



Florida Association for Couples in  
**Marriage Enrichment**



July 2004

Vol. 8. No.2

# The Magical Mystery of Marriage

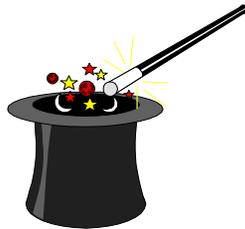
## Florida ACME 2004 State Conference

The Florida Mall Hotel  
(Formerly Adam's Mark Hotel)  
Orlando, Florida  
September 17-19, 2004

*\*Register by August 1st  
and SAVE \$\$*

### About The 2004 State Conference

This year's conference theme is "The Magical Mystery of Marriage". The programs, workshops, and mini-retreat are designed to help us refresh and enhance the "magic" and "mystery" that we all want our marriages to have. All meetings will be at the conference hotel, The Florida Mall Hotel.



### \*Conference Fee:

Postmarked by August 1st: \$159/couple,  
after August 1st: \$179/couple

### Refund Policy:

Cancellation before 9/1/04: Full. After: 9/1/04: 50%.  
The Conference Fee includes two meals (Saturday night and Sunday morning), snacks, refreshments and materials.

### Lodging at The Florida Mall Hotel

**Room rate:** \$87/couple/night + tax

This special group rate is also available for attendees up to three days before or after our event. Call the hotel before August 17 to reserve your room at the group rate of \$87. After August 17 the rate may increase to their regular rate of \$149.

Check-in time: 3:00 pm arrival day

Check-out time: 12:00 noon departure day

### Reservations: call 1-800-588-4656

Be sure to mention that you will be there for the ACME event. Call before August 17.

**Directions to hotel:** See Insert

### To Attend This Conference

A Registration form is enclosed and is available on Florida ACME's web site at [www.BetterMarriagesFL.org](http://www.BetterMarriagesFL.org). Completed forms should be sent to the Ealys (see below) along with the conference fee.

### Scholarship Money is Available

Please contact Charlie and Debbie Parsons for more information. Money available for the Conference only, couples are responsible for their hotel expenditures. The Parsons: (813) 286-2406 or [PARSONSL@verizon.net](mailto:PARSONSL@verizon.net)

### Contact Information

If you have questions about the *conference itself*, please contact the conference coordinators:

Becky and Joe Reina  
Phone: 813-920-2651  
Email: [breina@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:breina@tampabay.rr.com)

If you have conference or registration questions, please contact the Conference registrars:

David and Mandy Ealy  
3315 NE 30<sup>th</sup> Court  
Ocala, FL 34479

Phone: 352-867-7965  
Email: [MandyEaly@juno.com](mailto:MandyEaly@juno.com)

**ACME Mailing List**

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 Sally and Tim Glisson.

Relationships are built on feelings  
not on facts. ~G.J.P.G.

**Marriage Enrichment**

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Florida A.C.M.E. is a unit of A.C.M.E. 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 (c) (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 consult our home page on the internet, <http://www.BetterMarriagesFL.org> or contact one of our officers (*below*) or area representatives (*see p. 3*).

**Officers of Florida ACME**

**President Couple:** Charlie and Debbie Parsons; (813) 286-2406; [PARSONSL@gte.net](mailto:PARSONSL@gte.net)  
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e-mail: [acme@bettermarriages.org](mailto:acme@bettermarriages.org)



From Your President Couple:

**Charlie and Debbie Parsons**

Hi Couples,

We are in the final stretch of our time as President-Couple with lots still on our plates. We will be attending the International ACME Conference in Ft. Worth, TX in July. After the incredible experience we had at the last IMEC in 2000, we can hardly wait for this one. The speakers lined up all deliver a wonderful message with what appears to be great ease and humor. Our relationship is always "re-charged" after IMEC. One of our Florida-Couples – Harrel and Sally Morgan have recently fulfilled their term on the national board having served three years and have done a great job. We are looking forward to having them "back" to help with the state chapter. They were replaced by another Florida couple – Bob and Sally Harris who are jumping into the job with both feet running. We are grateful to both these couples for their time and energy making ACME into the great organization it is.

Also in September, our oldest daughter is getting married. She found the love of her life through a college friend. We are extremely happy for her and our son-in-law to be. Charlie is really looking forward to having another man around!

We are sending our youngest daughter off to college in the fall and will soon be experiencing the "empty nest". With that in mind we are definitely looking forward to the annual State Conference two weeks after our daughter's wedding.

