

Fair Trade Shopping, Books, Films, and Music Global Grassroots, Rwanda August 2012

Fair Trade Shopping



This **Circle of Life bowl** is woven from all natural sweet grass. This pattern is the most fundamental of Rwandan bowls. This design is often the first that girls learn sitting at the knees of the mothers and grandmothers. To the women of Solidarite this basket - even more than any of the others - symbolizes the coming together of generations of Rwandan women to provide for the needs of their families. Kindly note that each basket is a one-of-a-kind work of art and variations will occur as each family's interpretation is different. All Solidarite bowls can be hung via the loop incorporated into the back of the bowl. Decorative and functional, the bowl is a joyous symbol of art alleviating poverty. **\$55** Solidarite is an association comprised of 375 women and men joined together by their commitment to fight HIV/AIDS and alleviate poverty in their community. [Read more...](#)

This beautiful **Laptop Bag** offers vibrant, quilted, padded protection. The sturdy construction gives your laptop the security it needs and the vivid African fabrics give you the emotional boost you need! With sturdy zippered closure and double quilted handles, the bag measures 14"W x 11"H x 2"D. **\$45** Made by the women of INEZA, a sewing and craft cooperative staffed by women undergoing treatment for HIV. "The women who make up our cooperative are paid weekly wages, receive transportation and food supplements, and of course, are provided with HIV care and treatment - and YOGA!" [Read more...](#)



Back to Basics Necklace - Single, striking rolled fabric bead strung on a simple, graceful, black woven cotton cord. Wear alone or in multiples in varying lengths, from a choker to 25" long. Please note that each necklace is a one-of-a-kind treasure; no two are exactly the same. **\$12**

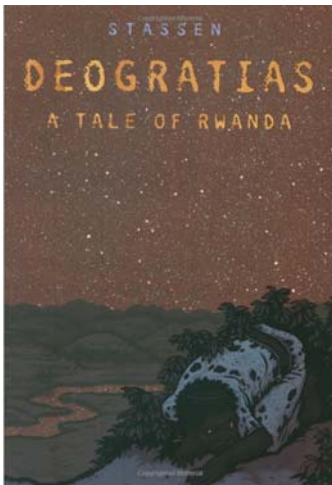
The women of Ejo Hazaza are living with HIV/AIDS and struggling to prevent transmission of the virus to their babies. These extraordinary women met through a "Preventing Mother to Child Transmission Program" at the Nyacyonga Health Clinic, outside of Kigali Rwanda.

The women decided to form a craft collective to generate income to buy baby formula as an alternative to breastfeeding in an effort to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus to their babies. They named the cooperative "Ejo Hazaza" because it means 'tomorrow' and "we hope to continue to live tomorrow in good health by supporting ourselves financially and each other emotionally." [Read more...](#)

All of this month's recommended products come through **Manos de Madres** ("Hands of Mothers"), a non-profit organization dedicated to carving pathways out of poverty and improving the lives of women and their families through income generation initiatives founded upon the principles of cooperation, creativity, fair trade and sustainability.

Recommended Books

Fiction



Deogratias, A Tale of Rwanda by J.P. Stassen (First Second, 2006)

Deogratias means "thanks be to God," and it's the name of a boy coming of age in Rwanda in 1994. He is just figuring out what it means to be a man, and wrestling with the feelings he harbors toward two sisters, Apollinaria and Benina. The sisters are themselves struggling to establish their own place in society and understand the difficult decisions their mother, Venetia, has made. But Deogratias is Hutu, and they are Tutsi, a simple fact that renders all of their internal battles irrelevant. This award-winning comic was originally published in Belgium in 2000 and has an introduction explaining the history leading to the Rwandan genocide. The heartbreaking power of *Deogratias* is how it keeps the reader distant from the atrocities by showing the trivial cruelties of everyday life before and after the genocide. There is no catharsis, only the realization that even justice turns its champion into a monster. — Publishers Weekly

