

The official newsletter of
Fellowship of Reason, Inc.



Fellowship of Reason Temple

By
Steve Butterbaugh © 2007

**New at FORum:
Children's
program from
noon to 3 p.m.**

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I was riding around Atlanta a couple days ago and come across some high ground south of me. It has a stunning view of the city. Someone bought this hilltop and put a bunch of typical Atlanta homes on it. There was one empty lot left and the neighborhood is bad. It felt like a place on the way to being a slum even though the houses are not very old.

I was thinking that we FoR people need to buy up those houses, tear them down, and erect a building on that hilltop. (Perhaps there are other hilltop sights that I do not know about although this one was spectacular.) I have been designing the FoR "Temple" if you will. It reminds me of Roark's design of the Stoddard Temple, I believe it was, because the drama of the building is set by its focus on the skyline which I take to be rationality incarnate. It is basically a simple building, but so powerful because it is clear in its purpose and values. The skyline is north of this site so the view is always the best that it can be at any time of day. There is no sun coming in the window to create glare. One walks into the building from the outside up a slight incline so that one sees the sky, not the skyline. Then

at the end of this, there is a railing, like at the bow of ship. At that point, the space ahead of you opens up as the bottom is below this "bow" level. The bottom of the window toward the city is below you and your eye goes to the skyline. The window is panoramic. The idea is that you will be overcome by the beauty and the majesty of this sight.

In the space below the railed area at the end of the entry sequence is a Greek style theatre. That is where the FoRum and other events are held. I have it facing back toward the hill with the view of the city behind you when you are sitting in the theatre. You will have experienced the sight of the skyline, taken the stairs down to the gathering place and then taken your seat focused on the leader, the lecturer, the movie or the concert.

On this lower level will be restrooms and some storage for the purpose of the theater, a piano, etc., etc. Probably there will be an elevator that will take a person from the upstairs entry area down to the theater area.

Beside the entry area on the first floor are two areas. On one side is a library,

Fellowship of Reason Temple (continued from page 1)

a collection of books, art and other media which are products of the mind and celebrate rationality. On the other side is the social area. Here are rest rooms, a kitchen area and a place to set out a potluck, coffee, whatever is needed for the kinds of gatherings that are held there.

The entrance to the building is very unprejudging. It is a one story structure with a generous covered area

to shelter people coming and going from the building. It is inviting, and has a simple gold plaque saying "The Fellowship of Reason." The whole purpose of the entry is to be straight forward, authentic, not promising a whole lot as a set up for delivering a whopping experience when one reaches the "bow of the ship."

[FoR member Steve Butterbaugh is an architect.]

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."



View of Atlanta from Climax Street, proposed site of the Fellowship of Reason Temple

Declaration of Independence

By Ronald P. Menich

For the Celebration of Freedom today I have decided to do something quite straightforward, namely, to read portions of the Declaration of Independence. (It being August, I guess my speech is one month late!) A few times per year, I browse the Declaration or the Constitution or the Bill of Rights and am never bored when I do so; each time I read them, I uncover something new. I am especially fond of the Declaration, for its sheer

audacity: it is not mere commentary on the passing scene. No, this document is in-your-face: just imagine mere colonists with their ragtag militias challenging the British Empire --- you know, the one upon which the sun never set? Who did these Americans think they were challenging such a mighty military force?

I hope that I can convey some passion in my vocal delivery today:

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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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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.



Declaration of Independence (continued)

the Declaration is certainly a passionate document and although I presume you all have *read* the Declaration before; you might not have ever *heard* it. So relax and listen to the words of The Enlightenment and the Age of Reason. If perchance your mind wanders, don't worry; just let the beauty of Thomas Jefferson's powerful and lyric prose wash over you; there is music here, music that can be enjoyed almost independently of the content of the words.

"IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-

evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new

The Declaration of Independence (continued)

Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

(For a few pages hereafter Jefferson enumerates the many “injuries and usurpations” inflicted upon the Colonies by the King of England. For brevity, I will skip to the closing paragraphs.)

“In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in

Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States, that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

At this point, 56 individuals *signed their names* to this treasonous document, a crime for which one could be hung, drawn and quartered (a most cruel and unusual punishment). Think about *that* the next time you sign your name to some document.