This year the Conference will be in Orlando in keeping with the theme "The Magical, Mystery of Marriage". The workshops offered are designed with many stages of marriage in mind so there will be something for everyone. We strongly encourage you to come see what the excitement is all about. Being part of an organization that dedicates itself to helping grow better relationships by teaching skills we never learned elsewhere is a powerful way to say "I love you" to that special someone.

"Love is the condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own."

Make each other happy – communicate, commit, forgive, love.  
Charlie and Debbie Parsons



Watch out for the times when you are sick, tired or hungry (as well as pressure at work, a bad drive home, kids acting out, computer problems, etc.) Those are the times when you're likely to have a short fuse, get upset about some small thing, lose your sense of humor and take things way too seriously. Throw away disagreements that you have during times of being sick, tired or hungry. That is, try not to go back and discuss them later when you're calm again. (It's more likely to be an 'oops' than a real problem.)

We all do get stressed and push ourselves too hard at times and then take it out on our partner. But if it happens too often we owe it to each other to check it out and figure out what we can do to have more time with each other when we're not sick, tired or hungry.

Relating Well, Bea Strickland

**CENTRAL AREA (Orlando)** Harrel & Sally Morgan, Area Reps. Phone: (407) 830-1766.  
E-mail: Morganfamily1@juno.com  
MEG meets bi-monthly on a Saturday evening for a themed dinner and marriage enrichment. Phone or e-mail for information on time and place.

**EAST CENTRAL AREA (New Smyrna Beach)** Anne and Clyde Walker, Area Reps. Phone: (904)423-1482.  
E-mail:acwalker@ucnsb.net.  
MEG meets monthly at the Coronado United Methodist Church. Contact The Walkers for more information.

**NORTH CENTRAL (Gainesville)** Ken and Martha Cook, Area Reps. Phone: (352) 495-6888. E-mail: KenMartha@att.net

Two MEGs meet in the Gainesville area. Contact Ken and Martha Cook for more information

**NORTH EAST AREA (Jacksonville)** Annabelle and Jack Allyn, Area Reps. Phone: (904) 384-7813. E-mail: ABJACME@aol.com.

**WEST CENTRAL AREA (Tampa/St. Petersburg/Clearwater)**  
Charlie and Debbie Parsons, Area Reps.  
Phone: (813) 286-2406. E-mail: PARSONSL@gte.net.  
The Tampa MEG meets monthly for dinner and marriage enrichment. For more information, contact the Parsons.

Ken and Nellie Dean, Clearwater. Contact the Deans at (727) 392-4158 or e-mail: Ken.nell@verizon.net.

The Lutz-Clearwater MEG continues to meet on the first Thursday of the month. Meetings alternate between Lutz and Clearwater.

**SOUTH EAST AREA (Pompano Beach)** Kip and Kristine Barkley, Area Reps. Phone: (954) 784-8307. E-mail: KipBarkley@aol.com.

A MEG meets in the home of the Barkleys in the Ft. Lauderdale area. Contact them if you would like to a part of the group.

**SOUTH EAST AREA (Miami)** Jena and Richard Congdon, Area Reps. Phone: (305) 271-6596.  
E-mail: acme@ownmiami.com



**2004 FL Conference Schedule**  
**The Magical Mystery of Marriage**

**Friday September 17**

- 1:00 pm Leadership Team Meeting
- 2:30 pm Leadership In-Service (the Cooks)
- 5:45-6:45 Registration (get packets)
- 7:00 Welcome & Overview
- 7:30 Marriage Drama (a year later)
- 8:00-9:00 Mystery Mixer & Snacks

**Saturday September 18**

9:00am Setting the Stage (All Attendees)

9:30-4:15 Work- OR 9:30-5:30 Mini-

**For those attending Workshops:**

- 9:30 Workshop Session 1. Choices: A, B, or C
- 11:00-11:15 Break
- 11:15 Workshop Session 2. Choices: D, E, or F
- 12:45 Lunch on own
- 2:15 Workshop Session 3. G. Tricks of the Trade
- 4:15-6:30 Couple Free Time
- 6:30 Cash Bar & Music
- 7:30 Sit-down Dinner
- 8:30 Dancing & Social Time

**Sunday, September 19**

- 8:30-9:00 Optional Worship Service
- 9:30-11:00 Sit-down breakfast
- Door prizes; Business Meeting; Conference closing and good byes.

