



FOR's Talking Points

Members are invited to use these talking points when speaking to others about FOR

1) Social Opportunities, Fellowship, Friendship, Community (pick your term)

FOR provides a variety of social events and a social support system for our members and nonmember friends, who identify themselves as 'non-theist' - those who do not carry a faith-based belief or belong to a faith-based community. In two words, FOR provides "secular fellowship." Aristotle viewed mankind as social by nature and friendship as essential to happiness or flourishing. FOR offers a benevolent environment in which the individual can experience meaningful relationships with others, who share a common perspective, as well as common values such as personal fulfillment, a reason-based approach to life, and a desire to learn and share ideas.

2) A Reason-Based Approach to Life

FOR regards reason as the best method for understanding the universe, human nature (including emotional needs), and our individual lives. FOR asserts that mankind can sufficiently know the world to advance our own flourishing in it, that humans have the capacity to choose what is good for themselves. FOR does not rely on the claims of faith or mysticism as a guide to individual action or well-being, but rather relies on a reason-based approach to life (study, analytical thinking, logic,

evidence, one's own good judgment). FOR focuses on the flourishing of our members and friends in this life. FOR offers learning activities that promote the use and development of reason. FOR combines our philosophy of reason with a program of social and educational opportunities to give the experience of living by reason.

3) Support of Personal Mission or Goals, Purposeful Living, Individual Flourishing (pick your term)

FOR supports our members and friends in purposeful living, encouraging individuals to select their own purpose(s) and/or goals and to systematically pursue them, keeping in mind that the means of 'getting there' is as important as the goal. In educational parlance, finding fulfillment in the process is as

important as the product. Members and friends are encouraged in their pursuits of activities about which they are passionate, career paths, and various other personal endeavors.

4) An Ethical Community (Eudaimonism)

FOR subscribes to a philosophy called Eudaimonism (from the ancient Greek "eudaimonia", meaning roughly "well-

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being") that emphasizes the use of reason and virtue. Eudaimonism asserts that an action is right (good) if it leads to individual well-being, and that individual well-being is at the core of any valid ethical system. Eudaimonism should not be confused with the view that pleasure is the highest good; that view is called hedonism. Well-being or flourishing is an individual matter and multidimensional, but in each case requires ethical behavior. FOR studies ethical questions and seeks to sponsor a moral community based on reason.

5) Lifelong Learning

FOR provides a variety of learning activities such as FORum presentations, adult education, taped lectures, and fiction and nonfiction book clubs. FOR regards knowledge and understanding as necessary for flourishing. Learning is further promoted through opportunities for voluntary speaking and writing and the exchange and discussion of ideas. FOR includes the enjoyment and study of the arts in our regular activities.

6) Living Reflectively or Consciously

FOR encourages our members and friends to be reflective about their lives and personal progress. FOR encourages each individual to take him/herself seriously, exercising self awareness, and considering how individual actions/choices promote or hinder one's own flourishing or that of others. FOR provides opportunities to reflect on the good things in life and on the people most important to us.

7) Recognition of Life Events and Human Excellence

FOR celebrates or marks the significant life events of our members and friends, such as births, marriages, or deaths. FOR also engages in an active admiration of human creativity,

excellence, and/or achievement, recognizing the accomplishments of our members and friends, and honoring those of the great men and women of the ages. In examining the achievements of others, we gain inspiration and learn better how to flourish.

"If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants." --Isaac Newton.

About the name "The Eudaimonist"

A eudaimonist (pronounced "yoo-DIE-mon-ist") is one who believes that the highest ethical goal is individual happiness and personal well-being. The term is derived from the ancient Greek word eudaimonia, which means, roughly, "well-being."

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in the columns appearing in this newsletter are those of the author and not necessarily the views of the organization. The Fellowship of Reason, Inc speaks only through its Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, and the actions taken by the Board of Trustees as a board and recorded in the minutes of the corporation.

Fellowship of Reason, Inc.**Mission Statement**

The Fellowship of Reason® is dedicated to the personal flourishing of our members through reason.

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

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Subscription Information

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

FOR Merchandise

The mug you have to have.

