

Fellowship of Reason, Inc.

November 2003 Newsletter "Advocating Heroic Engagement With Life"

Volume 5, Number 11

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.

OUR SACRED PRESENT

I spend too much mental energy living in anxious anticipation of the future. Other people spend a lot of mental energy worrying about the past. I do not know many people who make a conscious effort to live in the present. One member of FOR has told me, though, that she does live in the present.

What is her secret?

I suspect that people may be genetically disposed to one personality type or the other. Evolutionarily speaking it would seem that a division of labor on this matter would have survival value. Warriors need to be on the lookout for invading tribes and wild animals. Elders need to consider past mistakes to improve future performance. Somebody needs to have a good time.

In our modern world, these three functions are consolidated into the individual. We all need to anticipate the future, learn from the past, and enjoy the present.

Our culture has evolved mechanisms to assist people to enjoy the present.

Perhaps the crudest cultural invention that facilitates enjoying the present is adult beverages. In my case, a single beer will noticeably reduce anxious worry about the future. The common problem of drug and alcohol abuse is completely about people self-medicating to avoid anxiety about the future or worry about the past.

Another cultural invention that facilitates enjoying the present is magic. Not used so much anymore, magic was an attempt to gain power over the

apparently arbitrary forces of nature and circumstance to reduce anxiety and worry.

Religion is perhaps the greatest invention for enhancement of enjoyment in the present. Through religion one gains power over the future by allying with a sympathetic God. Enemies, including Death, are overcome. Justice obtained. One gains forgiveness for past transgressions. One gains bliss in the moment through the rituals of worship. Imagine the experience of sitting in a great Cathedral surrounded by the most beautiful art and music, having your sins forgiven and your future in Heaven assured. What bliss!

What about those with a philosophical bent?

Well, we have been known to enjoy a pub night now and then. And a glass of wine before dinner never hurt anybody.

Also we have FORum during which, on principle and by design, we celebrate the good things in our lives, including Celebratory Announcements.

We actively use reason to try to act rightly in the present to achieve good future outcomes and to correct past wrongs, thus reducing fear of the future and guilt for past actions.

In order to live in our sacred present, we, of a philosophical bent, must act ethically.

Congratulations to our new Board of Trustees on your election by the membership

Dan Barber, Martin Cowen, Vera Norman,
Chris Snider, David Ziebell

Congratulations to our new Officers on your appointment by the Board of Trustees

Dan Barber	President
Steve Stokes	Vice-President
David Ziebell	Treasurer
Vera Norman	Secretary

November Birthdays

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

December Birthdays

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

FORUM, December 7, 2003

Special program: The Baroque period by Vera, Frank, David v. M., and David Z.

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, December 2, 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 4 weeks payable to Professor Kipton Jensen. 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 Wednesday 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. Beth Holley is the coordinator of book club. 404-754-7519.

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, December 28, 2003. Arrive at 6:30 p.m. Doors will be locked for safety! Movie starts at 7:15 p.m. Free.

Dan Barber's Self-Esteem Course

“Self-esteem is easily lost, and it does not return on its own accord. We must first understand what it is and how it works in order to build it back up. The Pillars of Self-Esteem course is a very important opportunity to facilitate changes in the basic patterns of the behavior that whittles the important self-esteem down to nothing. If you understand the importance, or are just curious, you will find this interesting and relevant information. This is a free interactive course that only requires your participation and commitment.”

Second and third Monday night throughout 2003. (1st and 3rd Monday starting in January) at 7:30 in Borders bookstore cafe Buford. Across from the Mall of Georgia.

For more info contact Dan at 770-831-3010

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, 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 52 members.

- Regular membership: \$35 per year if paid prior to October 31, 2004
 - Contributing membership: \$70 per year if paid prior to October 31, 2004
 - Lifetime membership: \$700 if paid prior to October 31, 2004
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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.

Visit www.paypal.com and make a payment to pay@fellowshipofreson.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.!
