

# Relating

*The Newsletter of the Institute for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Relationships*

Volume 2, Issue 1

January/February 2002

## **Building Bridges II Set for October 11-13 in DC Area**

The Institute is proud to announce the dates for the second annual *Building Bridges* national conference. Responding to attendee suggestions, and to avoid conflicts with other groups, the Conference will be held in mid-October. The Columbus Day weekend dates offer more flexibility regarding Sunday departure scheduling to those whose employers follow the federal policy on Monday holidays.

The 2001 Conference was a major success, attracting 60 attendees to learn from and interact with speakers such as Dr. Deborah Anapol, Dr. Robert Francoeur, and Dr. Loraine Hutchins, and earned top ratings from participants on both content and format. The goal for 2002 remains the same – bring together a diverse group of people living alternatives to traditional monogamy for networking, coalition building, education, and mutual support. Attendance is expected to double.

Innovations planned for 2002 include:

- A graduated registration schedule rewarding early registration with significant discounts, plus a discount for Institute Associates.
- An on-site bookstore/exhibit to allow attendees to take home more information and materials for immediate use.

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## **Covenant Marriage: No Solution for a Diverse New World**

**By Robert T. Francoeur, Ph.D.**

Marriage is obviously changing. Between 1970 and 1990, divorce rates jumped 34 percent. Since then they seem to have leveled off. In the Bible Belt of the south central Midwest, however, where “traditional Christian-American values” prevail, divorce rates are *roughly 50 percent above the nationwide average*.

This fact worries conservative preachers and their political allies. Their solution, “covenant marriage,” first made headlines in Louisiana in 1997. After observing unsuccessful attempts to repeal “no-fault” divorce laws in several states, Louisiana lawmakers adopted a new tactic “to slow down the hemorrhaging of the American family through the no-fault divorce system.” Their law requires couples to choose between a “traditional” marriage that can be dissolved by a no-fault divorce and the new “covenant marriage” with stricter limits on both separation and divorce. Arkansas, Oklahoma, Michigan, Iowa, and Mississippi have since adopted or are considering similar laws.

In Louisiana, a couple in a traditional marriage can be granted a no-fault divorce after they have simply lived apart for six months, or immediately if one spouse is guilty of adultery or has been sentenced to prison or death for a felony. However, if a covenant marriage goes sour, the couple can be granted a legal separation *only* if there is proof one spouse committed adultery, has abandoned the matrimonial home for at least a year, has been sentenced to prison or death for a felony, or has physically or sexually abused the spouse or a child. A legal separation can also be granted if there is proof of “cruel treatment” or “habitual intemperance” by one spouse. A divorce, on the same general grounds, can only be granted if the couple has been legally separated for at least a year – 18 months if they have a minor child – or if the couple has lived apart for two years.

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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
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### 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.

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## News Briefs

Information of Interest from Around the World

### "Marriage Movement" Icon to Divorce, Remarry

Ray Mossholder, 64, founder of Marriage Plus Ministries in Baltimore, a Christian group designed to stave off divorce and billed as the "first ministry of its kind," has announced he will divorce his wife of 42 years and marry a currently married California woman with whom he has a "close friendship." Mossholder has denied any unfaithfulness with the woman and says he is not leaving his marriage for her. Mossholder has written three anti-divorce books and has lectured extensively since founding MPM in 1971. *Source: Charisma News Service 1/16/02*

### Sexual Charges Filed Against CT Girl, 9

A Manchester girl has been arrested on charges of three felonies and one misdemeanor arising from an incident last fall in which she was alleged to have been discovered "initiating sex" with a 3-year-old boy and two girls, aged 4 and 5. If convicted on all counts, the elementary school student faces up to four years in a state juvenile facility. *Source: Boston Globe 1/11/02*


### High School Teacher's Firing Sought Over Lesbian Relationship With Student

Authorities in Brooklyn are seeking to fire a tenured high school tennis coach and teacher over her year-long consensual lesbian relationship with a student. The teacher is not being charged with any crime because the student was of legal age in New York. Nevertheless, based on allegations by a former principal, "Schools Investigators" shadowed the pair, seized the teacher's phone records, and repeatedly interrogated the two until they "confessed." *Source: Boston Globe 1/11/02*

### "By The Numbers" – New CDC Study Estimates HIV Transmission Risks in Various Sex Acts

The study uses a formula to attempt to evaluate the risk of HIV transmission among heterosexuals. The baseline for the risk assessment is receiving unprotected oral sex, generally considered to be the least hazardous sex act involving any fluid exchange.

