



Relating

The Newsletter of the Institute for 21st Century Relationships

Volume 1, Issue 5

November-December 2001

Institute Completes A Successful First Year

The Institute for 21st Century Relationships is completing its first year of operations with a string of successes. The most recent milestone was the approval, on December 9, of the ITCR's request for recognition as a charitable tax-exempt organization by the Internal Revenue Service. This official recognition assures donors of deductibility of gifts to the Institute, and is an essential precursor to soliciting support from foundations and corporations.

Other significant achievements in 2001 include:

- Developing and publishing a content-rich web site that earned "Quality," "Original," and "Vamp's Pick" ratings from *Jane's Guide*, and now attracts over 1,200 visitors a month
- Recruiting an accomplished and prestigious Advisory Council to support the work of the Institute and lend credibility to its efforts
- Creating the first highly successful *Building Bridges* conference, bringing together representatives from the broad spectrum of nontraditional relationships for networking, sharing, learning, and coalition building – attendees rated the event overall at 5.5 on a six point scale

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Get Published – *Relating* Seeks A Few Good Authors

In an effort to expand *Relating's* content, the Institute is seeking contributions from outside the staff of the Institute in 2002. Our first confirmed regular guest columnist is polyamory pioneer Dr. Deborah Anapol. We have also adopted an editorial calendar of themed issues. The information below is provided for potential authors of articles or book reviews:

Relating is the bi-monthly newsletter of the Institute, covering Institute activities, projects and news as well as news affecting the broad field of nontraditional relationships. *Relating* is distributed approximately on the first of the month in February, April, June, August, October, and December. It is mailed to Institute supporters, selected researchers, media and other key individuals, and in bulk to selected outlets.

Relating is intended to provide concise, high-quality information to its readers. Beginning in 2002, *Relating* will include brief articles tied to themes. These general topics are widely held to be important in the successful conduct of nontraditional relationships of all types. Authors, especially those with research backgrounds and academic credentials, are encouraged to submit articles and book reviews for possible publication.

The following guidelines will help you prepare your submission. If you have any additional questions, please contact us.

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Distinguished Scientist/Author Joins Advisory Council

Dr. Rustom Roy, Evan Pugh Professor Emeritus at Penn State University and author, with his wife Della, of the pioneering work *Honest Sex* (New American Library, 1969), has joined the Institute's Advisory Council. The Advisory Council is a group of distinguished individuals who provide guidance and support to the organization's work.

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Founders Club Members

This is an elite group of Institute supporters who gave \$500 before September 1, 2001. We thank them for their generosity and vision.

- Anakosha Corporation – Naples, FL
- Paul S. Christensen – Champaign, IL
- James R. Fleckenstein – Herndon, VA
- Clara Griffin – Vienna, VA
- Deborah A. Harriss – Vacaville, CA
- Kenneth R. Haslam – Galena, MD
- Richard R. Klor – North Hills, CA
- Betsy E. Lehrfeld – Washington, DC
- James S. Turner – Washington, DC
- George W. Sherouse – Chapel Hill, NC
- Anita T. Wagner – Herndon, VA
- Jasmine Walston – Clarksville, IN



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Institute for 21st Century Relationships
2419 Little Current Drive, Suite 1933
Herndon, Virginia 20171-4612.

Telephone: 703-561-8136, Fax: 703-561-8336

Email: institute@lovethatworks.org

World Wide Web: www.lovethatworks.org

ITCR Mission Statement

Attaining a satisfactory level of love and companionship through intimate relations is an unalterable, fundamental need of all human beings. The Institute for 21st Century Relationships exists to facilitate the fulfillment of the human potential for relating, and to support the freedom of consenting adults to discover and to practice the intimate relationship structure that best meets their emotional and human needs. We champion the basic human right to do so free of governmental, societal or institutional coercion or favoritism.

We seek, through education, research, and support, to create a climate in which all forms of ethical, consensual and fulfilling relationship styles are broadly understood and are equally respected and honored as legitimate choices.

