

Mankato First Fair Trade Town in Minnesota
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A DATE FOR YOUR CALENDAR – APRIL 5, 7:00-9:00P.M.

The results of the Survey conducted in October with help from MSU will be the main focus of the first gathering of MAFTTI in 2016. With Easter being early this year the date has been fixed as

Tuesday, April 5, 7:00p.m. at First Congregational Church, 150, Stadium Court, Mankato.

As was noted in the first two Newsletters this year, the Survey has generated a variety of perspectives on the past and a wealth of ideas about the future.

MAFTTI's thinking about how Fair Trade education and advocacy in the Mankato area now develops needs your active participation. The Steering Committee will be able to say that some outcomes are clear, but others are not. Your voice will be invaluable in helping to interpret some findings, prioritize the practical implications and perhaps add ideas that have come to you since October.

A GOOD ATTENDANCE ON APRIL 5 WILL BE VITAL.

The next stage of thinking about MAFTTI's future cannot wait. We need to be in a position to use the 5th Anniversary in October of Mankato being declared a 'Fair Trade Town' not merely as a moment to

celebrate what has been achieved but also as a springboard into the future.

PLEASE COME AND HELP TO SHAPE IT!

ANOTHER CALENDAR DATE – SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2016 SUSTAINABILITY EXPO



Following the success of the first Sustainability Expo in 2014, another one is being held before the end of this month. **The focus is on Sustainable Food.**

MAFTTI will there. Perhaps you too? The Sustainability Expo will be in the CSU Ballroom at MSU, 11:00-4:00 on Sunday, March 20.

See more [here](#).

HEADS-UP! FAIR TRADE TEA – SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2016 – 3:30P.M.

By popular demand - the first since April 2013 - this time at Messiah Lutheran Church, North Mankato.



FROM COURTNEY TO SUZI



MAFTTI's task is to concentrate most of its energy on Fair Trade promotional work in the Mankato area. It does so in the awareness, however, of being part of a national network of Fair Trade Towns (44 declared so far) and 27 campaigns working towards Fair Trade Town status in the USA. (There are also 1,730 Fair Trade Towns in 27 countries around the world.)

MAFTTI is in regular contact with the national Fair Trade Campaigns organization that provides what might be called 'umbrella services' to campaigns working in Towns, Schools, Universities and Congregations.

For the last five years FTC's National Organizer for Fair Trade Towns has been Courtney Lang. We welcomed her to Mankato in October 2012 when she accompanied Felipe Zapata and Jorge Restrepo, two Colombian Fair Trade banana farmers, on an awareness-raising program in the Midwest. Some of the MAFTTI Steering Committee have met her in other contexts, on the National Steering Committee and at conferences within and outside the USA. At the end of 2015 Courtney moved on to another job opening in the Bay area. MAFTTI has benefited greatly from her skills and enthusiasm and wishes her well.

We have been very pleased to hear of the appointment of Suzi Hiza in her place. Suzi has joined Fair Trade Campaigns from the World Affairs Council in San Francisco. She has a long-term personal commitment to Fair Trade, the support of local farmers, sustainability issues and human rights.

Suzi introduces herself [here](#), (top left on the Fair Trade Campaigns blog). The same page also records the "Fondest of Fair-Wells" to Courtney and offers readers a range of other stories from around the national networks.



If and when the history of MAFTTI is written, the name of Green America ought to figure prominently. Early in 2009 it was contact with Green America (then known as Co-op America) that led to the visit of Eva Pizarro and Ayde Riveros from Peru.



They told their stories of the significance of Fair Trade for their work in jewelry and handcrafts in a public meeting on May 5, 2009 at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Mankato. Their visit, co-sponsored by [Partners for Just Trade](#), was one of the factors that led to the formation of MAFTTI.

Green America maintains a vigorous presence among individuals and businesses interested in the related topics of sweatshops, fair trade, clean energy, socially responsible investing, fossil fuel divestment, green business and sustainability issues in general.

Green America is also one of the national agencies most actively involved in lobbying Hershey over child labor on cocoa farms. There is more about this on the [Chocolate](#) page on the Green America website, one of several features profiling Fair Trade products and producers.

Green America also provides an annual Scorecard to help consumers with their purchasing of chocolate that is organic, non-GMO and not produced by child labor. Here is the [2016 Scorecard](#).

Green America is naturally keen to build its membership. One way of becoming more familiar with Green America is by joining its [Fair Trade Alliance](#).

Over to you to think about it.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

TED talks feature “Thinkers. Doers. Idea-generators.”

Here are three worth viewing – with apologies for the lack of diversity this time round.



**2011: Awakening the Sleeping Giant:
Fair Trade on Campus** by [Paul Rice](#)
Paul Rice – President and CEO of Fair Trade USA.



**2013: Ethical Consumerism and the
Power of Having a Choice/Voice** by [Jason
Garman](#)
*Jason Garman – US born, resident in
New Zealand, on the staff of OXFAM.*



2015: Fair Trade: A Just World Starts With You by [Benjamin Conard](#)
*Benjamin Conard - Student Chair on the National Steering Committee for Fair Trade Colleges and
Universities. US nominee for Fairtrade International's 'Biggest Fairtrade Fan' Award for 2016.*



CHIAPAS WATER PROJECT

Newsletter readers who attended the MAFTTI gathering on June 4, 2015 will recall hearing from Tamika Bertram and Helena Shanks of River Rock Coffee, St. Peter about the coffee producers at Maya Vinic cooperative in Chiapas, southern Mexico.

Anyone absent on that occasion who has, anyway, seen "[Connected by Coffee](#)" will recall that the first 30 minutes of the film are devoted to Chiapas. They focus on the story of how the establishment of Maya Vinic helped the people recover after the massacre at Acteal in 1997.

The basic message from Tamika, Helena and the film was that more support is needed if Central American coffee co-ops are really to succeed in the anti-poverty struggle.

The [Chiapas Water Project](#) is one practical response being implemented through [On the Ground Global](#), the non-profit to which the two coffee roasters featured in the film, Chris Treter (Higher Grounds, Traverse City, MI) and Matt Earley (Just Coffee, Madison, WI) and their companies are highly committed. [Here](#) is an update from Matt, written from Chiapas in January.

CATCHING UP WITH MAFTTI

This is really about keeping up with Fair Trade! Here are a few links that would enable you to take advantage of Newsletters published by leading Fair Trade organizations in the USA. If you are part of a Fair Trade committee or other group, you might like to think about sharing reading responsibilities. No-one likes to be inundated with cyber-news, however interested they are. Just click on the name(s) below:

[EQUAL EXCHANGE](#)

[FAIR FOR LIFE](#)

[FAIRTRADE INTERNATIONAL](#)

[FAIRTRADE AMERICA](#)

[FAIR TRADE USA](#)

[FAIR WORLD PROJECT](#)

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