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The Candle Night Newsletter--#26
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Candle Night Committee

Japan is changing into the colors of autumn. Some people have started preparing for our next campaign, "Candle Night December Solstice." How about joining us on the next solstice, December 21, 2008?

Topics

- *Candle Night in December 2008
- *Candle Night website for December is coming soon!
- *Luminaria di Santa Croce--A Festival in Italy

Candle Night in December 2008.

Turn off your lights for two hours from 8 to 10 p.m.
on the evening of December 21, 2008.

Do something special . . .
Read a book with your child by candlelight.
Enjoy a quiet dinner with a special person.
This night can mean many things for many people.
A time to save energy, to think about peace,
to think about people in distant lands
who share our planet.

Pulling the plug opens the window to a new world.
Awakens us to human freedom and diversity.
It is a process of discovery about our potential.
However you spend them, for just two hours, join us.
Turning off the lights, and help us spread
a gentle wave of candlelight around the earth.

On the evening of December 21, from 8 to 10 p.m.

Turn off your lights. Take it slow.

Candle Night website for December is coming soon!

The next Candle Night is near. We are updating our website for the campaign. Our "On-Off Museum" will be opening soon.

On this website, people can upload their photos taken with the lights both on and off during Candle Night. By just turning off the lights and lighting a candle you can change the scenery. You'll see things differently in everyday life.

<http://www.candle-night.org/on-off-museum/>

Stories Related to Candles

Luminaria di Santa Croce--A Festival in Italy

In Lucca, a medieval walled city in the Tuscany region of Italy, an illusionary festival of lights called the Luminaria di Santa Croce, is held in September. It is part of the traditional Santa Croce Festival which is called "Settembre Lucchese" in Italian, meaning "Lucca's September."

The origin of the festival is said to be either a traditional event from when merchants would come and go to the town, or as a religious festival celebrated in rural areas.

During the festival, various events are held along with the festival of lights, including music concerts, opera, cultural events, sports events, and fairs.

Located at the center of the festival is "il Volto Santo," a wooden sculpture of Christ. The sculpture is housed inside the Lucca Cathedral. According to legend, the sculptor was Nicodemus, a disciple of Jesus. It was lost some time in the 8th century, but was found and carried back to the town in the year 782. Since then, Lucca has been a place where pilgrims from all over Europe visit.

On the evening of September 13, the citizens of Lucca, dressed in their Medieval costumes paraded to the center of the town. They went to the Lucca Cathedral and prayed to the "il Volto Santo".

During the procession, the lights were turned off. People placed candles in front of their houses and on signs of shops. Churches, belfries and palazzi were also decorated with many candles.

Lucca is a beautiful town, preserving historical streetscapes and surrounded by walls of the 16th to 17th centuries. The town was originally explored by

Etruscans, and unified by ancient Rome around 180 B.C. Since then, Romans have made up a large part of it's population.

After the Western Roman Empire was destroyed, the town was pillaged by Odoacer. In 553 A.D., it was besieged by the Eastern Roman Empire. It played an important role as a city and as a fortress.

Through such historical transitions, Lucca was incorporated into the Kingdom of Italy, established in 1861.

The town features Piazza dell' Anfiteatro, the plaza of the former amphitheater of ancient Rome, and the opera composer Giacomo Puccini, whose 150th birthday is being celebrated in the year 2008. Tourists from around the world visit the town and it's many Puccini-inspired areas .

Nobody knows exactly when the Luminaria di Santa Croce began and when the candle decorations started. However, the candles set among the historic buildings in Lucca make many people feel as if they were in ancient times.

Do you know of any stories or festivals related to candles and lights? If so, please tell us.

The report on Candle Night Summer Solstice 2008 will be on the web soon. Please stay tuned.

We also invite your local stories, festivals and events related to candles and fires. Please send emails to: eninfo@candle-night.org

Editor's Note

There is a serious global financial crisis happening. Excessive globalization of the economy has blurred the principles of the world. I believe taking time and reflecting will be much more important now.

I am now inclined to live minimally, with as little water, energy, wastewater, and garbage as possible. Reducing excess little by little makes me realize that actions in my daily life can help reduce things too. (YK)

We hope you enjoyed this issue of the Candle Night Newsletter. If you find the Candle Night Newsletter interesting, please forward it to friends and suggest that they start their own free subscriptions at <http://www.candle-night.org/english/>

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We welcome your comments. Please send them to: eninfo@candle-night.org

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