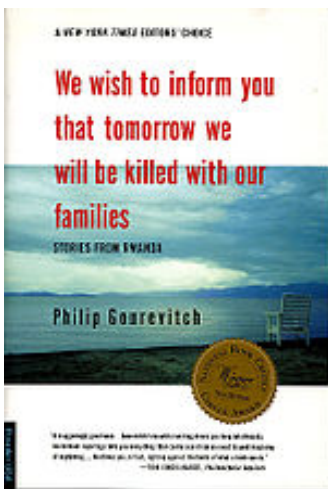
"Very powerful for the imagery ... the artwork is stunning. - Goodreads

Running the Rift by Naomi Benaron (Algonquin Books, 2012)

Running the Rift follows Jean Patrick Nkuba, a gifted Rwandan boy, from the day he knows that running will be his life to the moment he must run to save his life, a ten-year span in which his country is undone by the Hutu-Tutsi tensions. Born a Tutsi, he is thrust into a world where it's impossible to stay apolitical. Yet in an environment increasingly restrictive for the Tutsi, he holds fast to his dream of becoming Rwanda's first Olympic medal contender in track, a feat he believes might deliver him and his people from this violence. When the killing begins, Jean Patrick is forced to flee, leaving behind the woman, the family, and the country he loves. Finding them again is the race of his life. "In Naomi Benaron's *Running the Rift*, a novel full of unspeakable strife but also joy, humor, and love, hope always chases close on the heels of despair, thanks to a writer who knows when to keep a steady pace and when to explode into an all-out sprint." —O, The Oprah Magazine



Non-fiction



We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda by Philip Gourevitch (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998)

Philip Gourevitch's haunting work is an anatomy of the war in Rwanda, a vivid history of the tragedy's background, and an unforgettable account of its aftermath. One of the most acclaimed books of the year, this account will endure as a chilling document of our time.

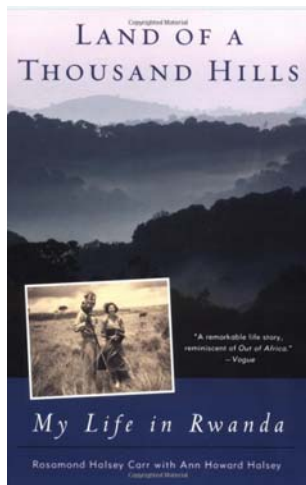
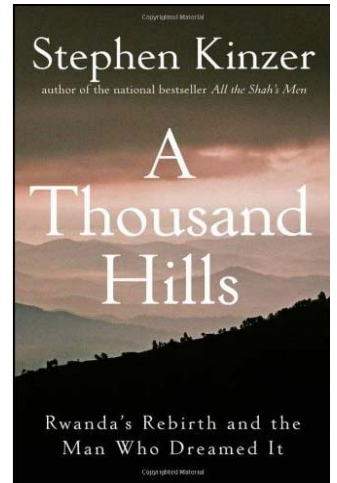
"The most important book I have read in many years . . . [Gourevitch] examines [the genocidal war in Rwanda] with humility, anger, grief and a remarkable level of both political and moral intelligence."—Susie Linfield, *Los Angeles Times*

Non-fiction - continued

A Thousand Hills: Rwanda's Rebirth and the Man Who Dreamed It by Stephen Kinzer
(John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2008)

Read the story of Paul Kagame, a refugee who found his way home after a generation of exile. As Rwanda's president, Kagame strives to make Rwanda the first middle-income country in Africa, in a single generation. In this adventurous tale, learn about Kagame's early fascination with Che Guevara and James Bond, his years as an intelligence agent, his training in Cuba and the United States, the way he built his secret rebel army, his bloody rebellion, and his outsized ambitions for Rwanda.