The research showed that performing oral sex is twice as risky as receiving it. Insertive vaginal sex is 10 times more risky, insertive anal sex 13 times more risky, receptive vaginal sex 20 times more dangerous, and receptive anal sex 100 times more hazardous. *Not* wearing a condom is 20 times more risky than wearing one in any given situation.

*Source: Yahoo! News HealthSCOUT 1/16/02* 

Last year, when similar laws were being seriously debated in a half dozen states, starry-eyed Christian fundamentalist couples appeared on television's morning news shows, telling the nation how their biblical covenants gave them security and confidence that they would be sexually exclusive and together until death.

But when it comes to the role "easy" no-fault divorce may play in the increase of divorce, the experts disagree. Other factors may have an equal or much greater impact on divorce rates. The patriarchal marriage model that provided men and women with clear gender roles and supported those roles with very few alternatives worked fairly well a century ago. Today, that paradigm has collapsed. Socially imposed and condoned, yet unrealistic, romantic expectations may be a much more critical factor in divorce than "lax" laws. Yet unrealistic, romantic expectations are rampant in the simplistic view of covenant marriages fundamentalists have resurrected from the Judeo-Christian biblical tradition.

In the not-so-distant past, personal expectations of married bliss were much more limited than they are for Americans today. In earlier times women expected to spend most of their adult lives rearing children and providing domestic support for their husband who worked from sun up to sun down six or seven days a week. It wasn't until 1945 that even 50 percent of the American work force began to enjoy a 40-hour, five-day workweek. Back then, with an average life expectancy somewhere between 35 and 47 years and one in five mothers dying in childbirth, death ended marriages far more often than divorce did. Today, with life expectancy pushing 80 and couples having fewer and often no children, divorce is an effect, not the cause of our marriage trends.

Before entering a covenant marriage, a couple generally must participate in a premarital counseling program and discuss the requirements of covenant marriage with a clergy person or counselor. Protestants, Catholics, Jews and non-religious counseling services now offer (and sometimes require) sober, reality-based marriage preparation courses. With creative new models of relationships, including polyamory and inclusive marriages, emerging, serious attempts to discuss the challenges traditional marriage presents to couples planning to marry and to remain married for decades are certainly healthy.

Unfortunately, these emerging models are never discussed. Rather, discussions are confined to techniques to make the old model work somewhat better. While useful, (Who can oppose teaching basic relationship skills?) this is hardly an innovative approach to equipping couples for life in today's world.

Clear commitments or vows are the basis of a covenant relationship, but a necessary corollary to a clear and lasting commitment (between humans, at least) is *flexibility and openness to renegotiation of the commitment* – something that conservative Christians and their nominally secular allies totally reject.

However, some experts, led by Walter Brueggemann, a mainstream Protestant theologian, are suggesting that the 3,000 year history of covenant relationships can be far more creative, flexible, and healthy in pushing us into the new world of relationship diversity than the recent limited resurrection of covenant relationships promoted by fundamentalist Christians would indicate. I will explore that possibility in the second part of this article - in the next *Relating*. ☒

**Robert T. Francoeur, Ph.D.** (rtfrancoeu@aol.com) is the editor of *Sex, Love and Marriage in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Next Sexual Revolution* (iUniverse Publishers), and Chair of the Institute's Advisory Council

### Think You're Safe In Your Nontraditional Relationship? Not Yet You're Not!

By Judy Guerin

*(Editor's note: This is the first installment of a regular report by Judy Guerin of the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom on current legal, legislative, and political activities involving your right to live the relationship style of your choice. NCSF's mission is direct involvement in these areas, something we cannot do. But we believe their work is complemented by our research and education agenda, and we strongly support their efforts. This first column reviews issues NCSF had to respond to in 2001.)*

Looking back on 2001, NCSF had a full plate defending the right of consenting adults to have the intimate relationship of their choice.

