
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

"He who has a why to live can bear with almost any how." Friedrich Nietzsche.

Whiners and Heroes

Author William Diehl of Saint Simons Island, Georgia, is a victim. His throat was cut when he was a Life magazine photographer covering Martin Luther King, Jr. I heard him speak once about his writing and I asked him if he was angry about having had his throat cut. He said not. I observe that his books are very angry books with titles such as *Reign in Hell* and *Primal Fear*. Mr. Diehl, in my opinion, works out his natural rage through his writing. But he doesn't whine about having had his throat cut.

Viktor Frankl, author of *Man's Search for Meaning* is another victim. He survived Auschwitz and invented his psychotherapeutic method, Logotherapy. He believed man's most fundamental drive is for meaning and purpose. Like Diehl, Frankl turned his horrific experience into a career. In Frankl's case that career was psychiatry.

By juxtaposing Diehl and Frankl I do not intend to equate the degree of evil represented by the two cases. Diehl's attempted murder was the act of a few criminals. Frankl's confinement and torture was part of a continent-wide systemic genocide spanning decades.

I personally know few people who are victims on the scale of Diehl and Frankl, but I know some. I know victims of personal injustice. I know victims of accidents and illness. All of these are true victims.

I was talking with a friend the other day about a third friend who thinks he is a victim because he is Chinese.

My friend was sympathetic to our "victim" friend's feelings. "We," she said, "who are not Chinese, cannot imagine what it is like to be!" "Perhaps so," I retorted, "but I do know that *nothing* has ever happened to him!" Our highly educated, home-owning, self-identified "victim" friend is well installed in middle class America.

What a difference between Victor Frankl who personally suffered in Auschwitz and my "victim" friend who has suffered nothing other than being a member of an imaginary group. (As individualists we do not believe racial groupings have any moral significance whatsoever.) Frankl turns his tragedy into a productive career. My "victim" friend just whines.

We are all going to die, hopefully peacefully in our sleep when our personal missions are all successfully completed. Some people on earth will not be so lucky and may be tortured to death.

Between now and death we all will be confronted with a variety of circumstances some challenging us to strive, some rewarding us with pleasure. Such is the nature of life.

The nature of man—and this is the nature we honor in the Fellowship of Reason®—is to strive to overcome the challenges of life and to enjoy the occasional rewards when they come.

Those who strive are heroes. Those who complain about life are whiners. We honor the heroes. We disdain the whiners, especially those whose injuries are imaginary.

We would honor Frankl and Diehl even if they wanted justly to complain. But spare us from the withered souls whose only claim upon the world is to display imaginary scabs.

Notice of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the membership of the Fellowship of Reason, Inc. shall occur on Sunday, November 2, 2003, at 2:15 p.m. immediately following November's Celebration in the meeting hall in which we enjoy Celebration at Northwest Universalist Unitarian Congregation, at 1025 Mt. Vernon Highway, NW, Atlanta, GA. Members as of September 1, 2003, shall be entitled to vote in the election of the Board of Trustees to be held at that time. The 2004 FOR membership directory has a list of the 49 members of the Fellowship of Reason, Inc. as of 9/1/03 and all members will have received a copy of that directory by now. The Bylaws of the corporation are reproduced in full in the directory.

Pertinent Bylaws follow:

Meetings of the membership

Annual meeting

The members of the corporation shall meet annually on the first Sunday in November following the regular monthly Celebration 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 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 2 business days after the notice of the meeting. Forty percent of the Georgia membership shall constitute a quorum. (Non-Georgia members may vote, but their presence or absence shall not be considered for purpose of determining 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 Celebration. 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, each member shall by secret ballot vote for a number of *different* names from among the nominees equal to the number of open trusteeships,

normally four. The top four 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.

September Birthdays

September 16 Steve Lewis
September 25 Mark Barr

October Birthdays

October 6 Michael Zimmerman
October 13 Dave Patterson
October 15 John Alwood
October 21 Jerry Pease
October 21 David Ziebell
October 27 Steve Stokes
October 31 Martin Cowen

Celebration, October 5, 2003

Remember: Time limits will be vigorously enforced!

Welcome—**Martin**
Celebration of Freedom—**Tom**
Celebration of Visitors—
Celebration of Each Other—
Celebratory Announcements—
Celebration of Art—
Celebration of Heroes—**Andrew**
Celebration of Personal Mission—**Ellen**
Celebration of Art—
Celebration of Talent—
Oratory—**Martin, "Strivings"**
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, October 2, 2003, at 7:30 p.m. Free.

Invisible College

The Invisible College meets every Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Vera's Intellectual Salon. Price: \$60 per month. Call Vera at 404-577-7968 for more information. Our current subject is American philosopher William James.

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 Potluck

Every month a member sponsors potluck. Tom and Beth Welch are sponsoring pot luck this month on Sunday, October 12, 2003, at noon in Hammond Park (corner of Hammond and Glenridge--it's about a mile away from the Sandy Springs library).

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 Wednesday, October 22, 2003, at 8 p.m.

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, September 27, 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, 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
 - Sunday, September 6, 2004
 - Sunday, October 3, 2004
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Membership Information:

FOR, Inc. has 50 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
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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.!