FOR coffee. FOR tea. FOR a friend.

Mugs are \$6 each or 2 for \$10.



FOR Polo Shirts and T-shirts are also available. Members Price is \$25 for Polo Shirts and \$15 for T-Shirts.

Prices include domestic shipping, inquire for international shipping.

Contact us at any FOR function (see page 9)

Questions? info@fellowshipofreason.com.



Quote of the Month

A good friend who points out mistakes and imperfections and rebukes evil is to be respected as if he reveals a secret of hidden treasure.

Buddha (568-488 BC, Indian born, founder of Buddhism)

Letters to the Editor



Letter concerns last month's lead essay "How Do Timocrats Deal with Dishonor?" by Martin Cowen

I suggest that Martin has posed a thesis (perhaps a "hidden thesis") that people high on self-respect but low on self-awareness are not likely to form cohesive groups due to personal offense, whereas people high on self-respect and high on self-awareness are more likely to "cling on" because self-examining people are not as quick to take offense. If Martin did not in fact pose this claim, then I claim the honor for the idea.

Self-awareness does not come easily, and presumably one reason FOR exists is to provide a social environment in which people may learn and develop skills such as self-examination.

Martin's "solution" to the problem of social cohesion among self-respecting persons, as I see it, is a "command to rise". In the article, he promotes becoming a great-souled person (i.e. magnanimous, self-examining, not too quick to over-react on feelings of offense). So, his solution is entirely internal. He is saying that people should be aware of their own feelings of offense, and be aware that there may be wiser options available than avoiding people who made one feel offended.

Mark Sulkowski, FOR member in Sweden

Birthdays

September Birthdays

September 15	James H.
September 19	Jim A.

October Birthdays

October 6	Michael Z.
October 21	Jerry P.
October 21	David Z.
October 31	Martin Cowen

Meaning of Membership

Regular membership:

\$35 per year

Contributing membership:

\$70 per Year

Lifetime membership:

\$700

Contact Information

To talk to somebody about Fellowship of Reason call:

Chris at 678-585-0406
 Vera at 404-577-7968
 Martin at 770-471-9800
 Dan at 770-831-3010

In order to enjoy the benefits of the Fellowship of Reason, you need not be a member. All of our activities are free and open to the public. A number of non-members regularly participate with us and are most heartily welcome.

Why then become a member of the Fellowship of Reason?

The Fellowship of Reason exists by virtue of the generosity of its members and friends. People you know contribute money, property, services, and time in order that the value we all enjoy continues to exist. The services by performers at FORum, by executive committee members, by hosts and hostesses, and by planners of events are vital to the existence of FOR. Those volunteer services are, in fact, FOR.

Membership is, simply, a clear statement that you wish the Fellowship of Reason to continue to exist. Membership is not the only way to make this statement. Some non-members are generous contributors of money, property, and services. In fact, we all benefit by the mere attendance of non-members at FOR events.

If you want FOR to continue to exist, won't you clearly say so by becoming a member today?

THE FELLOWSHIP OF REASON'S

FIFTH Annual

Bozart Festival

23 September 2006

... ?Just What IS a Bozart Festival?...

It is, in short, a participatory festival celebrating the *Beaux Arts* (Fine Arts). Here's how it works:

- Participants will create or present a **NEW** work of art of that they have created (a painting, sculpture, collage, sketch, photograph, story, poem, song, dance, etc. – anything that qualifies as art!)
- At the end of the evening, everyone will cast secret ballots, voting for Best Entry. Award Certificates will be presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd Places! We'll even have special categories for participants younger than 16. (As a courtesy to fellow performers, we kindly request you limit performances to 5 minutes.)
- A reminder that the Bozart Festival doubles as FOR's monthly potluck, so in addition to your talent, ***be sure to bring food or drink to share!***

7pm, Saturday, 23 September 2006
At the Clubhouse at Haynes Landing
New Heritage Drive
Alpharetta, GA
(404) 213 8658

Call for directions or email president@fellowshipofreason.com
RSVP ASAP

* The term "Bozart" comes from the 1917 essay "Sahara of the Bozart" by H.L. Mencken, in which he denounced the South (and Georgia in particular) as being deficient in art and culture. The Bozart Festival aims to prove him right, or wrong, or both!

