June 2011 Recommendations: Fair Trade Shopping, Books & Films
Featured Program: Shining Hope for Communities, Kenya

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

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

These Massai body wrap cloths would make a great table cloth or picnic blanket--loads of other great stuff on this wonderful site. Tell them Carolyn Mayers sent you!

Anything you could want--how about a salad bowl and servers carved from olive wood? Also soapstone items, jewelry, you name it!

Wake up and smell the coffee! Kenyan Highland Cooperatives.

Beautiful colorful sisal totes, woven by women, from our friends at Baskets of Africa.
**Books**

**Fiction**


This novel by Kenyan author Margaret Ogola, won both the *Jomo Kenyatta Literature Prize*, and the *Commonwealth Writers Prize* Best First Book in the Africa Region. Now reprinted, it remains in demand. The author is a pediatrician and is the medical director of a hospice for HIV and AIDS orphans in Nairobi. “The novel follows four generations of Kenyan women in a rapidly changing country and society.” --African Books Collective


“A powerful, moving story that details the effects of the infamous Mau Mau war, the African nationalist revolt against colonial oppression in Kenya, on the lives of ordinary men and women, and on one family in particular. Kenyan author Ngugi wa Thiong’o is one of Africa’s most influential and exciting writers, as well as a literary and social activist who campaigns worldwide promoting African languages.” --From the Publisher


“In this novel set among Kenya’s Indian diaspora, two ill-fated loves—Vikram Lall’s for a young English girl, his sister’s for a young African man—symbolize their family’s tenuous social position as neither privileged oppressor nor righteous oppressed… the book admirably captures the tenor of the postcolonial period: the predicament of the Asian minority, the corruption that marred Kenya’s fledgling independence, and the individual tragedies that were the cost of revolution.”

--*The New Yorker*

**NonFiction**

*The Flame Trees of Thika: Memories of an African Childhood* by Elspeth Huxley (Penguin Classics, 2001)

Elspeth Huxley’s memoir is a stirring account of her childhood in Kenya and the destructive forces of colonization. “With an extraordinary gift for detail and a keen sense of humor, Huxley recalls her childhood on the small farm at a time when Europeans waged their fortunes on a land that was as harsh as it was beautiful… Huxley paints an unforgettable portrait of growing up among the Masai and Kikuyu people, discovering both the beauty and the terrors of the jungle, and enduring the rugged realities of the pioneer life.” --From the publisher.

*West with the Night* by Beryl Markham (North Point Press, 1982)

Beryl Markham’s 1942 memoir was rediscovered in 1982, and is now considered a classic of outdoor literature. A British-born Kenyan adventurer, aviator, and horse trainer, Markham chronicles her experiences in Kenya in the 1920’s and 30’s. “Though Markham is known for setting an aviation record for a solo flight across the Atlantic from East to West–hence the title–she was also a bush pilot in Africa… Hemingway, who met Markham during his safari days, dubbed the book ‘bloody wonderful.’”

--Library Journal
Out of Africa by Isak Dinesen (Vintage, 1989)
“With classic simplicity and a painter's feeling for atmosphere and detail, Isak Dinesen (Karen Blixen) tells of the years she spent from 1914 to 1931 managing a coffee plantation in Kenya.” --From the publisher.

It's Our Turn to Eat: The Story of a Kenyan Whistle-Blower by Michela Wrong (Harper Perennial, 2010)

Films & Videos

NBC Nightly News: A Place Where Girls Matter (May 20, 2011)
NBC News featured Shining Hope for Communities on their “Making a Difference Segment.” Watch the report on the NBC Nightly News website: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/43112010

Building Hope (2011)
This documentary film by Turk and Christy Pipkin and produced by The Nobility Project, premiered in March at the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas. “After rebuilding a rural Kenyan primary school, Turk Pipkin and The Nobility Project agree to help build the area's first high school...through drought, flood, and fundraising challenges, Building Hope chronicles the construction of Mahiga Hope High, and the connection between a thousand people in the U.S. and an African community working to create a better future for their children. An inspiring story of those who believe education shouldn't end at the 8th grade.” --South by Southwest

Nowhere in Africa (2001)
This German film directed by Caroline Link tells the story of a Jewish family that emigrates to Kenya during World War II to escape the Nazis and run a farm. The film won an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. --Wikipedia

Umoja: the Village Where Men are Forbidden (2009)
This French documentary won a number of awards, including International Human Rights Film Festival First Prize (Argentina, 2010). “An against-the-odds journey of women asserting their humanity and dignity against cruel, abusive and divisive cultural convention. Set in Northern Kenya, a group of tribal Samburu women, shamed by their communities after having claimed to have been raped by British soldiers stationed nearby, band together to establish a village...Women, so long taken for granted, treated as second class citizens, and often ritually mutilated via female circumcision, now have a place where they feel safe and in control of their destiny.” --Joining the Docs

--- Changing the world one dinner at a time ---