



FIGT Connections

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Families in Global Transition

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Families in Global Transition leads the worldwide community in empowering families and those who serve them in global transition. FIGT is the premier advocate and educational resource for families, organizations and service providers.

10 TIPS FOR NETWORKING AT THE FIGT CONFERENCE

By Judy Rickatson

The [FIGT conference](#) is probably one of the easiest conferences for practicing your networking skills. For good reason it is described as "the biggest reunion of strangers" because almost every attendee has relocated, so many times, and that common bond is a powerful connecting force.

But in order to get the most from this wonderful opportunity, it is still a good idea to have a networking plan.

1. Start before you arrive by getting to know the speakers by reading their bios on the FIGT website, their personal or company websites, Facebook pages, blogs and Twitter accounts.
2. If you're a Twitter user, start following the Conference hashtag #FIGT13 and follow those who are using it.
3. Start online conversations with the people you would really like to meet - comment on their blogs or Facebook posts, reply to their tweets.
4. Bring a business card. Not currently working? Make yourself a card anyway with your contact details and areas of interest.
5. Pick up a list of attendees at the registration desk, as soon as you arrive, and make sure you add your Twitter handle to the list which will be on display in the registration area. Tweet the conference, using the hashtag of course.
6. Attend the informal pre-conference dinner the night before the conference begins, it's a great icebreaker and ideal if you prefer to meet people in smaller groups.
7. During the conference, introduce yourself to those who you've already met online. Everyone enjoys meeting their online friends face-to-face.
8. Make a point of sitting next to someone you don't know at every session and introduce yourself. Ask questions and listen more than you speak. Exchange business cards and don't be afraid to jot a few notes on the back, so you'll remember the conversation later.
9. After the conference, follow up with the people you met. Connect with them on LinkedIn (sending a personalized note instead of the standard connection request), sign up for their newsletters and blogs, or drop them a short email.
10. Post about your conference experience on social media - write a blog post, post some photos on Facebook, or if you're feeling really brave, why not a short video?

[Click here](#) for Sponsor Opportunities

And of course, be sure to connect with FIGT itself and become part of our huge (and growing!) international community. You'll find us at:

<http://www.figt.org> | <http://www.facebook.com/figt.org>

@crossingculture | <http://www.youtube.com/user/FIGTorg>

A TASTE OF WHAT'S TO COME...

Been searching for an original recipe lately? Remember that the FIGT Cookbook, *Where is Home?* is getting ready to go to press in time for an official launch at the FIGT Conference in March 2013.

This is your chance to be a part of an important fundraising project, all proceeds of which will go the Pollock Scholarship Fund. The Pollock Scholars are in integral part of the annual conference and help ensure the FIGT flame is carried forward to those new to expatriation and the relocation industry. Your support and sponsorship will enable FIGT to offer more scholarships to those applying for this prestigious award.

If you like the taste of this....

HOT PEPPER JELLY

Submitted by Dotti Byers

6 large green peppers
1 jalapeno pepper
3/4 cup apple juice
3/4 cup apple cider vinegar

Core and seed peppers. Puree the peppers with the apple juice and the vinegar. Refrigerate overnight. Strain, measure juice to 3 ½ cups liquid. Wash and prepare jelly glasses, lids by boiling in hot water. Sterilize and leave in water until needed. When ready to fill, remove, drain. In large pot, pour 3 ½ cups prepared juice. Add 6 cups of sugar. Bring mixture to boil. Let boil at rolling boil. Add pouches of fruit pectin. Return to rolling boil and boil for one minute. Remove from heat. Strain foam, if necessary. Carefully pour pepper mixture into hot, sterilized jars. Wipe tops, and immediately screw on lids and rings. Process jars, as directed for jelly. (Boiling water bath on rack for 10 minutes.) Remove from bath, let dry. Cool. Enjoy with cream cheese on crackers. If you prefer to skip the sterilized canning jars, you can put jelly in clean containers in the refrigerator. Use within 3 weeks.

