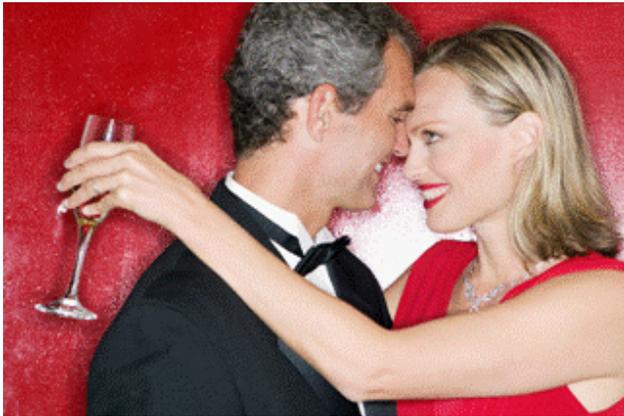




Presents



Red Carpet Romance a Weekend Celebration

September 17 – 19, 2010
Hutchinson Island Marriott Resort

Online registration is now available at the Red Carpet Romance Celebration website!

- ✓ Find details about the Celebration's location, programs, and activities.
- ✓ Read about the workshops, and choose the ones you want to attend.
- ✓ Discover the new Mentor Training Program being offered.
- ✓ Easy hotel reservation with the discounted Celebration rate in place.
- ✓ Take advantage of the Early Bird discount for early registration!

Go to www.bettermarriagesfl.org/events for information, easy on-line registration and payment.

Conference coordinator couple:
Ross & Cindy Alander
(813) 251-2791
calande@tampabay.rr.com

President Couple's Corner

Jena and Richard Congdon



The excitement and anticipation continue to build. The Leadership team has really been dedicated and spent long hours on all the details to make this "celebration" a fabulous event. The plans are now confirmed, all the promotional materials have gone to the printer, and our website, <http://www.bettermarriagesfl.org/events.htm> directs all interested parties to Florida's all new look with details of every aspect of **"Red Carpet Romance."** Reservations and payments are online and ready. Get your reservation in early to take advantage of the "Early Bird Special".

Now is your time to get involved and here is how:

1. Brochures are being printed to hand out as a means to invite couples. Let us know how many brochures you will commit to putting in the hands of couples.
2. These same brochures are a great informational piece to put in the hands of leadership of churches and other organizations that would like to train couples to develop a mentoring program.
3. This newsletter can be forwarded via e-mail to couples in your sphere of influence and leadership that would like to attend the workshops or the mentoring program.

We are developing a phone committee to call all past attendees. So, expect a call some time during the month of May. Feel free to ask any questions you may have at that time.

If you are personally acquainted with leadership of any organization involving couples, please make it a priority to contact that leadership during the month of May to put **"Red Carpet Romance"** information in their hands.

On a different subject, the leadership team for Florida Better Marriages have approved the new logo for our organization. It is now at the top of each page of our website and will be used at the beginning of our newsletter and all other publications for the organization.

A testimonial

"As first-timers at the September 2009 FL State Celebration, we felt a wonderful sense of fellowship there. Everyone warmly welcomed us. We learned a lot about Marriage Enrichment and had a great time. We liked it so much that we are helping to start a MEG in Southwest Florida." *Pete & Carol Schwiers*

Pre-conference Knee-To-Knee exercise

Ross Alander



Cindy and I have been involved with marriage enrichment for 14 years, and over those years we have left MEG meetings and past Florida conferences with “where do we go from here” exercises and activities.

In anticipation of the Red Carpet Romances Celebration in September, we would like to suggest that you do a “what do we want to accomplish” couples exercise.

Each partner individually write down several objectives he or she would like to work on during the celebration weekend. This may take place over days or weeks, but agree on a time to come together to discuss your thoughts knee-to-knee. Finally, see if you can arrive at 2-3 joint goals. This may be an on-going activity for these next few months, as time has a way of changing priorities.

Wife’s Objectives/Goals	Husband’s Objectives/Goals	Couple's Joint Objectives/Goals
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

We will see you at the celebration!

Do You Want a *Better* Marriage?

No matter where you are in your relationship, your marriage can be better! If you're struggling and your marriage is less than satisfying, it can be better. If you're happy and can't imagine it any other way, it can be better. *Better* is a relative term. Watch the website www.BetterMarriages.org for new and improved resources to help you develop a Better Marriage.

The **Pinellas County marriage enrichment group** now meets on the 2nd Friday of each month. We have room for one or two additional couples. If interested, please contact Ken and Nellie Dean at ken.nell@arclp.net or 727-392-4158.



Fondness and Admiration Questionnaire

To assess the current state of your fondness and admiration system, read each statement and mark “T” for true and “F” for false.

T	F		Points
		I can easily list the three things I most admire about my partner	
		When we are apart, I often think fondly of my partner	
		I will often find some way to tell my partner “I love you”	
		I often touch or kiss my partner affectionately	
		My partner really respects me	
		I feel love and cared for in this relationship	
		I feel accepted and liked by my partner	
		My partner finds me sexy and attractive	
		My partner turns me on sexually	
		There is fire and passion in this relationship	
		Romance is definitely still a part of our relationship	
		I am really proud of my partner	
		My partner really enjoys my achievements	
		I can easily tell you why I married my partner	
		If I had it to do again, I would marry the same person	
		We rarely go to sleep without some show of affection	
		When I enter a room, my partner is glad to see me	
		My partner appreciates the things I do in this marriage	
		My spouse generally likes my personality	
		Our sex life is generally satisfying	
Total Score			

Scoring: Give yourself one point for each “true” answer.

Note: A score of **10 or above** indicates an area of strength for your marriage.

Because you value each other highly, you have a shield that can protect you from being overwhelmed by any negativity that also exists between you. Although it may seem obvious to you that people who are in love have a high regard for one another, it’s common for spouses to lose sight of some of their fondness and admiration over time. Remember that this is a gift worth cherishing.

Note: A score of **below 10** indicates that your marriage could use some improvement in this area. Don’t become discouraged by a low score. There are many couples in whom the fondness and admiration system has *not died* but is *buried* under layers of negativity, hurt feelings and betrayal. By reviving the positive feelings that still lie deep below, you can vastly improve your marriage.

After scoring their responses, each spouse should take a moment to think about the exercise. Then sit together and dialogue about the exercise and the implications of the individual responses.

Edited and revised by Lyle Green and Jena Congdon.

If you loved "*Happily Ever After*",
the International Marriage Enrichment Celebration in Orlando in 2007,
you'll want to **SAVE THE DATE!**

Better Marriages Conference

July 7-10, 2011 in Albuquerque, NM

Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town: Voted Best Hotel in NM, 2008

<http://www.hhandr.com/albuquerque.php>

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	Newsletter Couple Note: We thank Cindy Alander and Richard Congdon for their extensive assistance to us in preparing this newsletter.

Our newsletter editor couple maintains our ACME mailing list. If you know of anyone who would welcome receiving our mailings, please send their names and addresses to Ben and B.J. Mather at benjmather@hotmail.com 2220 NW 46th Street, Gainesville, FL 32605-5703.

Florida ACME is a unit of ACME International, which has members in all 50 states and 31 countries. Its mission is "to promote enrichment opportunities and resources that strengthen couple relationships and enhance personal growth, mutual fulfillment, and family wellness."

Florida ACME is a not-for-profit 501 © (3) corporation. We do not use professional solicitors and 100% of any gift goes to Florida ACME. Our registration number with the Florida Department of Consumer Affairs is SC-03733. For more information, visit our website or contact one of our officers or area representatives.

www.bettermarriagesfl.org