In closing, let me leave you with a small homework assignment. I've skipped the middle of the Declaration, so please go read the document in its entirety: you won't regret doing so. And after you reread it, please reflect on

Meaning of Membership

Regular membership:
\$35 per year

Contributing membership:
\$70 per Year

Lifetime membership:
\$700

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, why not clearly say so by becoming a member today?

Classic Film Appreciation Course

Classic Film Appreciation Course
By Steve Whiteman

Throughout 2007 FOR member **Steve Whiteman** will teach a free course in the appreciation of classic film and associated early and mid-20th century popular culture. The course is full, but seats may become available to see individual films.

For more information, or to receive e-mail, contact Steve at classic.film@yahoo.com

The movies will be acknowledged classics, the majority from Hollywood's Golden

Age—the 1930s and 1940s—and the rest from other eras or other countries. The program usually will include a cartoon or a short subject, coming attractions, the feature film, and commentary on the careers of key personnel, filmmaking techniques, and relevant history and popular culture. Discussion will follow the commentary.

First and Second Saturdays in 2007
Doors open 6:45 p.m. program starts at 7:30 p.m.

The Declaration of Independence (continued)

the current state of the world, full of totalitarian powers, of militant religious fanatics striving to impose sharia on all of us, of the thoughtless massacre of civilians in the markets of Baghdad. A sense of wonder should grow on you regarding this Declaration: to read it is to celebrate freedom; but moreover to read it is also to celebrate the human achievement of the Founders well over two centuries ago.

Trivia question for FORum: Who were the three signers of the Declaration of Independence from the State of Georgia?

Answer: Button Gwinnett, George Walton, Lyman Hall.

Contact Information

To talk to somebody about Fellowship of Reason call:

Martin at 770-471-9800
Dan at 770-831-3010

Change of Address

By Kathleen Allen

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kathleen Hamilton Allen publishes debut novel *Change of Address*. Readers will cry before they laugh. It may anger them, but only because it makes them think about the factors that influence their own lives.

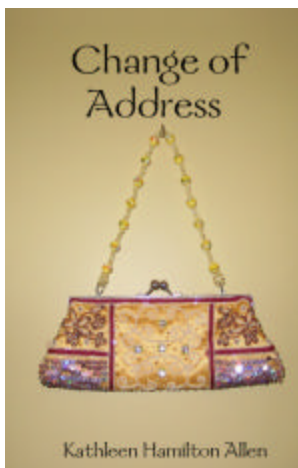
NORCROSS, GA — JULY 17, 2007 — *Change of Address* takes an incisive look at the factors we rely upon for survival and spiritual sustenance – Faith, Family and Friends, and the impact upon them of Fame and Fortune, often desired in theory, yet rarely enjoyed in reality.

Kathleen Hamilton Allen wrote *Change of Address* after she and her husband moved a continent away from family and friends to settle in a small-town, Bible-belt community. A summer without jobs or TV meant time tending two small children and only internet news for entertainment, with ample time to question the impact of the above factors on our lives.

Within her tale of a widowed mother's loss and recovery, the author casts a critical eye on:

- forces within contemporary, conservative churches;
- de-facto segregation in early-childhood education;
- the public's insatiable desire for scandal, however inconsequential the story; and
- whether money really does buy happiness.

Her tale is ultimately hopeful, but will spark passionate responses from her readers.



Change of Address is available in paperback (\$20.00) and e-book (\$10.00) formats.

Link to Publication: <http://www.lulu.com/content/980983>

ABOUT AUTHOR

Kathleen Hamilton Allen lives with her husband and two children in a suburb of Atlanta. She graduated from Claremont McKenna College, Claremont, CA with a dual major of Government/French.

FOR's mission is to promote the personal flourishing of our members through reason.

September 2007

September 2007							October 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
30													

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						September 1 7:00pm Classic Film Appreciation Course (Steve Whiteman's house)
2 12:00pm FORum (NWUUC)	3	4 7:30pm Philosophy Tapes (Sally's house)	5 7:30pm Invisible College (Greg's house)	6	7	8 11:00am Nonfiction Book Club (Allison's house) 7:00pm Classic Film Appreciation Course (Steve Whiteman's house)
9 8:00am FOR Runners (Flying Biscuit)	10	11 7:30pm Fiction Book Club (Beth's house)	12 7:30pm Invisible College (Greg's house)	13	14	15 7:30pm Bozart/Potluck (Scott's club house)
16 8:00am FOR Runners (Flying Biscuit)	17	18 7:30pm Philosophy Tapes (Sally's house)	19 Jim bd 7:30pm Invisible College (Greg's house)	20	21	22 6:30pm Movie Night (John's studio)
23 8:00am FOR Runners (Flying Biscuit)	24	25	26 7:30pm Invisible College (Greg's house)	27 7:00pm Atlanta Symphony (La Boheme) 8:00pm FOR pub	28	29
30						

