May 2011 Recommendations:
Fair Trade Shopping, Books & Films
Featured Program: Mujeres Aliadas, Mexico

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

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

Grounds for Change: Fair Trade coffee grown by women farmers in Mexico - Cafe Femenino!

Fair Trade Raw Honey. Thick creamy multi-floral honey with a delightful butterscotch essence, collected by Mayan beekeepers in Mexico, available through Amazon.

ki'XOCOLATL Bean-to-bar chocolate from a plantation in Mexico--the only chocolate maker in Mexico that grows its own cacao beans. The farmers share in the profits from this unique enterprise, and the chocolate is superb. Available through The Chocolate Room in Brooklyn, NY.
http://thechocolateroombrooklyn.com/2shopping/bars.php
Incidentally, **ki’XOCOLATL** has put together a trip to the plantation, led by a woman who specializes in tours to Mexico for women. It is being run by Claudette Elizondo of **MexicaChica Tours**, a tour company by women for women: [http://casa‐catherwood.com/chocolateexpedition.html](http://casa‐catherwood.com/chocolateexpedition.html), and will be happening right before the DFW Summit this fall.

**How about a colorful serape?** You could use one for a tablecloth, a wrap, a curtain - use your imagination - still women produced by hand in the region of Mexico where they originated

**Books**

*Our thanks to the Mexico Chapters for this month’s reading recommendations.*

**Fiction**

*Note: Ángeles Mastretta* (born October 9, 1949, in **Puebla**, Mexico) is an award-winning **Mexican author** and **journalist**. She is “well known for creating inspirational female characters and fictional pieces that reflect the social and political realities of Mexico in her life” (Wikipedia), including her collection, **Woman with Big Eyes**.

**Woman with Big Eyes (2004)** by Ángeles Mastretta

“The women who come to life in Mastretta’s engaging bilingual story collection are independent and passionate individuals, and she writes about them with compassion and, above all, humor. Each story portrays a different woman as she enters a crucial point in her life, such as Aunt Daniela, who ‘fell in love the way intelligent women always fall in love: like an idiot.’ Or Aunt Amanda, who suddenly marries her deceased mother’s ex‐lover in order to quiet the townspeople’s gossip about her parentage. Part fable, part mysticism, the stories are tied together with details of everyday life in the author’s native Puebla, Mexico.” --Booklist

**In the Shadow of the Angel (2001)** by Kathryn Blair

Described by one reviewer as the **Gone with the Wind** of Mexico, Kathryn Blair’s book is the riveting true story of a remarkable woman, Antonieta Rivas Mercado. Her story takes the reader deep inside the Mexican Revolution of 1910 and its aftermath. A bestseller in Spanish, this novel is about an extraordinary Mexican woman whose life was as passionate and conflicted as Mexico itself. --The publisher

**Aztec (1980)** by Gary Jennings

This is one of Gary Jennings’s enormously popular historical novels, the first of the bestselling **Aztec** series. **Aztec** is a multi‐layered story about the native response to the Spanish conquest of Mexico. Jennings unfolds the story of the overthrow of the Native Mexicans through the voice of an amiable but wry Aztec adventurer named Mixtli . . . In preparing to write the novel, Jennings lived for twelve years in Mexico while conducting research on Aztec culture and the Spanish conquest. He read many accounts about the wars but found many of them biased against the Indians. So, as Jennings told John F. Baker in a **Publishers Weekly** interview, “I learned to interpret the ancient pictures and codices and read Nahuatl, the Aztec language...it shows them as people who had a sense of the bawdy, and who had all sorts of human reactions. I wanted to bring them alive as flesh‐and‐blood people." -- [http://www.garyjennings.com/](http://www.garyjennings.com/)
Nonfiction

**Rain of Gold (1992) by Victor E. Villasenor**

“Villasenor recounts the story of three generations of his family in this earthy Mexican American saga, gripping and inspirational despite occasional sentimentality and clichés”.—*Publishers Weekly*

**The Children of Sanchez (1961) by Oscar Lewis**

This acclaimed work by an American anthropologist presents an oral history of a family in Mexico City in the late 1950s and is considered a classic. “In this book the anthropologist Oscar Lewis has made something brilliant and of singular significance, a work of such unique concentration and sympathy that one hardly knows how to classify it. It is all spoken by the members of the Sanchez family. They tell their feelings, their lives, explain their nature, their actual existence with all the force and drama and seriousness of a large novel....The result is a moving, strange tragedy.”—Elizabeth Hardwick, *The New York Times Book Review*

Films & Videos

**Miss Bala (2011)** tells the story of a young woman clinging on to her dream to become a beauty contest queen in a Mexico dominated by organized crime. The Mexican film is based on the story of Laura Zúñiga, a Mexican model who won the title of Miss Sinaloa in 2008, was arrested two months later for her alleged ties to the Juárez Cartel, and stripped of her title while proclaiming her innocence. Zúñiga was released from the detention center on January 30, 2009 after the judge found no evidence that tied her to any criminal activity. (September 2011 release date)

**Frida (2002)** The life of the surrealist Mexican artist Frida Kahlo--from her complex and enduring relationship with her mentor and husband, Diego Rivera, to her illicit and controversial affair with Leon Trotsky, to her provocative romantic entanglements with women--Frida lived a bold and uncompromising life as a political, artistic, and sexual revolutionary. Starring Salma Hayek as Frida Kahlo.

**Y tu mamá también (And Your Mother, Too) 2001.** An award-winning Mexican coming-of-age story about two teenage boys taking a road trip with a woman in her late twenties; it stars Mexican actors Diego Luna and Gael García Bernal and Spanish actress Maribel Verdú in the leading roles. The film is set in 1999, against the backdrop of the political and economic realities of Mexico, specifically at the end of the uninterrupted 71-year line of Mexican presidents from the Institutional Revolutionary Party, and the rise of the opposition headed by Vicente Fox. --Wikipedia
Los Que Se Quedan (Those Who Remain) 2008.

“The migration of workers from Mexico to the United States has been well documented. But often forgotten are all the people left behind in Mexico — wives, mothers, sons and daughters. The film offers a glimpse into how the U.S./Mexico border divides families. Experts in immigration issues probably won’t learn anything new, but the documentary will grab viewers with its beautiful landscape shots and heartfelt stories. Los Que Se Quedan won Best Documentary at both the Los Angeles Film Festival and the Guadalajara Film Festival.” --Suite 101

Sources:
Wikipedia
Rotten Tomatoes
Publishers Weekly
New York Times Book Review
Top Mexican Documentaries Directed by Juan Carlos Rulfo | Suite101.com http://www.suite101.com/content/top-mexican-documentaries-directed-by-juan-carlos-rulfo-a238293#ixzz1Kf0qm2RN