

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.

WHAT IS THE FELLOWSHIP OF REASON®?

A single fact and its implications provide the context for the Fellowship of Reason® and make clear "what is FOR?"

THE FACT: Human life requires effort.

In 21st century America that effort is mostly mental. Physical effort is guided by the mind. Products of the mind, technologies, ease physical burdens dramatically.

Because the human mind is crucial for the health and happiness of the individual, attention is and should be paid to matters of the mind—to matters pertaining to human consciousness.

IMPLICATIONS OF **THE FACT**:

Freedom is necessary. Thought and action are performed by individual people. Individual thought and action are optimized in an environment of economic and political freedom for individuals.

Every thing we need to know for the mental effort of human life is embedded in our Culture. The mining of that culture for guidance is, therefore, a crucial and lifelong task. Among the sources to examine are philosophy, science, history, the lives of great people, and human artifacts, including great books, fine art, and music.

Heroes are role models. Great people of the past and present provide examples of success in the "effort" to achieve "human life." Studying their examples and celebrating our heroes are useful in our own strivings.

Art and artifacts are the concretization of human effort. The result of the successful "effort" of great people is great achievement. Examination and celebration of those people and their achievements can inspire and guide our own efforts.

Each individual human is unique. While the study of Culture, role models, and human achievement can guide us, each individual's life must be crafted in accordance with the characteristics unique to that individual. The task of finding that which a particular individual can do best with his life is the greatest of all personal challenges and requires enormous "effort."

All of the above comes under the heading of Ethics. Ethics answers the question: "How ought I live on earth?"

People who share these ideas—freedom, commitment to continuing adult education, admiration for great people and great human achievement, understanding of the importance of personal mission, and the relationship of these ideas to the science of ethics—are members, at least in spirit, of the Fellowship of Reason®.

Fellowship explained. People have a psychological need to manifest themselves in reality and to experience that manifestation. Just as a person, whose senses are denied stimulation in a famous sensory-deprivation experiment, goes insane, so a person deprived of positive social stimulation will go insane. Infants deprived of human contact fail to thrive.

A generally positive experience of oneself is necessary in order to perceive oneself as valuable. A person must believe that he is good in order to want to seek the "human life" that requires "effort."

The best way to perceive oneself (one's character and one's external products) in reality is through the mirror of friends, people of like-mind, values, and character. Fellowship is therefore essential for health and happiness.

So now you know "What is FOR?"

1. FORum (all of the above)
2. Newsletter (ethics and fellowship via calendar)
3. Invisible College (mining Culture / fellowship)
4. Philosophy tapes (mining Culture / fellowship)
5. Book club (mining Culture and fellowship)
6. Potluck (fellowship)
7. Movie Night (mining Culture and fellowship)
8. Pub night (fellowship)
9. Jogging (health, happiness, and fellowship)
10. Hiking (health, happiness, and fellowship)
11. Movie/Theater/Concert/Art exhibitions (mining Culture and fellowship)
12. White Water Rafting (health, happiness, and fellowship)
13. Swamp Adventure (health, happiness, and fellowship)
14. Motorcycle Club (fellowship)

February Birthdays

February 5 Michael Norman
February 23 Ellen Lewit

March Birthdays

March 3 Larry Curry
March 4 Scott Carper
March 22 Peter Brookner

FORum Schedule

- **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
 - Sunday, December 5, 2004
 - Sunday, January 2, 2005
 - Sunday, February 6, 2005
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FORUM, March 7, 2004: 1st Sunday

Remember: Time limits will be vigorously enforced!

Welcome—
Celebration of Freedom—
Celebration of Visitors—
Celebration of Each Other—
Celebratory Announcements—
Celebration of Art—
Celebration of Literature
Celebration of Heroes—
Celebration of Personal Mission—
Celebration of Talent—
Oratory—
FORum—**Dan Barber** (moderated discussion)
Announcements—
Closing Quotation—

Invisible College: Every Thursday

The Invisible College meets every Thursday 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.

Philosophy Tapes: 1st/3rd Tuesdays

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. Free.

Book Club: 2nd Tuesday

Members and friends of FOR, Inc. meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at John and Beth's house to discuss a marvelous book. Beth Holley is the coordinator of book club. 404-754-7519.

Potluck: 3rd Saturday

Members and friends of FOR, Inc. meet on the 3rd Saturday of every month for a potluck supper. Bring something good to eat or drink to share. Our next potluck is on Saturday, February 21, 2004, at 7 p.m. at Sally's house.

Pub Night: 4th Wednesday

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, February 25, 2004, at 8 p.m.

Film Night: 4th Saturday

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, February 28, 2004. Arrive at 6:30 p.m. Doors will be locked for safety! Movie starts at 7:15 p.m. Free.

Steve Stokes' The Philosophy Café: 2nd/3rd Wednesdays

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.

Steve Lewis' A Philosophy Café: 1st Wednesday

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

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.”

1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:30 in Borders bookstore cafe Buford. Across from the Mall of Georgia.

For more info contact Dan at 770-831-3010

Membership Information:

- 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

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:

13. Attend our activities
14. Bring donuts
15. Subscribe to our monthly newsletter
16. Perform at Forum
17. Recruit a person of like-mind and values
18. Volunteer your home for a potluck or other activity
19. Become a regular member
20. Become a contributing member
21. Become a lifetime member
22. Donate cash, property, time, or expertise (FOR, Inc. is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation and donations are tax deductible.)
23. Locate and help us apply for a public or private grant
24. 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.