Editor & Publisher: James R. Fleckenstein, CAE
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News Briefs

Information of Interest from Around the World

U.S. "The Sexual Superpower of the World"

According to International Survey

The U.S. leads the world in sexual frequency, according to the annual survey conducted by Durex SSL International among residents of 28 countries. The survey of 18,500 people showed a world average of 97 sexual episodes a year, as compared to the U.S. figure of 124. Greece was second with 117, while Japan trails the globe with an average of only 36.

The survey confirmed other research that shows cohabiting couples have the most sex, 145 episodes per year as compared to married couples' 100. Men claim an average frequency of 102 times per year, versus women's claim of 91. Worldwide, less than 1/3 of respondents had only one sexual partner over their lifetime. The U.S. lifetime average of 14.7 partners led the world, with China trailing the pack with just 2.1 lifetime partners.

People love connecting sexuality with water; 27% admit to enjoying sex on the beach, with another 24% opting for hot tubs as favorite spots. An encouraging 37% find personality the greatest factor in interpersonal attraction, while looks matter most to 19%. *Source: Durex 2001 Global Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Behaviour*

Maryland County Rescinds Language Referencing "Marriage" in Sex Education Curriculum

In a courageous move that recognizes that governments ought not to propagandize youngsters that monogamous marriage is the only legitimate context for responsible sexuality, the Frederick County, Maryland school board voted 6-1 to excise the reference to marriage in its sex ed courses. Although the revised language still advocates the scientifically dubious abstinence approach, the vote struck language that characterized abstinence as the "appropriate behavior before marriage," replacing it with the characterization of abstinence as "a healthy, safe and responsible decision for adolescents."

Lobbying by some board members in favor of language prescribing sexual abstinence until "involved in a mature, monogamous and committed relationship" was ultimately unsuccessful. Board member Steve Crawford argued successfully that associating sex only with marriage is a religious belief that should not be advocated by public schools. *Source: Fox News 11/16/01*

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Institute Closes Successful Year (Continued from page 1)

- Instituting the regular bi-monthly publication of an eight-page newsletter, and distributing it by mail and in selected locations nationwide
- Placing Institute speakers on the programs for several significant events, bringing ITCR's message to nearly 1,000 potential supporters
- Recruiting a group of a dozen key donors of \$500 or more to form the Institute's Founders Club, and
- Commenting on Federal regulations that affect the interests of individuals in non-traditional relationships.

Plans for next year will build upon the Institute's initial successes.

- As noted elsewhere, *Relating* will add even more content, based on themes for each issue, and the addition of new regular columns
- The second annual *Building Bridges* conference will be held in October, and will offer a larger slate of programming to a larger pool of attendees
- With support from individual and institutional donors, the Institute will begin its research program to develop new empirical support for non-traditional lifestyle choices
- A public awareness campaign will be launched to counteract the well-funded efforts of the monolithic monogamist movement and to work for greater tolerance and acceptance among the general public, and
- The first Institute educational workshops will be offered in several locations around the United States.

"This is an exciting juncture for the Institute," noted ITCR President and CEO James R. Fleckenstein, CAE. "If the future support we need materializes, we have laid the groundwork for really making a powerful difference on behalf of freedom of relationship choice." ❧

Roy Joins Advisory Council (Continued from page 1)

Dr. Roy's accomplishments and honors span a wide range of interests and fields. He is among the two or three active leading materials scientists in the U.S. and author of over 600 papers with major contributions to science from glass ceramics to sol-gel technology to diamond films and nanocomposites. He is the senior-most member in the U.S. National Academy of Engineering specializing in ceramic materials - today one of the hottest fields in science. As Evan Pugh Professor Emeritus of the Solid State and Director of the Science, Technology, and Society Program at the Pennsylvania State University, Dr. Roy has wide-ranging interests in crystal chemistry and mineral synthesis.

Dr. Roy is also intensely involved in reforming religious institutions locally, nationally, and worldwide. The direction was always towards greater inclusivity. He helped start what is one of the oldest ecumenical house churches in the country, and was for 30 years on the board of the pioneering national ecumenical retreat center, Kirkridge. Since giving the prestigious Hibbert Lectures in London, incorporating the insights of science and technology into the world's religions, he has become a spokesman for a "radical pluralist" integration among the world's religions and cultures.

