

Fellowship of Reason, Inc.

July 2003 Newsletter

"Advocating Heroic Engagement With Life"

Volume 5, Number 7

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.

Homily

“Judge all our actions by this standard:

Does our action create value in the world?”

Celebratory Announcements

Something good happened to each of us today. Something really good happened to each of us this month. Let’s all record those events right here, right now.

Please record something good that has recently happened to you in this space: _____

Examples:

- I got an “A” on my math test.
- My baby said, “Mommy.”
- I got a new job.
- It’s a beautiful day.
- My child said, “Thank you so much,” to his therapist.
- An old friend called me to wish me a happy birthday.

If we don’t enjoy our lives in the moment, we can never enjoy our lives.

Please, for our own sakes, let’s notice the good things.

Please, as a favor to our friends, let’s share some of the good things during Celebratory Announcements at **Celebration on Sunday, August 3, 2003**, at 12:30 p.m. NWUUC.

Let us notice our great days!

FOR’s Youth Group

Purpose: To create value in the world

Subject: Adolescent boys and girls ages 13 to 17

Meetings: Twice monthly, once on Celebration Sundays, once on the second Saturday of the month

Celebration Sunday meetings are indoor discussion in format

Second Saturday meetings are field trip in format

Themes: To provide examples and rehearsals of using their bodies in the world through physical activities; to provide instruction on relating justly with others in society; to provide instruction on virtues in order facilitate flourishing; to provide instruction on being a friend

Method of executing themes: To introduce the youth to the broad variety of physical activities; to introduce the youth on procedures for dealing with others positively via etiquette and negatively via self-defense; to define and illustrate the human virtues

Difference from school: School provides instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic and in the liberal arts

The following is a brainstorming of specific ideas for field trips or study organized into 4 categories: action, knowledge, justice, and flourishing.

Youth of Action—Action [ancient virtue: courage]—Using the body, relating physically with the world

1. Camping
2. Swimming
3. Scuba
4. Snorkeling
5. Skin diving
6. Life saving
7. Rowing
8. Sailing
9. Biking
10. Horseback riding
11. Boxing
12. Wrestling
13. Judo
14. Karate
15. Javelin
16. Shot put
17. Discus
18. High jump and long jump
19. Running various distances
20. High ropes
21. Repelling
22. Rock climbing
23. Survival skills
24. Self-defense

Youth of Knowledge—Knowledge [ancient virtue: wisdom]—Using the mind, relating mentally with the world

1. Etiquette
2. Debating skills
3. Mock trial
4. Police services
5. Civil and Criminal Courts
6. Avoid unknown areas
7. Map reading
8. Astronomy
9. Navigation
10. Planetarium
11. Avoid strangers
12. Why are you safe?
13. Be prepared to run from physical threats. Be aware that your running conveys an important message even to an innocent person from whom you run. He learns that he has behaved suspiciously
14. If ordered into a car in a relatively public area at gunpoint, refuse. The situation will not improve for you in a remote and isolated area
15. Call for help
16. Know emergency number
17. Know CPR

18. Drive education: simple and hazardous
19. Loyalty to particular businesses. Consider that you have access to 8 grocery stores within 2 miles. Pick one. Learn the employees' names. Become known. Be a loyal customer
20. Planning before attending new business. Learn the owner's name. Learn the history. Check out the Better Business Bureau. Be a good customer of your places. Creating your own community within the world
21. Plan for bad service response
22. Report bad service to Better Business Bureau and other appropriate services
23. Shun bad business forever

Youth of Justice—Justice [ancient virtue: justice]—Acting with knowledge

1. Rationality
2. Productivity
3. Pride
4. Independence
5. Integrity
6. Honesty
7. Justice
8. Magnanimity
9. Loyalty
10. Moderation
11. Wisdom
12. Persistence
13. Perseverance
14. Generosity
15. Civility
16. Sensitivity
17. Benevolence
18. Honor
19. Glory
20. Friendship

Flourishing Youth—Well Being [ancient virtue: moderation]—Acting with knowledge optimally

1. Following your bliss
2. Celebrating the “now”
3. Dealing with the future: planning and action
4. Dealing with the past: the 4 R's, regret (saying your sorry), restitution (correct the problem), retribution (accepting consequences), reformation (changing your behavior permanently)
5. Manifesting yourself in the world
6. The individual human being is the source of all value in the world—Act like it
7. The difference between product and producer—become a producer

I propose to commence FOR youth group on the second Saturday in September, September 13, 2003, at 10 a.m. Is anybody interested?

