

AYN RAND CONFERENCE-DALLAS

Reason, Purpose, Self-Esteem: Keys to a Better Life



Owner: Leonard Peikoff | Credit: Ayn Rand Archives



Presented by the Ayn Rand Institute

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2020
SHERATON SUITES MARKET CENTER DALLAS
DALLAS, TEXAS

REASON, PURPOSE, SELF-ESTEEM: KEYS TO A BETTER LIFE

PROGRAM:

8:00 – 9:00 am

Registration

Check into the event and pick up your name badge, swag bag and a free book!

9:00 – 9:10 am

Welcome Remarks

by Ben Bayer

9:10 – 10:10 am

Keynote: What Makes For a Life Worth Living?

by Gregory Salmieri

Do you think of your life as something precious, and do you want to do something important with it—something worthwhile? Many young people feel this way, but too often they go on to settle for lives that do not live up to this aspiration. One reason for this is that the aspiration is itself vague and undefined. It is difficult to articulate what we want out of our lives, and we get little guidance in the process. Indeed, Ayn Rand's novels and essays are among the few things in our culture that offer us aid and inspiration in the process of defining our values. In this talk, Dr. Salmieri explores this aspect of Rand's thought, with special emphasis on how her conceptions of *reason*, *purpose* and *self-esteem* can help us to identify and achieve what we want out of life.

10:10 – 10:40 am

Break

10:40 – 11:20 am

The Virtue of Selfishness

by Keith Lockitch

Everyone knows that selfishness is evil, right? But what if our concept of "selfishness" is completely mistaken? From Ayn Rand's perspective, "selfishness" does not mean what people typically think it means. And a central tenet of her philosophy is that, properly understood, selfishness is actually the essence of virtue.

11:20 am – 12:00 pm

The Evil of Altruism

by Ben Bayer

Everyone knows that altruism—selfless sacrifice for the sake of others—is the essence of virtue, right? But what if, like the concept “selfishness,” our understanding of the true meaning of “altruism” and “sacrifice” is completely mistaken? What if these ideas are actually destructive and harmful? From Ayn Rand’s perspective, our whole way of thinking about morality needs to be radically rethought.

12:00 – 1:30 pm

Lunch

Enjoy lunch with your fellow attendees, conference speakers and staff.

1:30 – 2:30 pm

Capitalism: The System of Individual Rights

by Yaron Brook

Do citizens have a duty to serve the state? Or does government exist to protect the freedom of individuals to pursue their own lives and happiness? What are individual rights and what are they based on? Ayn Rand often described her political views by saying that she’s not a conservative but a “radical for capitalism.” What is capitalism? And how does it differ from both socialism and conservatism?

2:30 – 3:00 pm

Break

3:00 – 4:30 pm

Q&A Panel on Reason, Purpose and Self-Esteem

with Ben Bayer, Yaron Brook, Keith Lockitch, Gregory Salmieri

After reflecting on the talks so far, here is your chance to ask any questions you have about Ayn Rand’s philosophy, Objectivism. In particular, we’ll focus on reason, purpose and self-esteem and why Ayn Rand called these the “three cardinal values of the Objectivist ethics.”

4:30 – 5:15 pm

How to Be the Hero of Your Own Life—and Closing Remarks

by Tal Tsfany

Ayn Rand’s philosophy offers powerful tools for rethinking your goals and purpose in life. But what does it look like to put those tools into practice? In this talk, ARI’s CEO Tal Tsfany tells the story of his journey exploring Ayn Rand’s ideas and offers realistic advice for applying those ideas in practice.

5:15 – 6:45 pm

Closing Reception

Enjoy a drink and discuss the conference with attendees and speakers.

OBJECTIVIST SUMMER CONFERENCE 2020

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Austin, Texas

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LIVING A LIFE OF PURPOSE

Join us at OCON 2020 in Austin, Texas, June 17–21, 2020, for the largest annual gathering of Ayn Rand enthusiasts where you'll have the opportunity to:

- Hear speakers and panelists present intellectually stimulating topics, from philosophy and history to literature and finance.
- Meet and talk with other Ayn Rand fans eager to learn more about the ideas in her works.
- Take part in a variety of social activities with other event attendees.

ATTENTION STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS!

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