October 2007

October 2007							November 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	1	2	3
14	8	9	10	11	12	13	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	22	23	24	25	26	27	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	29	30	31										

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	October 1	2	3	4	5	6
		7:30pm Philosophy Tapes (Sally's house)	7:30pm Invisible College (Greg's house)	7:00pm Atlanta Symphony	7:30pm Atlanta Opera	7:00pm Classic Film Appreciation Course (Steve Whiteman's house)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12:00pm FORum (NWUUC)		7:30pm Fiction Book Club (Beth's house)	7:30pm Invisible College (Greg's house)	7:00pm Atlanta Symphony		11:00am Nonfiction Book Club (Allison's house) 6:00pm FOR Family Friendly Ca 7:00pm Classic Film Appreciation
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
12:00am FOR Family Friendly Campout (Ron's house) 8:00am FOR Runners (Flying Biscuit)		7:30pm Philosophy Tapes (Sally's house)	7:30pm Invisible College (Greg's house)			7:30pm Potluck (Volunteer)
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
David Z. bd Jerry bd 8:00am FOR Runners (Flying Biscuit)			7:30pm Invisible College (Greg's house)	7:00pm Atlanta Symphony 8:00pm FOR pub	Ron bd	6:30pm Movie Night (John's studio)
28	29	30	31			
8:00am Marine Corps Marathon 9:00am FOR Runners (Flying Biscuit)			Martin Cowen bd 8:30pm Invisible College (Greg's house)			

Events

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

FORum: A Celebration of Human Achievement

First Sunday noon
 FOR's premier event. Starting at noon with an InFORmation Hour conducted by Dan Barber for visitors and new members. Meet and greet at 12:30 p.m. The program starts at 1 p.m. and lasts one hour. We enjoy post-program conversation until 3 p.m. when those interested adjourn to The Loop restaurant for further fellowship. Children's Program from noon to 3 p.m.

Martin Cowen director: 770-471-9800.

FOR Runners: Sunday 8 a.m.

We meet every Sunday morning at 8 a.m., except FORum Sundays, at the southwest corner of Piedmont Park on 10th Street. Breakfast at Flying Biscuit (corner of Piedmont and 10th Street) follows at 9 a.m. Breakfast lovers, 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 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: 404-372-7378

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

Bozart Festival in lieu of Potluck: 3rd Saturday

6th Annual Bozart Festival! Saturday, 9/15

7:00p Join us for the sixth Annual Bozart Festival, a participatory art festival! Bring an original piece of artwork (i.e. a painting, sculpture, photograph, etc.) or come prepared to perform an original composition (i.e. music, poetry, a skit, etc.). We will kick off the festivities with our monthly potluck supper, so bring food or drink to share! Location will be announced closer to show time.

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, Thursday, September 27, 2007 at 8 p.m.

Scott Carper coordinator: 404-964-6697

Movie Night: 4th Saturday, 6:30 p.m.

Members and friends of FOR meet on the 4th Saturday of every month at John Grover's photography studio to enjoy potluck and a movie. FOR's next movie night is Saturday, September 22, 2007, at 6:30 p.m.

John Grover coordinator: 404-872-4555

*Join us for our
 next monthly
 FORum:*

**September 2,
 2007**

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

Come early for the
**InFORmation
 Hour**

At noon
 Moderated by Dan Barber for
 visitors and new members

And NEW THIS MONTH
FOR FAMILY FRIENDLY
 Children's program
 from noon to 3 p.m.

Birthdays

• September 19 Jim

• October 21 Jerry
 • October 21 David Z
 • October 26 Ron
 • October 31 Martin Cowen
 •

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

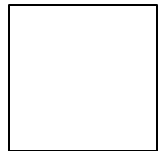
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A Reason-Based Moral
Community for the 21st
Century

FELLOWSHIP OF REASON, INC.
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We're on the Web!
See us at:

fellowshipofreason.com