July Birthdays

July 1 Eddie Fitzgerald
July 25 David van Mersbergen
July 31 Linda Cowen

August Birthdays

August 1 Beth Holley
August 18 Carlos Franco
August 18 Dunham McAllister
August 24 Edward Culver
August 28 Tom Welch
August 31 Nicholas Wittgen

Celebration, August 3, 2003

Remember: Time limits will be vigorously enforced!

Welcome—**Martin**
Celebration of Freedom—**Needed!**
Celebration of Visitors—
Celebration of Each Other—
Celebratory Announcements—
Celebration of Art—
Celebration of Heroes—**Ellen (5 min.)**
Special Project—**David Z. (10 min.)**
Celebration of Personal Mission—
Celebration of Art—
Celebration of Talent—**David v. M. (piano recital)**
Oratory—**Christopher (20 min.)**
Announcements—
Closing Quotation—

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 Sally's house on Tuesday, August 5, 2003, at 7:30 p.m. Free.

Invisible College

The Invisible College is on hiatus during the month of August. Invisible College will resume in September 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.

The 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.

FOR's Pub Night

Members and friends of FOR, Inc. meet on the 4th Thursday of every month at Manuel's Tavern at 8 p.m. for adult beverages and adult conversation. FOR's next pub night is Thursday, August 28, 2003, at 8 p.m.

Second Annual Bozart Festival

Our next monthly potluck is Saturday, September 20, 2003, at 7 p.m. at Scott Carper's clubhouse. Please remember to bring something good to eat or drink.

Please contribute your own artistic creation. See our web site for exciting details!

FOR's Film Night

Members and friends of FOR, Inc. enjoy a monthly movie night at John's studio using his extraordinary equipment. FOR's next movie night is Saturday, August 24, 2003. Arrive at 6:30 p.m. Doors will be locked for safety! Movie starts at 7:15 p.m. Free.

A Philosophy Café

Attend Steve Lewis's philosophy café at Border's in Duluth on the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m.

Celebration Schedule

- **Sunday, August 3, 2003**
- Sunday, September 7, 2003
- Sunday, October 5, 2003
- Sunday, November 2, 2003
- Sunday, December 7, 2003
- Sunday, January 4, 2004
- Sunday, February 1, 2004
- Sunday, March 7, 2004
- Sunday, April 4, 2004
- Sunday, May 2, 2004
- Sunday, June 6, 2004
- Sunday, July 4, 2004
- Sunday, August 1, 2004

Membership Information:

FOR, Inc. has 49 members.

- Regular membership: \$35 per year if paid prior to October 31, 2003
- Contributing membership: \$70 per year if paid prior to October 31, 2003
- Lifetime membership: \$700 if paid prior to October 31, 2003

Contact information:

Visit us on the web at www.fellowshipofreason.com

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

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

Fellowship of Reason, Inc. is a Georgia nonprofit corporation and a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) 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, please consider these opportunities:

1. Attend our activities
2. Bring donuts
3. Subscribe to our monthly newsletter
4. Perform at Celebration
5. Recruit a person of like-mind and values
6. Volunteer your home for a potluck or other activity
7. Become a regular member
8. Become a contributing member
9. Become a lifetime member
10. Donate cash, property, time, or expertise (FOR, Inc. is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation and donations are tax deductible.)
11. Locate and help us apply for a public or private grant
12. Make a testamentary gift

Make checks payable to Fellowship of Reason, Inc. and mail them to 8188 Pembroke Terrace, Jonesboro, GA 30236-4179. Use PayPal on the web at www.fellowshipofreason.com

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 any time without notice. Mr. Cowen, a licensed Georgia attorney, and not FOR, Inc., is solely responsible for any legal services rendered by him with or without charge.

Sponsors

Members of FOR, Inc. are entitled to a 10% labor discount at AutoStop.

Thanks, Dan, from FOR, Inc.!