Dr. Roy joins the following distinguished members of the Advisory Council:

- **Robert T. Francoeur, Ph.D., A.C.S.** (Chair)
- **Barbara Foster, M.L.S.**
- **Michael Foster, M.F.A.**
- **Deborah A. Harriss, R.N., M.S.N., FNP**
- **Kenneth R. Haslam, M.D.**
- **Andrew Herman, Ph.D.**
- **Maria Palotta-Chiarolli, Ph.D.**
- **George W. Sherouse, Ph.D.**
- **Valerie White, Esq.**

Membership in the Advisory Council will continue to grow as the Institute matures and diversifies. Membership is open to distinguished academics and other credentialed individuals whose expertise is deemed valuable to the work of the Institute. ❧

Authors' Guidelines for *Relating* (Continued from page 1)

Pull out and save for future reference

Editorial Themes & Deadlines for 2002:

January-February: Communications in Relationships (Deadline: January 18)

March-April: Jealousy (Deadline: March 15)

May-June: Integrating Spirituality (Deadline: May 14)

July-August: GLBT Experiences and Concerns (Deadline: July 16)

September-October: The Influence of Biology (Deadline: September 16)

November-December: Gender Issues (Deadline: November 15)

General Guidelines

Publishing Articles. We reserve the right to reject submissions. Those we accept may be edited for length, grammar, and style. We reserve the right to decide in what issue articles will appear.

Length. Articles can be either brief (several paragraphs) or more in-depth. Articles can be no longer than 750 words, including a one or two sentence identification of the author.

Format. Submissions must use an acceptable format:

Preferred:

Program: Microsoft Word

Font: Ariel

Size: 10 pt

Spacing: Double spaced

Acceptable, but not preferred:

ASCII plain text

Method of Submission.

Electronic Mail: Relating@lovethatworks.org

Postal Mail (3.5" Floppy, IBM Format):

Institute for 21st Century Relationships, ATTN: Relating (See address on p. 2)

Articles

Focus. The broad focus of any article should concern nontraditional relationships, and clearly relate to the theme of the issue for which the article is submitted. The article can present research that has been undertaken or suggest new research that needs to be undertaken; present practical applications of techniques for living nontraditional relationships successfully; offer observations and commentary, etc. The preference is for well-documented treatments based on empirical research or wide observation, as opposed to personal experiences of limited general applicability, or unsubstantiated opinion pieces. Contributions from both senior and junior researchers are welcome.

Information. The goal of a specific topic article should be to share creative and innovative approaches, or to present a thought-provoking piece to provide a starting point for thinking or rethinking how relationships other than monolithic monogamy can be fostered, carried on, or successfully integrated into mainstream society. Articles can address any aspect of nontraditional relationships, (in keeping with the theme of the issue) from the perspective of any of the affected communities. Articles that represent an effort to integrate the experiences and viewpoints of multiple communities are especially welcome.

Articles may also address relevant issues concerning sex-positivity (censorship, sex education, etc.), public

Authors' Guidelines for *Relating* (Continued from page 4)

Pull out and save for future reference

opinions/attitudes, the activities/beliefs/policy initiatives or groups opposed to relationship choice, etc. Include a brief summary (one-two sentences) of your appropriate career/volunteer/educational experiences that explains the basis of your knowledge. Literature sources must be cited appropriately, using the American Psychological Association style.

Presentation. Authors can use prose, checklists, or other formats that support the material. Keep in mind that *Relating's* primary audience is composed of individuals interested in living alternatives to monolithic monogamy with a wide range of backgrounds, along with a secondary audience of academicians and researchers. Therefore, authors should avoid highly technical and abstract treatments more suitable for professional journals.

Book Reviews

Selecting a Book to Review. The subject matter obviously should deal with the broad topic of relationships. Within that broad ambit, specific subjects might include communications, sexuality, gender issues, families built around non-traditional relationships, evolutionary biology, psychology of relationships, sociology, politics, public opinion, etc. Clearly the emphasis should be on interpersonal relationships, especially non-traditional relationships, though we recognize that much of the literature published presumptively addresses only dominant paradigm relationships. There is nevertheless much of value in such works, but the burden is on the reviewer to make clear how persons not in traditional relationships will benefit from reading this work.

