**Judaica Fair Trade and Chanukah Gelt**

I am participating in a Reconstructionist Learning Group on how to integrate fair-trade principles into our consumer choices. The focus is on how we translate Jewish values of human dignity, self-sufficiency and environmental sustainability into our congregational and community life. With Chanukah on the horizon we have been focusing on fair-traded chocolate. We have studied about the sourcing of cocoa and discussed the current situation where young children are trafficked and forced into working on cocoa farms with no pay and in unsafe conditions, particularly in the Ivory Coast, where more than half the world’s cocoa is grown.

On Chanukah many of us purchase chocolate gelt, and I want to make you aware of the opportunity to buy what is being termed Guilt Free Gelt, that is both fair traded and kosher called Divine Chocolate ([www.divinechocolate.com/us/)](http://www.divinechocolate.com/us/)). You will have to purchase it directly through the website since the notice was too short to make it available through the KI Judaica store this year. There is also a great organization, [Fair Trade Judaica](http://www.fairtradejudaica.org/) which offers ritual items, crafts and food products that are third party certified as adhering to fair trade principles. Fair trade purchases gives us the opportunity to use our dollars to support our Jewish values to strengthen communities and promote a just trade system.

Marcia Horan