

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

"It must be borne in mind that the tragedy of life does not lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy of life lies in having no goal to reach." Benjamin E. Mays

Webs of Meaning

I remember a scene from "Goldfinger," one of the first James Bond movies. Odd Job, murderer for the villain after whom the film is named, kills a reluctant co-conspirator. The car in which the deceased is riding is picked up by a powerful magnet and lifted into a metal crushing machine. The car and victim are squashed into a 3-foot cube. Again, the magnet picks up the iron cube with human remains and drops it into a pickup truck driven by Odd Job.

That magnet had the power to lift a 3,000-pound car!

An electric switch controlled the magnet. When the switch is turned on the magnetic field arranges the molecules of any nearby iron material with irresistible force.

One of our friends has recently acquired a business. Two others have found romantic partners. A fourth is a college student who has discovered the power of her own sexuality.

An electric switch has been thrown. A powerful web of meaning envelopes each of them now.

These circumstances, sought after in the first three cases and "just happened" in the fourth, are like the magnetic field produced when the powerful magnet is turned on. The people in these great circumstances

are within compelling webs of meaning (like a powerful magnetic field).

The businessman will be hard at work 12-hours per day, 6 days per week or more. The lovers will spend every waking hour together. The college girl will mostly abandon her family ties and spend all her time with her new found college friends.

For a time, we will lose close contact with our friends.

I remember a common complaint: When a friend gets married or a couple have children, they are no longer available to the same extent to their former friends.

All of this is perfectly natural.

But none of these four will be asking, "What is the meaning of life?" so long as these webs of meaning remain intact.

These events illustrate the power of personal mission. Acquiring a new business defines a personal mission. Finding a lover defines a personal mission. Entering a new stage of life (young adulthood) defines a personal mission. The requirements of each of these missions are obvious, on an emotional level, to the heroes undertaking these adventures. They *know* what they have to do!

While all of these missions might be enhanced by a little thought, the powerful feelings engaged by the missions will be the motivation to overcome all obstacles.

When the demands of those various missions diminish, we hope that our friends will come back to us more fully. But for now, they are on the right course and we wish them happiness and success in the pursuit of these great adventures!

Onward!

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.

November Birthdays

November 3	John Grover
November 12	Randy Sekeres
November 25	Bernice Bass Sossenکو

December Birthdays

December 21	Bill Greene
December 22	George Sossenکو
December 27	Leanna Ampola
December 29	Andrew Stallard
December 30	Mike Brady

FORUM, November 2, 2003

Remember: Time limits will be vigorously enforced!

Welcome—**Martin**
Celebration of Freedom—**Steve Stokes**
Celebration of Visitors—
Celebration of Each Other—
Celebratory Announcements—
Celebration of Art—**Michael Zimmerman**
Celebration of Heroes—
Celebration of Personal Mission—
Celebration of Talent—**Adolpho Corea**
Oratory—**Martin Cowen**
Forum—Dan (moderated discussion)
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, November 4, 2003, at 7:30 p.m. Free. Pascal's *Pensees*

Invisible College

The Invisible College meets every Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Vera's Intellectual Salon. Price: \$60 per 4 weeks payable to Professor Kipton Jensen. Call Vera at 404-577-7968 for more information. Our current subject is Goethe's *Faust*.

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

Please enjoy Thanksgiving Day at Martin and Linda's house. Please bring something good to eat or drink to share. Come anytime between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. We will plan to eat at 3 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day.

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, November 26, 2003, at 8 p.m.

FOR's Book Club

Members and friends of FOR, Inc. meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at John's studio to discuss a marvelous book. This month's book is *The Sea, The Sea* by Iris Murdoch. Beth Holley is the coordinator of book club. 404-7547519.

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, November 22, 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.

FORUM Schedule

- **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
- Sunday, November 5, 2004

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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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 Forum
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.

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.

Sponsors

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

Thanks, Dan, from FOR, Inc.!