In December, NCSF filed a major proactive lawsuit in Federal Court to challenge the remaining anti-obscenity provisions of the Communications Decency Act for the Internet.

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## The Many Flavors of Talking Turkey By Deborah Anapol, Ph.D.

When it comes to Radical Honesty (RH) and Non-Violent Communication (NVC), I am an enthusiastic dilettante, not a Certified Trainer. I love both of these valuable communication tools and am totally convinced that if acquiring literacy in these “languages” were an integral part of our education process, relating intimately with others on an ongoing basis would not be the overwhelmingly frustrating experience it is for so many. Since some feel that RH and NVC are diametrically opposed I'd like to make some observations about their similarities and differences. More orthodox practitioners may be appalled by my tendency to mix and match, but I actually find that these two approaches synergize beautifully! In fact, both Dr. Susan Campbell's *Getting Real* and Taber Shadburne's *Radical Intimacy* reflect elements of RH and NVC.

NVC, aka Compassionate Communication, was developed by clinical psychologist Marshall Rosenberg. Dr. Rosenberg's intention is to encourage a more harmonious, peaceful, and sustainable way of life on earth and to prevent violence by teaching people to talk in a way which inspires empathy, compassion, and understanding instead of anger, mistrust and defensiveness. His basic strategy is to transform blame, criticism, punishment, and comparison into self-awareness, responsibility, vulnerability, and requests for support by changing the way we talk.

NVC uses the image of the giraffe to represent language that expresses and elicits cooperation, partnership, and appreciation. It uses the image of the jackal to symbolize language that expresses and elicits hostility, punishment, and control. The central ideas behind NVC are that people are naturally loving and giving and that our own unmet needs are the source of painful emotions.

Although NVC is evolving beyond the forms that have been used in trainings all over the world for the past thirty years, I think it's worth describing the formula to give a sense of what this practice looks like. There are two parts and four steps. The two parts are honestly expressing what's going on with you and honestly responding to the other (or yourself) with empathy. The four steps are: 1. Saying concretely what you observed. 2. Saying what you are feeling in relation to what you observed. 3. Saying what needs or desires of yours are creating your feelings. 4. Requesting a concrete action that would enrich your life.

Notice that in order to do this you must learn to distinguish observations from evaluations and

feelings from interpretations. You also must learn to identify your own feelings and needs and let go of the idea that your feelings are caused by what others say or do. It takes lots of practice to change life-long habits of blame and judgment, but if you can remember to use the NVC formula, and you use it with sincerity, I promise you will get results. People will stop blaming and judging you and instead respond with empathy and everyone will feel better and enjoy each other more.

Now we come to Radical Honesty, which describes a way of communicating developed by clinical psychologist Brad Blanton. Dr. Blanton's intentions are the same as Dr. Rosenberg's. Both methods require the same skills and distinctions, but RH is easier to learn than NVC. In my opinion, the strategies are similar, too. Both involve becoming more authentic in your communication and transforming anger into love. Nevertheless, RH and NVC look and sound very different. In other words, the *form* is different.

NVC encourages the student to get over their anger internally by slowing down and seeing what thoughts and unmet needs are behind the anger before expressing feelings. RH's direction is to support simple, spontaneous, heart-felt external expressions of feeling such as “Fuck You!” as a means of finding out what thoughts and unmet needs are behind the anger. RH teaches you to discharge anger completely so you can get over it. But you are coached to disentangle your interpretations from the observable behaviors that triggered (NOT caused) your feelings. Where NVC relies on compassion to defuse conflict, RH mixes in liberal doses of humor. RH makes it ok to be the fallible, messy human animals that we are. Blanton's style of “dumbing down” is a great antidote to getting caught up in mental games that help you avoid authentic feelings. I can also promise you that if you practice RH you will feel better and enjoy each other more.