Our preference is for works that treat non-traditional relationships in a positive, or at least neutral, manner. However, reviews of significant works hostile to relationship choice, or attempting to reinforce only traditional relationship choices, will occasionally be accepted. Acceptance will be based on *Relating's* editor's judgment of the contribution being familiar with such works will make to the overall dialogue and to the development of an informed and coherent viewpoint concerning alternatives to monolithic monogamy. Books may be old or of recent publication; however, we strongly prefer reviews of works still in print and generally available, as these have the highest value to our average reader.

Basic Information to Include. Provide the complete name of the book, the full name(s) of the author(s)/editor(s) as they appear on the cover of the book, publisher, and year published.

Some Points to Cover.

- Who is the book's intended audience?
- What is the book's purpose? How well does it accomplish that purpose?
- Is the book well written? Is it easy to read, or is it complex?
- What did you like and not like about the book? Address both the content and how the material was presented/organized.
- Are there sections that are particularly strong or weak?
- Is there anything that was not covered that should have been?
- How does it compare to similar books you have read?
- Who do you think will find the book interesting or useful?

Length. Reviews should generally be no more than 250 words in length.

Acknowledgements, rights, etc. All submissions become the property of The Institute for 21st Century Relationships. We cannot be held responsible for manuscripts, submissions, etc. not personally solicited. While we cannot promise acknowledgement of receipt of all submissions, we make every effort to be responsive. We will notify authors of all materials selected for publication. ❏

Japanese Wife Sentenced to Four Years for Beating Murder of Husband Who Had An Affair

A 32-year-old Japanese woman, convicted in Tokyo of beating her husband, also 32, to death with a frying pan for confessing to an extramarital affair, earned only four years in prison.

The judge who handed down the sentence admonished the murderer, "The victim, though at fault, did not deserve to die." *Source: Tokyo Shimbun via Reuters/ABCNews, 11/20/01*

Bachelor Minister Judge Uses 1805 Fornication and Adultery Law to Fine Cohabiting Couple

North Carolina is one of the seven U.S. states that still have laws that make it a crime to live together "without benefit of clergy." (*Relating*, September/October p. 6) Now Judge Jimmy Myers, a bachelor and ordained Methodist minister, has had arrested, convicted, and fined a Taylorsville couple for fornication and adultery.

It seems that Virginia Gunter, estranged from her husband and living with Jerry Ward, had petitioned the court for sole custody of her two children, who were already living with the unmarried pair. In response, Judge Myers had Ward arrested under the 1805 law. He ultimately convicted Ward, but not Gunter, of violating the law forbidding unmarried people to "lewdly and lasciviously associate, bed and cohabit together." No word on whether Gunter will retain custody of her children. *Source: The Charlotte Observer 10/9-10/01*

New "Invisible Condom" Gel Could Offer Protection Against Both HIV and Herpes

Canadian researchers have announced that a new heat-activated anti-microbial gel has proven successful in laboratory tests in blocking the transmission of both the HIV-1 and herpes simplex virus.

The gel also has contraceptive properties, and is hoped to prove less toxic than products such as nonoxynol-9, which has recently been found to be irritating to vaginal tissue and which consequently may actually foster the transmission of certain STD's.

The gel provides persistent protection for up to 6 hours, and is now entering Phase 1 clinical trials. It may be on the market as early as 2002. *Source: Sexually Transmitted Diseases, 8/01*

Parents Hang Indian Couple for Falling in Love

An 18-year-old woman and 20-year-old man were hanged by their parents and families in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh for daring to fall in love outside their own caste, according to Indian news sources. The two had been warned to stop seeing each other, as "the entire village was opposed." *Source: Indian Express 8/9/01*

They Really Said That?

Some statements you might find hard to believe...

"Many men want to fool around and, like a little boy, try to get away with as much as possible. But also like a little boy, they want to be disciplined. They want to have limits defined, and they look to their wife to enforce them."

Debbie Then, *Women who stay with men who stray: what every woman needs to know about men and infidelity*, New York: Hyperion, 1999, p.231

"Not only is marriage in danger of disappearing, but though we do not fully recognize it yet, it already has." (Emphasis in the original)

Maggie Gallagher, *The abolition of marriage: how we destroy lasting love*. Washington, DC: Regnery Publishing, Inc., 1996, p. 7.

