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Families in Global Transition

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In March 2012, FIGT launched a new membership program, [click here](#) to learn more or join today!

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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.

2014 ANNUAL FIGT CONFERENCE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



Families in Global Transition

[March 21-23, 2014](#)

[Marriott Tysons Corner, just outside of Washington, DC](#)

MEET OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The FIGT 2014 Conference Program committee is delighted to announce our two remaining Keynote speakers featured in the upcoming Annual Conference to be held at Tyson's Corner, VA. on the 21-23 March.

In addition to Fanta Aw (featured in the [December Newsletter](#)), we will be joined by:

Ray Leki, author of *Travel Wise: How to Be Safe, Savvy and Secure Abroad*.

FIGT is proud to introduce to our global audience a key figure in the intercultural work being done right here in Washington!

Ray Leki wears many hats in his work on the expat lifestyle. Ray is currently a career member of the Senior Executive Service of the United States; and the Director of the Transition Center at the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute.

Ray is Adjunct Professorial Lecturer at American University SIS's Intercultural Management Institute. He has taught graduate courses in intercultural training and facilitation, multicultural negotiation, personal and organizational security, and conflict mitigation. He regularly speaks on resilience and the brain's response to stress abroad.

Ray currently teaches online for 2U and serves on the board of the Intercultural Management Institute. He also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal.

Elizabeth (Lisa) Liang, Actor/Writer

Our closing keynote speaker, Lisa Liang, was a huge success at last year's conference as a concurrent speaker where she performed an excerpt from her autobiographical solo show and conducted a writing

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workshop. This year, we have invited her back to perform *Alien Citizen: An Earth Odyssey*.

Lisa is a true TCK, raised in Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Morocco, Egypt, and Connecticut as a Guatemalan-American expat kid of Chinese-Spanish-Irish-French-German-English descent.

Lisa graduated from Wesleyan University in 1992 with a degree in English. She is an award-winning bilingual actress who has worked in theatre, television, and film for more than 25 years. Among her TV credits, she had a recurring role on "The West Wing". Elizabeth also co-hosts the podcast "Hapa Happy Hour."

Since FIGT 2013, "*Alien Citizen: An Earth Odyssey*," has begun its national tour at major performing arts festivals, colleges and universities. We are so pleased to bring this performance "full circle" to FIGT 2014 -- and to a global audience that can definitely relate!

BECOME AN FIGT SPONSOR!

The 2014 FIGT Conference provides an excellent opportunity for your organization to gain face-to-face exposure with conference attendees, network and mix with key decision-makers who have a genuine interest in supporting families in global transition and demonstrate your involvement, commitment and support of our membership.

Ready to become a sponsor? [Click here](#).

FIGT SPONSOR SOUND BITE

"FIGT brings together a fantastic group of people who think passionately and deeply about the international experience," said Josh Stephens, Director of International Development for ArborBridge, a tutoring and test preparation company that serves students worldwide. "The chance to take part in the discussion, and to learn about expat and TCK culture, and to participate in a truly global community is invaluable."

HERE'S MORE TO LOOK FORWARD TO AT THE UPCOMING CONFERENCE!

1. A fabulous Writer's Forum facilitated by publishing genius, serial expat entrepreneur and writer Jo Parfitt! For all in the know in the expat literature world, Jo Parfitt is a force to be reckoned with. She is the author of many books on helping expats fulfill their potential. Her firm Summertime Publishing has helped countless expat authors achieve their publishing dream. At last count Summertime has released more than 75 books on the expat experience. The Writer's Forum will be held on Friday, March 21, 12:00-4:00 p.m. and is free and open to all FIGT attendees, including published and novice writers.
2. Less "overload" and more time to connect! Past attendees have commented that FIGT has been "too much" of a good thing: too many speakers, not enough time. This year, we've streamlined the program to include FIGT's hallmark Kitchen Table Conversations, a stellar line-up of plenary speakers, just one dozen expert Concurrent Session presentations and plenty of opportunities to get to know speakers and fellow attendees over meals, coffee, drinks and facilitated discussions.
3. Want to see two sessions at once? We've got you covered. We can guarantee that you will, once again, have a hard time choosing between concurrent sessions. HOWEVER, to ease your mind, we are proud to introduce a new program to give a select group of expat writers the opportunity to "cover" all concurrent sessions -- which will subsequently be made available by Summertime Publishing. We're nurturing expat writing talent, highlighting presenter visibility, and archiving knowledge for you to use for years to come. The program is named the Parfitt Pascoe Writing Residency, after two expat publishing heroes, Jo Parfitt and Robin Pascoe.
4. Arrive early to make connections! New as well as seasoned FIGT attendees often find it overwhelming to meet a huge group of people "cold turkey." We invite you to "ease into" the conference by arriving on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning, casually meeting other attendees at the hotel bar, joining the FIGT Research Network or Writers' Forum (Friday 12:00-4:00 p.m.), and letting us introduce you to other attendees at our Welcome New Attendees gathering Friday 4:00-5:30 p.m. "Chance" connections are part of the magic of FIGT!

UPDATE FROM FIGT U.K.

Save the date:

31st January 2014

TASIS The American School in England and Families in Global Transition UK (FIGT UK)
Present:

Plus One - Accompanying Partner Support

The changing nature of global mobility presents a new reality. Shifts in the demographics and expectations of the global workforce are propelling issues relating to the dual worker and portable careers to the very top of the agenda.

What are the current obstacles to accompanying partners wanting to continue their career path and gain employment during an international move? And what are the available options and resources that can provide practical support and facilitate successful integration, both for job-seeking partners and for those partners who don't want to work?

Please join TASIS The American School in England and Families in Global Transition UK (FIGT UK) for this networking event. The morning will include a presentation on current research into global workforce demographic trends as well as practical solutions for the provision of pro-active partner support during international moves.

Place: TASIS The American School in England, Coldharbour Lane, Thorpe, Surrey TW20 8TE

Date: Friday, 31 January 2014

STAY TUNED!

More information to come in the next FIGT Newsletter on the Pollock Scholarship awardees, as well as the complete conference program, including the unveiling of the concurrent speakers.