RH is good for people who are afraid of anger, have lost touch with their own feelings and have trouble expressing emotions, but they will probably like NVC better. Those who are more hot-blooded and impulsive might benefit from a little NVC but will probably like RH better. As with all tools, both RH and NVC can be abused, but with the right intentions both help create the quality relationships we all want. ☞

**Deborah Anapol, Ph.D.** (info@lovewithoutlimits.com) is the author of *Polyamory: The New Love Without Limits*, and a regular contributor to *Relating*. Contact her at 415-507-1739.

## Communication: The Universal Solution By Jeffery P. Adams

My family -- my chosen family -- consists of four adults. We constitute a single, unconventional marriage. We have a family business where we all work, though two of us have other work as well. We have long-term goals as well as smaller goals close to hand. There is a lot of common activity and time together as friends, family and partners in all things. We study, dream, worship and laugh together, and we never find it enough. Naturally this involves a lot of communication. Among four closely bonded adults who need to wear an acceptable public persona when out and about while simultaneously living fully a non-traditional relationship, clear communication is of paramount importance.

We live in a very small town, with a powerful intolerance of different ways of living. When in public, say, out for dinner, we are careful to behave as two couples. The hardest part of that is not what we verbalize so much as our body language; but for simple conversation, in public or with other people, the differences are slight and only occasionally do we feel the presence of the "public eye and ear." When at home or otherwise comfortably private, communication among the four of us is wonderfully free and freely intimate. It is the power of this free communication that keeps our group marriage working well and growing in all ways: physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Communication is the most critical aspect in any relationship. In marriage, conventional or alternative, this is especially true. Unfortunately, "most critical" also means most difficult and most prone to failure. What's failure in communication? Any of several things, such as saying the wrong thing, or the right thing at the wrong time, or hearing something other than what was said, or giving an incomplete communication, or (a really popular mistake) saying only what one imagines the other person (or people) want to hear.

In our family we have found that the most critical mistake in communication is nothing more nor less than failing to listen completely to the person speaking, especially if that person isn't speaking at all. Huh? How can you listen to someone who isn't speaking? That's easy: we all talk, all the time, but actual words make up by far the smaller part of what we say to each other. We speak with our bodies, with our eyes and faces, with the pauses between our words and with our silences.

In a traditional marriage silences are easy to notice. There's only the one other person, after all, and if (s)he isn't talking, it's quite apparent. In a group of four, however, three could easily be talking away happily and fail to notice that the fourth is unusually quiet, or isn't even in the room right now. In a group marriage it is easier to hide out and get away with it, unless the others are really paying attention.

Still, things get missed, minor upsets occur. Sometimes we're just plain tuckered out and not as alert as we might otherwise be. Sometimes we just get cranky; we are human after all. Or sometimes you just want to be alone. In those moments it's amazing what a simple statement can do. "I just want to be alone for a little bit right now." "I'm feeling cranky today, I don't mean to lash out." Or "I'm not feeling very well but I do want to be with the family tonight." Simple statements that let all know clearly what's going on.

My family is thoroughly committed to its marriage. We know that communication can cut through and resolve anything and open wonderful opportunities. We all work to protect our good communications and to make them ever better, for they are the solid foundation upon which our marriage and our family stands. Our marriage is a gift and we defend all that makes it work. Yet neither are we obsessive about communication. Sometimes a person needs to be left alone. For example, as a writer I need solitude to do my work. My family knows to leave me alone at those times. Balance, too, is an important part of communication, as it is all parts of life.

Come, let us discuss it further. 

**Jeffery Adams** is a free-lance writer living in Idaho. He and his family are mutually owned by four very sophisticated cats who firmly believe in everyone's right to a free lifestyle.

