July 2011 Recommendations:
Fair Trade Shopping, Books & Films
Featured Program: Emerge Global, Sri Lanka

This Month's Recommendations:
♀ Fair Trade Shopping
♀ Books
♀ Videos & Films

Fair Trade Shopping
Our thanks to Carolyn Mayers for Fair Trade Shopping Recommendations.

Very slim pickings for Fair Trade shopping resources this month. Almost nothing available, it seems, that is Fair Trade Certified coming in from Sri Lanka, but check out the two below!

You can get jewelry produced by Emerge Global program participants at: http://www.etsy.com/shop/EmergeGlobal

From the wonderful folks at arbor teas, a fabulous Ceylon black tea. Serve some with your dinner! Tell Aubrey and Jeremy that Carolyn Mayers sent you! http://www.arbortees.com/organic-greenwood-ceylon-black-tea.html
Books

Fiction

**Anil’s Ghost**, by Michael Ondaatje
While he is generally considered a Canadian writer, Booker Prize-winner Ondaatje was born in Sri Lanka, and he has chosen to set his powerful and resonant novel in that country during its gruesome civil war in the mid-1980s. More effective than a documentary, Ondaatje’s novel satisfies one of the most exalted purposes of fiction: to illuminate the human condition through pity and terror. It may well be the capstone of his career.-- Publishers Weekly

**The Hamilton Case**, by Michelle de Kretser
De Kretser’s accomplished second novel, set in the author’s native Sri Lanka in the years before its independence in 1948, is as much a haunting character study as it is an elusive murder mystery and a deep exploration of colonialism. De Kretser’s fine, brooding, mischievous style is sure to captivate fans of serious literary fiction. -- Publishers Weekly

**Monkfish Moon: Short Stories** by Romesh Gunesekera
Monkfish Moon includes nine stories set in Sri Lanka. The collection was named a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. “Gunesekera's subtly erotic prose animates Sri Lanka’s natural luxuriance, veined with menace.” -- Voice Literary Supplement

**July** by Karen Roberts
An engaging, insightful story that tells of two neighbors – one Sinhalese, one Tamil – growing up together. The author is a native of Sri Lanka who now lives in California. --Lonely Planet

**The Village in the Jungle** by Leonard Woolf
This classic novel of colonial Ceylon (Sri Lanka), was first published in 1913 and is written by a prominent member of the Bloomsbury group, husband of Virginia Woolf. It reads as if Thomas Hardy had been born among the heat, scent, sensuality and pungent mystery of the tropics. Translated into both Tamil and Sinhalese, it is one of the best-loved and best-known stories in Sri Lanka.--The publisher.

NonFiction

**Running in the Family** by Michael Ondaatje
This memoir recounts the author’s return to Sri Lanka in the 1970s and captures many of the little oddities that make up life in Sri Lanka.--Lonely Planet

**A Year in Green Tea and Tuk-Tuks** by Rory Spowers
Published in 2007, this colorful read recounts what happens when a BBC journalist moves his family to Sri Lanka to transform a tea estate into an organic farm. --Lonely Planet
**Picklehead: From Ceylon to Suburbia: A Memoir of Food, Family and Finding Yourself** by Rohan Candappa
The son of a Sri Lankan father and Burmese mother, the author grew up in London where every day his mother would prepare delicious meals, and their home became a focus for family gatherings. Picklehead is a mouthwatering memoir of that time.--The publisher.

**The Sri Lanka Reader: History, Culture, Politics**, John Clifford Holt, Editor
This wide-ranging anthology covers the aboriginal Veddhas, the earliest known inhabitants of the island; the Kings of Kandy, Sri Lanka’s last indigenous dynasty; twenty-first-century women who leave the island to work as housemaids in the Middle East; the forty thousand Sri Lankans killed by the tsunami in December 2004; and, through cutting-edge journalism and heart-wrenching poetry, the protracted violence that has scarred the country’s contemporary political history. Along with fifty-four images of paintings, sculptures, and architecture, The Sri Lanka Reader includes more than ninety classic and contemporary texts written by Sri Lankans and foreigners. --Duke University Press.

**Films & Videos**

**Wekande Walauwa (Mansion by the Lake)**
This 2002 award winning Sinhalese language film directed by Lester James Peries follows the lives of wealthy people in Sri Lanka. According to the director, the story was inspired by Anton Chekhov’s play *The Cherry Orchard* and adapted to a Sri Lankan family context. *Mansion by the Lake* was the first movie to be submitted from Sri Lanka for the Best Foreign Language film award at the Academy Awards.

**Sulanga Enu Pinisa (The Forsaken Land)**
“A stark, lyrical and affecting portrait of war’s aftermath as seen from the edges of the old conflict.”--Chicago Tribune

**Sooriya Arana (Fire Fighters)**
Made in 2004, this film was directed by Somaratne Dissanayake. The winner of 10 Presidential Film Awards, it was also Sri Lanka’s highest-grossing local release of all time. The film is about a secret friendship between the two boys—one a young Buddhist monk—that turns into a strong bond, challenging the adults.

**Samanala Thatu (Butterfly Wings)**
The story of a Sri Lankan street family that makes a living by singing and dancing on the street.
When Mother Comes Home for Christmas

This documentary, directed by Nilita Vachani, a filmmaker and writer from India living in New York, tells the story of a Sri Lankan woman who works in Greece to support her family in Sri Lanka.

Becoming Family: An Inspiring True Story

Six months after a tsunami hit South Asia on December 26, 2004, Muslim-American and Sri Lankan born Dr. M. Rahmi Mowjood led a team of American doctors and medical students on a relief trip to Sri Lanka. While mentoring medical students and aiding injured villagers, Dr. Mowjood also finds a way to ask someone to become a member of his own family. Shot on location in the southern villages of Sri Lanka, the film features original music by Don Bodin and won the 2007 Top Applause Award at the International Family Film Festival.