**Saturday Mini-Retreat & Workshops**

**Mini-Retreat (9:30 – 5:30): “A Bag of Tricks”** (Roys) Designed for those who are not familiar with the basic ACME principles. It will provide you with tools that will enable you to start using some of the precepts of Marriage Enrichment.

**Workshop Session 1. (9:30 – 11:00)**

- A. **Communication - “Sharing Magic!”** (Allyns) Good communication in a marriage is an essential tool for resolving issues and sharing joy. Here we will practice together on ways to open a tough subject and talk through to a mutual resolution. It really isn’t magic, but it might seem like it.
- B. **Blended Families “Two Rabbits in One Hat”** (Congdons) What happens when you re-marry? Now you have “two rabbits” (or families) in one hat. This workshop will look at the unique factors associated with re-marriage and blended family conditions such as: unresolved conflicts, Have we talked turkey about money? How do we “Do” a stepfamily?
- C. **Turning Life Transitions into Growth Experiences - “Abracadabra - Surprise!”** (Deans) During our marital journey, we encounter challenging transitions (children, empty nest, serious illnesses, etc) which threaten the stability and joy of our relationship. Without a Magic Wand, how can we transform these transitions into new possibilities for couple growth?

**Workshop Session 2. (11:15 – 12:45)**

- D. **Commitment - “You don’t have to get cut in half to show it!”** (Cooleys) Commitment in marriage is no sleight of hand. It may look easy from the outside, but it takes as much work and practice as any magician preparing for a performance. We will learn some of the day-to-day tricks and skills that, if practiced, will ensure a life-long commitment to the
- E. **Creating the Magic of Sex - “Is levitating your partner easier than talking about sexual matters?”** (Richters) Prepare to be surprised as we develop a rolling agenda to discover mutual problems, issues, and successes to be dialogued in the group. There is magic in sharing!

F. **Keeping the Magic - “Rekindling the Flame and Restoring Romance”** (Arnolds) You have the fireworks, you have the matches, but where are the sparks? This workshop will help you discover common roadblocks to fun and will explore creative ways to make having fun together a more important aspect of your relationship as a couple.

**Workshop Session 3. (2:15 – 4:15)**

G. **Conflict Resolution - “Tricks of the Trade”** (Pugsleys) Most people wish they could make anger simply disappear! Turn this mystery into mastery. Learning to resolve conflict is the key to intimacy - it can work magic in your marriage.

**Leaders: We need your help!**

ACME members and leaders who are also counselors/therapists: your experience and stories are needed for a book that is being written on the relationship between prevention programs (especially ACME style) and therapy.

Contact: Phyllis and Rand Michael at (503) 620-2137 or e-mail pmichael@warnerpacific.edu or rmi-chael@georgefox.edu

**New Florida Web Address**

Our website has moved to a new home: [www.BetterMarriagesFL.org](http://www.BetterMarriagesFL.org)  
We have an online Request Form so visitors can ask to receive the e-mail version of our newsletter.

On our website, you can find links to IMEC, e-mail us photos and graphics. We will be able to make this site even more useful.

**Selected Books used as Resources for ACME Leaders**

The ACME National Office is offering the trained and certified leader couples a book-swap-n-library. They will mail you a title upon request. When finished, forward to the next couple on the request list. It's a great idea for leader-couples and if you are thinking of becoming a leader-couple, here's another resource of information available from the National Office.

Book titles are:

1. *The Sex Starved Marriage* by Michele Weiner Davis
2. *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work* by John M. Gottman
3. *Love & Anger in Marriage* by David Mace
4. *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman
5. *Fighting for Your Marriage* by Howard Markman et. al.

**ATTENTION NEWSLETTER RECIPIENTS:**

Please respond if you:

- Have a change of address.
- Would like your name to be removed from the mailing list.
- Would like to receive the Newsletter via e-mail.

Please be sure to include correct e-mail address. Send requests to the Newsletter Editors: Sally and Tim Glisson – Glisson3205@tampabay.rr.com.

Thank you.

**Relationships are so complicated, complex and sensitive.**

Just think of it: two people with their moods, assumptions, expectations, family histories, problems, worries, fears, needs, habits, aches and pains, unconscious desires, misunderstandings, compulsions, obsessions---and more---trying to talk and listen and cooperate.

On the days when it works for you two---CELEBRATE!!!

~ Relating Well, Bea Strickland

**Association for Couples  
in Marriage Enrichment  
c/o Sally and Tim Glisson  
2424 W. Prospect Rd.  
Tampa, FL 33629**

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