### Next Issue - Jealousy

Share *your* thoughts and experiences.  
For writer's guidelines, deadlines, etc.:  
[www.lovethatworks.org/relating.html](http://www.lovethatworks.org/relating.html)

Because of the unique provisions of this legislation, the right of automatic appeal to the Supreme Court is included, making this a highly visible, landmark case.

In a recent one-year period, NCSF was called upon to support defendants and potential defendants in 73 criminal cases involving SM and other forms of alternative sexual expression. Several dangerous and precedent-setting potential criminal cases have not been prosecuted based on NCSF intervention prior to charges being filed.

In the same one-year period, NCSF gave support and assistance to 461 parents involved in child custody disputes where practice of alternative sexual expression was raised negatively by the estranged partner as part of the custody process; 392 people who were demoted, lost promotions or were fired from their jobs due to their interest in some form of alternative sexual expression; and to 36 other people and organizations facing discrimination of various forms related to practice of alternative sexuality.

NCSF also was called upon to oppose zoning and other local regulatory measures applied against those who practice some form of alternative sexual expression in Baltimore, Washington, DC, Phoenix and several other locations around the country.

During 2001, NCSF conducted strategy and local organizational meetings in Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, San Diego, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC. Once a city begins to organize and develop an interest in political activism, NCSF routinely returns to these cities and participates in meetings on an ongoing basis as needed. In 2002, NCSF plans to expand these regional meetings to include New York, Atlanta, Miami, St. Louis, Dallas, Denver, Portland, Seattle and New Orleans. ☒

**Judy Guerin** is the Executive Director of NCSF ([www.ncsfreedom.org](http://www.ncsfreedom.org)), a national coalition of 22 groups representing over 8,000 individuals. NCSF sits on the prestigious National Policy Roundtable and is the first political advocacy group to become a member of the World Association for Sexology.

**Open House Hosts Needed**

Could you host an open house to help raise funds for the Institute's work? Do you belong to a group that might hold a fund raising event to benefit us? Please call/e-mail us - address and phone number on page 2.

- A Saturday night social "big event" to facilitate meeting, networking, and fun.
- A more extensive advertising campaign, which should result in greater diversity as well as larger numbers of attendees.

The Conference registration fees, which include all Conference materials, Friday Welcoming Reception, two breakfasts, Saturday lunch, and refreshment breaks, are as follows:

	ITCR Associate	Non-Associate
Super Early (before 4/1)	\$90	\$110
Early (before 8/1)	\$115	\$135
Regular	\$140	\$150

Complete registration information and forms can be found online at: [www.lovethatworks.org/conference.html](http://www.lovethatworks.org/conference.html)

Presenters are also being recruited. Complete information on how to be considered as a presenter can also be found online at: [www.lovethatworks.org/call.html](http://www.lovethatworks.org/call.html)

The exact site and headquarters hotel information should be available on the Institute website by mid-to-late February, as bids are evaluated and the contract awarded. ☒

**They Really Said That?**

Some statements you might find hard to believe...

**"I would like to see all people who read pornography or have anything to do with it put in a mental hospital for observation so we could find out what we have done to them."**

Linda Lovelace, former porn star

**"I want you to just let a wave of intolerance wash over you. I want you to let a wave of hatred wash over you. Yes, hate is good...Our goal is a Christian nation. We have a Biblical duty, we are called by God, to conquer this country. We don't want equal time. We don't want pluralism."**

Randall Terry, founder of Operation Rescue, *The News-Sentinel*, Fort Wayne, Indiana, August 16, 1993 ☒

# The View from the Front Lines

By Jim Fleckenstein, ITCR President and CEO

## ***Tearing Down Walls – Building Bridges***

One of the primary premises that undergirds the existence of the Institute is that those who freely choose nontraditional intimate relationships have an inviolable human right to do so. Of course, this flies in the face of much of mainstream Western society's notions of "how things ought to be."