"What a fascinating tale! What an inspiration! The courage and triumph of Paul Kagame show the beauty of reconciliation and of transcendent leadership."—Walter Isaacson, CEO, the Aspen Institute



Land of a Thousand Hills: My Life in Rwanda by Rosamond Halsey Carr (Plume, 2000)

In 1949, Rosamond Halsey Carr, a young fashion illustrator living in New York City, accompanied her dashing hunter-explorer husband to what was then the Belgian Congo. When the marriage fell apart, she decided to stay on in neighboring Rwanda, as the manager of a flower plantation. This book is Carr's thrilling memoir of her life in Rwanda - a love affair with a country and a people that has spanned half a century. During those years, she has experienced everything from stalking leopards to rampaging elephants, drought, the mysterious murder of her friend Dian Fossey, and near-bankruptcy. She has chugged up the Congo River on a paddle-wheel steamboat, been serenaded by pygmies, and witnessed firsthand the collapse of colonialism. Following 1994's Hutu-Tutsi genocide, Carr turned her plantation into a shelter for the lost and orphaned children - work she continues to this day, at the age of eighty-seven.

"A remarkable woman and a powerful story. This book offers the closest, and probably most personal, perspective many of us are ever likely to get on the imperiled "land of a thousand hills." -- *America*

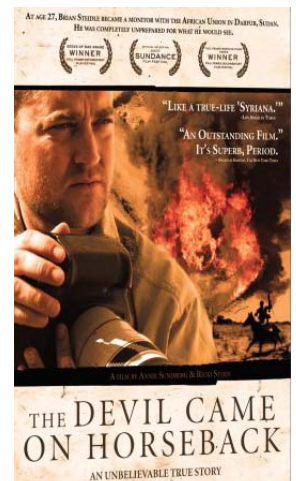
Recommended Films & Videos

The Devil Came on Horseback (2007: 85 minutes)

Recommended by Grassroots Global, this film also features Gretchen Wallace, founder of Global Grassroots, and Senator Barack Obama, who has also made Darfur his personal mission. The movie is accompanied by *Supporting Survivors*, a short film about Global Grassroots.

Former Marine Captain Brian Steidle, Gretchen Wallace's brother, joined the African Union in 2004 to help monitor the cease-fire in Sudan. As he puts it, "All I had was a camera, a pen, and paper. I was totally unprepared for what I'd see."

An unarmed military civilian, he describes his observations, via voice-over and audio recordings, as filmmakers Annie Sundberg and Ricki Stern alternate between their contemporary footage and his images of slaughtered civilians and incinerated villages. Steidle wrote his reports and took his pictures, but nothing changed. He went to *The New York Times*, and they published his photographs. The soldier-turned-activist proceeded to spread the word everywhere he could.





Rwanda: Do Scars Ever Fade? (2008: 70 minutes)

In 1994, the small African country of Rwanda was awash in blood. Extremists in the majority Hutu-controlled government organized a systematic genocide of Rwanda's minority Tutsi population. In just 100 days, more than 800,000 were killed.

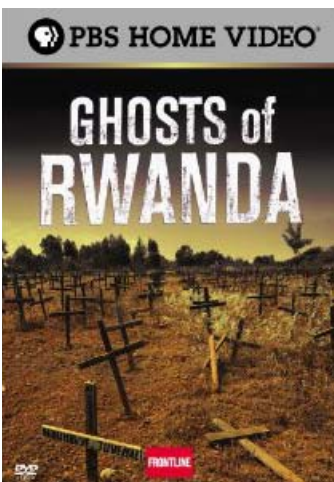
The atrocity was halted a decade ago, but for Rwandans the ordeal does not yet have an ending. Today, the physical scars sustained by survivors are fading, but emotional scars remain. "Rwanda: Do Scars Ever Fade?" explores the country's turbulent pre-genocide history, the horrifying 1994 slaughter, and the difficult ten-year, post-genocide period during which the current government has embarked upon an ambitious effort aimed at reconciliation. The program grapples with a perplexing question: How does a country haunted by the scourge of its past recover? - United States Institute of Peace.

Hotel Rwanda (2004, 122 minutes)

Solidly built around a subtle yet commanding performance by Don Cheadle, *Hotel Rwanda* emerged as one of the most highly-praised dramas of 2004. In a role that demands his quietly riveting presence in nearly every scene, Cheadle plays real-life hero Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel manager in the Rwandan capital of Kigali who in 1994 saved 1,200 Rwandan "guests" from certain death during the genocidal clash between tribal Hutus, who slaughtered a million victims, and the horrified Tutsis, who found safe haven or died.