September 2006

September 2006							October 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1:00pm FORum (NWUUC)	Labor Day	7:30pm Philosophy Club (Sally's house)	7:30pm Invisible College (Greg Johnson's house)			11:00am Nonfiction book club (Chris and Allison's house)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:00am FOR-Runners		7:30pm Fiction Book Club (Beth's house) 8:00pm 100 Years of Solitude	7:30pm Invisible College (Greg Johnson's house)		James H. bd	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:00am FOR-Runners		Jim A. bd 7:30pm Philosophy Club (Sally's house)	7:30pm Invisible College (Greg Johnson's house)			8:00am Deadline for newsletter submissions 7:30pm Bozart Festival
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:00am FOR-Runners			7:30pm Invisible College (Greg Johnson's house)	8:00pm Pub night		

October 2006

October 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1:00pm FORum (NWUUC)		7:30pm Philosophy Club (Sally's house)		Michael Z. bd		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:00am FOR-Runners		7:30pm Fiction Book Club (Beth's house) 8:00pm "The Bell Jar" by Sylvia Plath	7:30pm Invisible College (Greg Johnson's house)			11:00am Nonfiction book club (Chris and Allison's house) 11:30am "The Dogs of God" by James
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:00am FOR-Runners		7:30pm Philosophy Club (Sally's house)				David Z. bd Jerry P. bd 7:30pm Potluck
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:00am FOR-Runners	8:00am Deadline for newsletter submissions		7:30pm Invisible College (Greg Johnson's house)	8:00pm Pub night		
29	30	31				
8:00am FOR-Runners		Martin Cowen bd				

Events

For detailed info on all upcoming events, visit
<http://www.fellowshipofreason.com/calendar.htm>

FOR Runners: Sunday 8 a.m.

We meet every Sunday morning at 8 a.m., except FORum Sundays, at the Flying Biscuit on McClendon Avenue. Breakfast at Flying Biscuit follows at 9 a.m. Walkers and joggers welcome!

Martin Cowen coordinator: 770-471-9800.

Philosophy Club: 1st/3rd Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.

Philosophy tapes are played to a small private group of friends in a private home on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Free.

Sally Hull coordinator: 404-257-0454

Fiction Book Club: 2nd Tuesday 7:30 p.m.

Members and friends of FOR meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at John and Beth's house. For book selections and more information, go to:

www.fellowshipofreason.com/fiction.htm

Beth Holley coordinator: 404-754-7519.

Non-Fiction Book Club: 2nd Saturday 11 a.m.

Members and friends of FOR meet 11 a.m. on the 2nd Saturday of every month at Chris and Allison's house. For book selections and more information, go to:

www.fellowshipofreason.com/nonfiction.htm

Allison Byrd coordinator: 404-372-4089

FOR Symphony: Thursday, September 21 in Symphony Hall. This is the first of six concerts in the 2006-2007 ASO Concert Season.

Martin Cowen coordinator: 770-471-9800.

Bozart Festival: 4th Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

Our annual celebration of personal talent. Bring food. Bring a personal artistic contribution. September 23, 2006, at 7:30 p.m.

Chris Snider coordinator: 404-213-8658

Pub Night: 4th Thursday, 8 p.m.

Members and friends of FOR 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, September 28, 2006 at 8 p.m.

Scott Carper coordinator: 404-964-6697

*Join us at
FORum:*

1st Sunday at 1 p.m.
(Meet, Greet at 12:30)

September 3, 2006

Celebratory Announcements

Do yourself a favor and remember a good thing that happened to you this month:

Please, write it down: _____

Now do the membership of FOR, Inc. a favor by relating this fact during FORum next month!



Fellowship of Reason

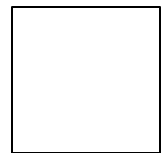
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A Rational Community for the
New Millennium.

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We're on the Web!
See us at:

fellowshipofreason.com