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FAIR TRADE MONTH AHEAD

October is Fair Trade Month when the US Fair Trade movement focuses extra special attention on the stories behind what it stands for.

Keep an eye on what [Fairtrade America](#), [Fair Trade USA](#), [Fair Trade Federation](#) and the [Fair World Project](#) have to say at this time of year.

[Equal Exchange](#), a long-valued partner of most MAFTTI-related churches, has brought out a new **video**.

October 1: MAFTTI will fill six display boxes at the **Blue Earth County Library**, and will also put up a coffee-focused trifold in the **Taylor Library**, North Mankato. Here's a glimpse from last year.



October 8: MAFTTI's main fall event will be a '**Guatemala Special**'. Come along to see another (Guatemala) segment of "Connected by Coffee", hear presentations by three local churches about their support for indigenous people and others in poverty in western Guatemala and share in some delicious Guatemalan cuisine.

Venue: St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 632 S Broad Street, Mankato.

Tickets: \$10.00 (students \$5.00) from MAFTTI-related churches and at the door.

October 27: 7:00p.m. – public showing of [“Connected by Coffee”](#) at Centenary United Methodist Church, 501 S Second Street, Mankato. ADMISSION FREE. Donations welcome.



Special offer from Beans Coffee

Until September 30, [Beans Coffee Company](#) is offering **10% off** entire orders and free delivery in the Mankato area.

Visit Beans Coffee at the **Mankato Farmers' Market** on September 19 and 26 or order by email from **'orderbeans@gmail.com'**.

Quote Coupon Code MAFTTI.



BEANS MEANS.....

Clay Sharkey (in blue) and **Eric Poppler** have a passion for coffee. They also believe that, as far as roasting coffee is concerned, small is beautiful.

Minnesotans by birth and graduates in business and finance, Eric and Clay work as Credit Analysts for a couple of Mankato's community banks. At other times they roast coffee in Clay's garage in West Mankato (following the same business path as Microsoft and Apple). Their beans come from [Café Imports](#), a coffee wholesaler in Minneapolis that has a serious interest in what 'sustainability' means to a commercial venture.

In 2012 Eric and Clay set up [Beans Coffee Company](#) as a 'small batch roaster', no more than 6lbs being roasted at any one time. Quality comes before quantity at the moment, plus getting the coffee into the hands of a purchaser within a short time of roasting. They are regular vendors at the **Mankato Farmers' Market**.

In the early days **Beans Coffee** could not handle Café Imports' standard 150lb. sacks. Clay and Eric started with smaller, 25lb. 'broken bags'. Now the business has grown to the point where full size sacks, including Fair Trade Organic coffee, can be ordered. (FTO coffee was not available in the smaller bags.) They are now able to include a couple of FTO coffees in the four or five that they usually offer.

Eric and Clay said, "One thing that really surprised us was how important FTO coffee was to many individuals. We had many people who would come to the stand regularly to see if we were serving FTO coffee. If we were not, they would politely explain their position on FTO coffee, and they would explain they would check back next time. It really was an awesome experience to tell the first of our FTO customers that we had taken the dive into FTO. They were very surprised and eager to sample! Since then our business has grown, and a large part of it is due to FTO coffee."

In response to a question about the future, the Beans pair put it this way, *"We have not formalized a 5-year plan (other than to crush Starbucks), but our immediate goal is to take our roasting operation into a commercial space. By moving the operation out of the garage, it opens the doors for partnering with other businesses that would not be possible while operating in a garage. After our commercial space has been established, we would love to open a Local Coffee Shop featuring Locally (and freshly) Roasted Coffee that is Served by Local People."*

INTERNATIONAL FAIR TRADE TOWNS NEWS

The MAFTTI August Newsletter was all about the [9th International Fair Trade Towns Conference](#) in Bristol, England in early July. One of the surprises there was the presence of two municipal leaders from Lebanon, Walid Mushantaf and Georges Youssef. They signed the Bristol Resolution first, along with Mayor George Ferguson. Here's a second surprise, announced since the conference.

- **10th International Fair Trade Towns Conference – July 1-3, 2016 – in Lebanon.**
This will be [the first IFTTC](#) to be held in the Global South. The conference theme will be 'Building Bridges through Fair Trade' and reflect how Fair Trade Towns in Lebanon have created social and economic links between communities of different faiths and sects. It will take place in Beskinta, a mountain village standing at 4,300' about 30 miles north of Beirut.
- **Japan's Second Fair Trade City**
[Here](#) is a note from Bruce Crowther, International Fair Trade Towns coordinator and the

'Garstang Godfather' of the whole movement, about Japan's second Fair Trade Town, Nagoya.

There are now over 1,700 Fair Trade Towns in 26 countries – but still only one in Minnesota.

PRODUCT NEWS - SEAFOOD



Not yet in Minnesota but.....

One of Fair Trade USA's recent innovations has been to establish **Fair Trade Standards for Seafood**. This is not before time as International Labor Organization (ILO) studies have found that people in this sector, in which some 50m. people are active, are often exposed to challenging and risky conditions, even forced labor and human trafficking.

Fair Trade USA has linked up with **Safeway** to pioneer the marketing of [Fair Trade Certified Seafood](#). Mankato will, however, have to wait, as none of the stores that feature in this program (Safeway, Vons, Pavilions, Acme Markets) are represented locally, or even in Minnesota. But a start has to be made somewhere. If you have friends or relatives in these parts of the country who would be interested in Fair Trade Seafood, why not tip them off? - AK, AR, AZ, CA, DC, DE, HI, ID, MD, NJ, NV, OR, PA, VA, and WA.

You can find excellent background and information about this development [here](#). Don't miss the **infographic**.

CATCHING UP WITH MAFTTI

Many readers will have seen the film **"The Dark Side of Chocolate"**. If you haven't, you'll find it [here](#). It's 46 minutes long and well worth watching.

"Dark Side" illustrates the difficulty of getting officialdom, in big-name chocolate companies or the Ivory Coast government, to accept that child labour is being used on cocoa farms in ways that are detrimental to children's health, welfare and education. In the last couple of years persistent lobbying of US (and other) chocolate manufacturers has secured some progress in the direction of 'responsible sourcing' of cocoa if not fully 'fair trade',

but there is still a long way to go.

Tulane University in New Orleans has long had an interest in the cocoa-growing areas and has published a number of reports. The latest, for 2013-14, shows that the use of child labor is actually increasing in West Africa.

Fairtrade International commented, *"While disappointing, these findings are not surprising to Fairtrade International, nor will they be to others who are supporting farmers to tackle this endemic problem and know just how deep it runs. If there is to be a serious reduction in child labour in cocoa, farmers, communities and, most importantly, young people themselves must be at the forefront of tackling the issue."* [Here](#) is the FTI comment in full.



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