I have come to characterize this position as "monolithic monogamist" thinking. It permeates our society, our media, our literature, most religion, our political discourse and our commerce. Breaking the public mind free of this narrow way of conceiving of relationships won't be easy. But it *must* be done if we are to have any hope of being free to exercise our right to make different choices.

I remain bemused and occasionally frustrated by our own inability (or unwillingness) to break free of some of these socially imposed fetters on our thinking. We have chosen to live authentic lives in relationships that work for us but which lie outside the dominant paradigm. Yet we often find ourselves reflexively trying to justify our choices or reconcile them with the rejected paradigm.

One way we do this is to try to minimize the differences between our choices and the dominant culture's prescription. In the struggle for racial civil rights, this was called "trying to pass," or less charitably, "Uncle Tomming." As I've pointed out here before, in the struggle for acceptance of differing sexual orientation, it takes the form of "gay assimilationism." "I'm really just like you!" is the mantra of those who believe in this approach.

Another approach is to identify another (somewhat similarly situated) group that also suffers from public opprobrium and compare yourself favorably to that group. We've seen this strategy play out time and time again in the US, when each succeeding wave of immigrants has been subjected to unfavorable characterizations by the previous wave, whose members now consider themselves to be "true Americans."

Of course, in the long run, none of these strategies ever really work. They may buy a group enough time to be genuinely assimilated, or for public opinion to change, but they do so at a terrible cost.

One of these negative relationships has existed between many in the polyamory movement and the broad and diverse movement generally known as "swinging," or "the lifestyle." At their origins, the two movements did have significant philosophical differences, and were drawn from very different cultures. At the extremes, that's still true. But in the great middle ground, they have grown significantly closer in many ways, and they have always shared key characteristics. But I've seen some very bitter and heated arguments, and some rather cavalier put downs, over the allegedly huge gulf between these two sexually nonexclusive communities.

I had the privilege recently of being a part of an evening of dialogue between representatives of the polyamory community and the swinging community sponsored by the Chesapeake Polyamory Network. The meeting had its genesis in the Institute's first *Building Bridges* Conference last August. Eighteen people crowded together in a living room and worked for hours trying to break down stereotypes, explore common ground, acknowledge key differences, and seek ways to support each other. While sparks certainly occasionally flew, and some very real and profound differences were exposed, explored, and accepted, the group as a whole felt exhilarated and ready to continue the dialogue when the evening was over.

My point is this: *all* of us who have made different choices have more in common with each other than we do with the monolithic monogamists. Whether we're in open polyamorous relationships, power exchange relationships, closed polyfidelitous relationships, swinging relationships, open or closed same sex relationships – it really doesn't matter. The challenge lies in consistently seeing that and acting accordingly at all times, even in the face of powerful temptation to do otherwise.

The cultural power of monolithic monogamy is so great, so pervasive, that we are all "outlaws." As "outlaws," no amount of attempting to pass, or trying to lift ourselves closer to the ideal by contrasting ourselves favorably with "those X (fill in adjective of your choice – *promiscuous, abnormal, sex-crazed, shallow, utopian, irreligious, anti-family, pedophilic*, etc.) Ys (fill in the sexual/relationship minority of your choice)" is ever going to help.

Polys and swingers have played this game for years (in my experience, mostly polys, though by no means *only* polys). This recent meeting was perhaps the beginning of the end of *that* nonsense. Hopefully it also marks a continuation of the trend of understanding that *we're all in this together*. ☞