Note: This is a typical southern US recipe. Serve over cream cheese and spread on crackers. It also goes well with pork tenderloin or lamb.

Do please consider sponsoring space in the *Where is Home?* FIGT cookbook - remember your organization's name in this cookbook will be seen for years to come! [Click here](#) for pricing details.

SAYING GOODBYE

By Anne-Claude Lambelet

Hooroo, Au Revoir, La Revedere, Xin chào ông, Zai Geen, Adiós, Lehit, Tot Ziens, Dasvidania, Auf Wiedersehen ...

As a third culture kid and an expat living and working internationally for the greater part of my life, moving on was tied to saying sad goodbyes to people, places, and different life style. Of course, I never really left those behind me. Contacts were maintained, new cultural skills were embedded in my DNA, and places were revisited whenever possible.

Cultural and language differences also mean that there are many subtleties to master when saying goodbye. For instance, most non-native Japanese speakers might think Sayonara is the only way to say goodbye. In fact, Sayonara means taking permanent leave of someone, whereas Japanese friends would use Ja ne or Mata ne: taking leave until they meet again. The Chinese will not just take leave of you at the front door. They'll escort you to your taxi and see you off. In the Netherlands, after an evening spent

together, departing parties walk to the door, say their goodbyes there, then walk outside and turn around to take leave of each other one last time, before walking away. What they can't see, is their host waving at the closed door.

It seems at our [annual conference](#), we are just through saying hello and it's already time to gear up to say goodbye. Saying goodbye at the end of the FIGT conference reminds me of Richard Bach's advice "Don't be dismayed at goodbyes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after moments or a lifetime, is certain for those who are friends."

Attending FIGT has given me an opportunity to meet many wonderful people, take away great lessons from our international participants, and make some good friends.

I'd like to make 3 wishes for you as you consider registering for our conference:

1. That the 2013 conference is a time for you to say many hellos, maybe mastering the art to do so in a new language or two!
2. That you, too, make acquaintances that you will want to foster, even from a distance.
3. That when you take your leave from us at FIGT, you will do so, as Ben Johnson said, "In the hope to meet shortly again, and make our absence sweet."

One more thing: Keep well...until we say hello!

FIGT RESEARCH NETWORK

By Steve Spinella

The FIGT Research Network http://www.figt.org/research_network is a place where researchers focusing on families in global transition can find and support like-minded colleagues. We want to let you know about some of the projects going on that might connect with some of you.

Elizabeth Melles at the University of Oklahoma is conducting pre-dissertation research on how the TCK experience impacts religious views. If you are in your 20s and grew up in more than one country, you can help Beth by spending a half hour on this survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GP72MWM>. The survey is currently open to any who fit this profile.

Are you part of the Korean international community? Karin JeeEun Nam is a Master's student in Counseling from Seoul National University. She is focusing on the relationship between emotion awareness, adolescent TCK identity, and well-being in South Korea. If you have contacts at the international schools in South Korea, please contact her at karin.nam@gmail.com.

Are you connected to the international military community? www.servicechildrensupportnetwork.com is a non-profit passionate about BRATs who are part of the UK community.

Other research being discussed in our network includes Yvonne McNulty's study of organizational support for trailing spouses, and along with Margart Carter, the professional development and resourcing for teachers of TCKs. Raquel C Hoersting and Sharon Rae Jenkins have been looking at the relationship between cultural "homelessness," self esteem, and cross-cultural identity. Yoshi Joanna Grote talks about "nationalism," the concept of nationless identity and belonging. Bonnie Wims is looking at what the concept of "home" means to internationals and how they operationalize their concept of home.

Ann Baker Cottrell and Richard D. Downie recently shared their article "TCK-the history of a concept." Ruth Useem's concept and acronym have come a long way. Request a copy when you join the research network! Contact Dr. Becky Powell at Research@figt.org to join the FIGT Research Network and look for the FIGT and TCK research groups on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter.