered by him with or without charge.

Fellowship of Reason, Inc.

June 2002

June 2002							July 2002						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
May 27	28	29	30	31	June 1
Memorial Day					
					2 12:00pm FOR's Celebration
3	4	5	6	7	8
					9 12:00pm AFS
10	11	12	13	14	15
					16
17	18	19	20	21	22
	7:30pm philosophy tapes	7:30pm Invisible College 8:00pm Philosophy Café (B&N)			Chris' bd '63 8:00am FOR yard sale
					23 12:30pm Humanists of Georgia
24	25	26	27	28	29
	8:00pm FOR pub	7:30pm Invisible College			
					30

Fellowship of Reason, Inc.

July 2002

July 2002							August 2002						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30	31				

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
July 1	2	3	4	5	6
	7:30pm philosophy tapes	7:30pm Invisible College	Independence Day		
					7 12:00pm FOR's Celebration
8	9	10	11	12	13
		8:00am Philosophy Café (Bord) 7:30pm Invisible College			9:00am Ocoee River rafting
					14 12:00pm AFS
15	16	17	18	19	20
	7:30pm philosophy tapes	7:30pm Invisible College 8:00pm Philosophy Café (B&N)			7:00pm Toni to host pot luck
					21
22	23	24	25	26	27
	8:00pm FOR pub	7:30pm Invisible College			11:00am café conversation 6:00pm FOR's film night
					28 12:30pm Humanists of Georgia
29	30	31	August 1	2	3
		Linda C's bd '59 7:30pm Invisible College			
					4 12:00pm FOR's Celebration