"Modesty is the proof that morality is sexy. It may even be the proof of God..."

Wendy Shalit, *A Return to Modesty: Discovering the Lost Virtue*, NY: The Free Press, 1999, p. 193

"[I]t is true that our traditional moral codes have no principles for dealing negatively with sex relations that do not neglect children, are not angry and jealous, and do not split a family. It is time we got some such principles." The Rev. Seward Hiltner, Princeton Theological Seminary, *Theology Today*, Vol. 28, No.

3, October 1971.

Institute Leader Speaks at New Orleans Lifestyle Conference

ITCR President and CEO James R. Fleckenstein appeared on a panel on "Open Lifestyles" at the "Nawlins in November" Conference. The three-day conference, in its third year, attracts over 600 people.

Fleckenstein was invited to appear by the International Lifestyles Association, a new group of businesses and individuals involved in supporting the swinging community, and an Organizational Affiliate of ITCR. He joined Susan Wright of the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom in addressing the issues facing all those who choose nontraditional relationships.

The View from the Front Lines

By Jim Fleckenstein, ITCR President and CEO

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

What a year! Though the tragedy of September 11 and its aftermath will forever mark this year, for myself and for those who support the right to choose whom, how, and how many we love, 2001 will also stand as a new beginning.

Just days before he died, Bob Rimmer, a visionary author, scholar, and member of our Advisory Council, sent me a copy of his book, *Let's Really Make Love*. The inscription reads, "For Jim Fleckenstein. With love – it's up to you to carry on!"

That's a charge I take extremely seriously.

In the last year I have had the privilege of talking with, meeting and getting to know some very courageous men and women. They have dared to lead the effort to change public thinking about the way modern society sets us up for relationship failure and then assigns us to eternal damnation for failing – or even for just being different. I stand in awe of their wisdom and bravery.

I'm talking about Dr. Bob Francoeur, Bob Rimmer, Dr. Rustum and Della Roy, the Rev. Ron Mazur, the Rt. Rev. Jack Spong, the Rev. Dr. Hal Minor, Jim Turner, Esq., Betsy Lehrfeld, Esq., and Dr. Deborah Anapol, to name a few. People who have been engaged in trying to reach an often apathetic, thoroughly brainwashed, and generally frightened public for years (and sometimes decades). They each have fought against the prejudice and intolerance and ignorance that surround and "inform" the "common wisdom" about relationships, love, human nature, and sexuality.

They (and many others I've not yet personally gotten to know) prepared a way for us. Yet this path has been obscured in recent years by apathy and by reactionary forces, often animated by a religious belief system whose extremism seems to many to be inconsistent with the loving God of the New Testament. It has also been obscured by the terrible specter of AIDS, exploited for scare value yet substantively ignored for far too long.

The Institute exists to take up the crusade, to move forward toward the goal of freeing humanity from the dead hand of purposeless restrictions on our

modes of expressing love, meeting needs for sexual and emotional contact, finding paths to spiritual transcendence, and creating sustainable families of choice, while respecting the rights of all other competent adults to do the same.

The opposition to our free exercise of this most personal liberty is formidable. Their dedication to preserving the status quo and to rolling back even the modest gains that have been won at such cost is frighteningly absolute. The vitriol and intolerance they project toward anyone who questions their anachronistic, patriarchal, homophobic, and Christian exceptionalistic viewpoint is terrifying.

At the risk of overemphasizing the "David vs. Goliath" aspect of our struggle, I invite you to contemplate the influence of the resources available in the annual budgets of just a few of the groups utterly opposed to relationship choice:

- Focus on the Family - **\$122,185,130** (1999)
- American Family Assn. - **\$11,460,446** (2000)
- Family Research Council - **\$10,045,855** (2000)
- Concerned Women for America - **\$12,745,926** (2000)

So far, it has been our gay and lesbian fellows and our cohabiting fellows that have borne the brunt of their attacks. But these anti-choice groups, or their adherents, have also led efforts to close private swing clubs, to arrest people for consensual power exchange activities, to prosecute religiously inspired polygamists, and to deny child custody to polyamorists. They pushed *into Federal law* the biased and narrow-minded assertion that "a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in the context of marriage is the expected standard of human sexual activity." Expected by *whom*?