Cheadle plays Rusesabagina as he really was during the ensuing chaos: "an expert in situational ethics" (as described by critic Roger Ebert), doing what he morally *had* to do, at great risk and potential sacrifice, with an understanding that wartime negotiations are largely a game of subterfuge, cooperation, and clever bribery. - Jeff Shannon - Amazon

"Emerges as an African version of 'Schindler's List.'" – USA Today



Ghosts of Rwanda: Frontline (2004, 120 minutes)

A decade after the genocide in which Hutu extremists killed some 800,000 Rwandans, PBS's Frontline series takes a hard look at how such an atrocity occurred through the lens of social, political and diplomatic factors.

The program provides firsthand accounts of the situation through interviews with officials, relief workers, U.N. peacekeepers, diplomats and survivors, and explores whether a similar situation could occur again.

"One of the most in depth and best documentaries I have seen on the subject ... this DVD showed me the story from the sides of the victims, rebels, journalists and people who were there." - Amazon

Sometimes in April (2005, 140 minutes)

Debra Winger co-stars in this heart-wrenching HBO drama that focuses on the horrifying 1994 Rwandan massacre in which Hutu nationalists systematically slaughtered nearly a million of their Tutsi countrymen. At the center of the story are two Hutu brothers torn apart by the conflict: a reluctant soldier who desperately tries to get his family to safety, and his brother, who espouses propaganda via the radio waves.

“A powerful and effective piece of filmmaking. Full of sadness and a fair amount of anger yet not vitriolic.” – Killer Movie Reviews



Music

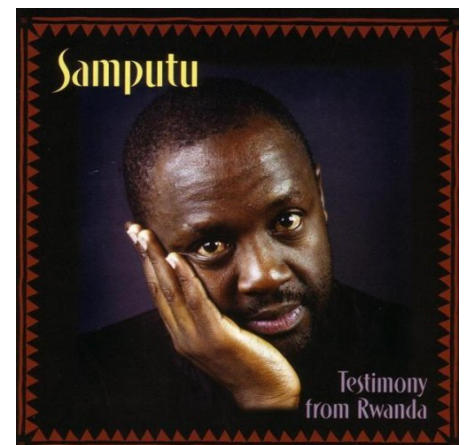


Cécile Kayirebwa – Supreme Rwandan vocalist Cécile was born in Kigali in 1946 and had a peaceful childhood growing up in the country known as 'Land of a thousand hills'. At school in the 1950s she was part of a singing group called Circle of Rwandan Song and Dance - their work was broadcast on Radio Rwanda. Cécile had a very strong interest in finding the origins of Rwandan music and she pursued that during her employment as a social worker after leaving school.

She felt determined that Rwandan music should be preserved and shared worldwide. [Listen!](#)

Jean Paul Samputu has established himself as one of the most prominent African artists on the world stage. Samputu sings in six languages and in styles ranging from soukous and rumba, to traditional Rwandan 5/8, Afrobeat, pygmy, and gospel. A winner of the prestigious Kora Award (the "African Grammy") in 2003, Samputu travels the world as a cultural ambassador for Rwanda, bringing to his audiences not only traditional African singing, dancing, and drumming, but also a message of peace and reconciliation.

A survivor of the genocide in Rwanda, Samputu takes us to the most positive place of humanity through his spirit and graciousness. [Listen!](#)



Cornelius Nyungura (born 24 March 1977) is a singer who performs under the name Corneille. He was born in Germany to Rwandan parents, though he currently holds a Canadian passport and sings in French and English. His work is greatly influenced by American funk and soul music; among those he admires are Prince, Marvin Gaye and Stevie Wonder.

“His lyrics are fresh and smart, smooth and powerful as he sings about love and innocence, as well as the Rwandan genocide which took away his family and childhood friends. The result is a fantastic album of various musical origins, just like the singer: African, Canadian and French.” – Babacar M. Diene – Amazon

[Listen!](#)