

About Marianne Oehser

You might be asking yourself – why should I listen to what she has to say... So, here is a bit of my background.

I retired twice – I didn't get it right the first time.

In 1987 during a hostile take-over of United Airlines where both my former husband and I worked, he decided to take a buy-out and retire early – he was 58 and I was 40. Do the math – that makes me 71! We moved to “paradise” (Marco Island FL) and were very happy in the beginning – it was like a permanent vacation for about 3 months.

- Then, real life settled in. I started selling real estate and he got depressed.
- Through that experience, I learned how challenging retirement can be when you are not prepared for the loss of your identity when it is defined by your job title
- I learned how important it is to have a purpose for living
- I learned how dramatically the dynamics of a relationship can shift when you are not working.
- I learned how challenging all of that is for even a strong marriage – and how it can destroy a troubled one

We got divorced when I was 51.

I decided that with all its ups and downs the real estate business I needed to do something else. So, I went back into the corporate world and worked for a global market research company for 14 more years. Over my career, I helped major companies see where they wanted to go and provided information to help them get there. In many ways, my career now does the same thing for people.

During those years, I met and married my wonderful husband, Bill. When I started getting burned out on the travel and stress, I decided to prepare for the transition this time.

Before we got married Bill and I went to a couple's weekend workshop to be sure we would not repeat past relationship mistakes and were starting our life together on the right foot. It was a very powerful experience for us and certainly has provided us with knowledge and tools that have enabled our relationship to flourish for the past 17 years.

I decided in my “retirement” I wanted to help others have the kind of relationship we have and I became a relationship coach. We live in Naples FL – a mecca for the newly retired. As I worked with couples here I quickly saw that one of the reasons their relationships were in trouble was that they were struggling with the transition into retirement. That is why I earned a second certification in Retirement Coaching. Now I offer workshops and coaching to help everyone from CEOs to janitors build the life they really want after their careers. I collaborate with some of the leading retirement and personal growth experts and was inspired to create online symposiums that have assisted thousands of people make their post-career lives truly meaningful and happy.

The work I do now is a blend of my two passions – helping people retire successfully and helping them have happy, fulfilling relationships – after all an unhappy relationship leads to a very unhappy retirement – or is it the other way around? This is truly the best part of my life – and it can be yours too.