The greater our visibility in raising questions about the clothing (or lack thereof) worn by the emperor of monolithic monogamy, the sooner we all will feel the concentrated wrath of these groups.

It is for us to accept the responsibility of carrying on the quest for human freedom and personal dignity in relationships, even in the face of daunting challenges. I have accepted that challenge, and have staked my professional standing and my life savings on succeeding.

It's lonely out here in front sometimes. I hope you'll join me - in person, in spirit, and yes, by writing us a check today. Have a wonderful holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year. ☘

Calendar of Events

2002

March

- 9 – Conference of FSD-Alert.Org, “The New ‘Female Sexual Dysfunction’: Promises, Prescriptions, and Profits” – San Francisco, CA (Info: www.fsd-alert.org)
- 14-17 – Eastern Region Annual Conference of SSSS – Baltimore, MD (Info: www.ssc.wisc.edu/ssss/meetings.htm)

April

- 4-7 – Western Region Annual Conference of SSSS – Manhattan Beach, CA (Info: www.ssc.wisc.edu/ssss/meetings.htm)
- 10-14 – The Lifestyles Convention East – Miami Beach, FL (Info: lifestyles-east.com)
- 12-14 – Leather Leadership Conference VI – Manhattan Beach, CA (Info: www.leatherleadership.org/lc6/2002.htm)

May

- 1-5 – American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists – Miami, FL (Info: www.aasect.org/annualcon.cfm)
- 18-20 – GenderPAC’s 2nd Annual National Conference on Gender and 7th Annual National Gender Lobby Day – Washington, DC (Info: www.gpac.org/ngc/index.html)
- 15-19 – “Miami in May” lifestyle convention – Miami Beach, FL (Info: www.miamininmay.com)
- 18-23 – American Psychiatric Association Conference – Philadelphia, PA (Info: www.psych.org/sched_events/ann_mtg_02/2002annualmeeting.cfm)

June

- 6-9 – 14th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Society – New Orleans, LA (Info: www.psychologicalscience.org/convention/)
- 13-16 – Midcontinent Region Annual Conference of SSSS – Big Rapids, MI (Info: www.ssc.wisc.edu/ssss/meetings.htm)
- 14-16 – Loving More West Conference – Harbin Hot Springs, CA (Info: www.lovemore.com/westdetails.html)

July

- 4-7 – “Living In Leather” Conference of the National Leather Association-International – Dallas, TX (Info: www.livinginleather.org)
- 5-8 – 11th International Conference on Personal Relationships – Halifax, NS, Canada (Info: www.medicine.dal.ca/ahprc/ISSPRconference.html)
- 13-20 – Thornfield 30th Annual Workshop on Sexuality – Cazenovia, NY (Info: www.sexualityworkshop.com)
- 31- August 4 – The Lifestyles Convention – Reno, NV (Info: lifestyles-convention.com/)

August

- 2-4 – Loving More East Conference – Havre de Grace, MD (Info: www.lovemore.com/eastdetails.html)
- 22-25 – American Psychological Association Annual Meeting – Chicago, IL (Info: www.apa.org/convention/)

October

- 11-13 – 2nd Annual **Building Bridges Conference of the ITCR – Washington, DC (Tentative)** (Info: www.lovethatworks.org)
- 24-27 60th Annual Conference of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy – Cincinnati, OH (Info: www.aamft.org)

November

- 6-10 – National Gay and Lesbian Task Force’s 15th Annual *Creating Change* Conference – Portland, OR (Info: www.nglft.org/cc/index.cfm)
- 7-10 – 44th Annual Conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (SSSS) – Montreal, Quebec, Canada (Info: www.ssc.wisc.edu/ssss/meetings.htm)
- 14-18 – 4th Annual Nawlins in November lifestyle convention – New Orleans, LA (Info: www.neworleansinnovember.com)

Send us information on any major conferences or events that might be of interest to Relating’s readers, and we’ll consider them for inclusion here. Send to Relating Calendar, ITCR, 2419 Little Current Drive, Suite 1933, Herndon, VA 20171, or email us at calendar@lovethatworks.org. ☒