# Calendar of Events

## April

- 4-7 – Western Region Annual Conference of SSSS – Manhattan Beach, CA (Info: [www.ssc.wisc.edu/ssss/meetings.htm](http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/ssss/meetings.htm))
- 10-14 – The Lifestyles Convention East – Miami Beach, FL (Info: [lifestyles-east.com](http://lifestyles-east.com))
- 12-14 – Leather Leadership Conference VI – Manhattan Beach, CA (Info: [www.leatherleadership.org/lc6/2002.htm](http://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](http://www.aasect.org/annualcon.cfm))
- 17-19 – 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Bisexual Empowerment Conference: A United Supportive Experience (BECAUSE) – Milwaukee, WI (Info: [www.bisexual.org](http://www.bisexual.org))
- 18-20 – GenderPAC's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Conference on Gender – Washington, DC (Info: [www.gpac.org/ncg/index.html](http://www.gpac.org/ncg/index.html))
- 15-19 – "Miami in May" lifestyle convention – Miami Beach, FL (Info: [www.miamininmay.com](http://www.miamininmay.com))
- 18-23 – American Psychiatric Association Conference – Philadelphia, PA (Info: [www.psych.org/sched\\_events/ann\\_mtg\\_02/2002annualmeeting.cfm](http://www.psych.org/sched_events/ann_mtg_02/2002annualmeeting.cfm))

## June

- 6-9 – 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the American Psychological Society – New Orleans, LA (Info: [www.psychologicalscience.org/convention/](http://www.psychologicalscience.org/convention/))
- 13-16 – Midcontinent Region Annual Conference of SSSS – Big Rapids, MI (Info: [www.ssc.wisc.edu/ssss/meetings.htm](http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/ssss/meetings.htm))
- 14-16 – Loving More West Conference – Harbin Hot Springs, CA (Info: [www.lovemore.com/westdetails.html](http://www.lovemore.com/westdetails.html))
- 17-19 – 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Guelph Conference and Training Institute on Sexuality – Guelph, ON, Canada (Info: [www.uoguelph.ca/sexconf/confnew.htm](http://www.uoguelph.ca/sexconf/confnew.htm))

## July

- 4-7 – "Living In Leather" Conference of the National Leather Association-International – Dallas, TX (Info: [www.livinginleather.org](http://www.livinginleather.org))
- 5-8 – 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Personal Relationships – Halifax, NS, Canada (Info: [www.medicine.dal.ca/ahprc/ISSPRconference.html](http://www.medicine.dal.ca/ahprc/ISSPRconference.html))

- 13-20 – Thornfield 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop on Sexuality – Cazenovia, NY (Info: [www.sexualityworkshop.com](http://www.sexualityworkshop.com))
- 31- August 4 – The Lifestyles Convention – Reno, NV (Info: [lifestyles-convention.com/](http://lifestyles-convention.com/))

## August

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

## October

- 4-6 – 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) – Los Angeles, CA (Info: [www.glsen.org/templates/events/article.html?section=50&record=617](http://www.glsen.org/templates/events/article.html?section=50&record=617))
- 5 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Poly Pride Day – New York, NY (Info: [www.poly-NYC.com](http://www.poly-NYC.com))
- 11-13 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual **Building Bridges Conference of the ITCR – Washington, DC** (Info: [www.lovethatworks.org](http://www.lovethatworks.org))
- 24-27 – 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy – Cincinnati, OH (Info: [www.aamft.org](http://www.aamft.org))

## November

- 6-10 – National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual *Creating Change* Conference – Portland, OR (Info: [www.nglftf.org/cc/index.cfm](http://www.nglftf.org/cc/index.cfm))
- 7-10 – 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (SSSS) – Montreal, Quebec, Canada (Info: [www.ssc.wisc.edu/ssss/meetings.htm](http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/ssss/meetings.htm))
- 11-14 – 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the National Council on Family Relations – Houston, TX (Info: [www.ncfr.org/conference\\_info/index.asp](http://www.ncfr.org/conference_info/index.asp))
- 14-18 – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Nawlins in November lifestyle convention – New Orleans, LA (Info: [www.neworleansinnovember.com](http://www.neworleansinnovember.com))

Send us information on major conferences/events that might be of interest to *Relating's* readers, and we'll consider them for inclusion. Send to *Relating Calendar*, ITCR, 2419 Little Current Drive, Suite 1933, Herndon, VA 20171, or email us at [calendar@lovethatworks.org](mailto:calendar@lovethatworks.org). 