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The Candle Night Newsletter #29  
March 25, 2009, Copyright (c) 2009  
Candle Night Committee

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Candle Night Summer Solstice 2009 will be from June 20 to July 7 (Summer Solstice June 21). Although our campaigns are planned on the winter and summer solstices, you can also enjoy Candle Night whenever you want. Just turn off the lights and spend some quality time in the candlelight--it will be your own Candle Night.

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#### Topics

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- \*Lights-Out Initiatives Attracting People Worldwide
- \*Many People Enjoyed Candle Night--Candle Night Saskatchewan, Canada
- \*Candle Night is a Cultural Movement

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We released the 2008 Activity Report on the following URL. Please take a look to see the whole picture of our initiative.

[http://www.candle-night.org/english/pdf/candle\\_report2009\\_en.pdf](http://www.candle-night.org/english/pdf/candle_report2009_en.pdf)

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#### Lights-Out Initiatives Attracting People Worldwide

"Candle Night" would like to provide a platform to other lights-out events and initiatives. In this issue, we will introduce upcoming Earth Hour 09 and other Candle Night events.

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Global Lights-Out Initiative: Earth Hour 09 on March 28 20:30-21:30

Earth Hour 09, led by WWF Australia, will be held on a global scale on March 28, 2009.

If you find it interesting, please visit their website and find the detail.

<http://www.earthhour.org/>

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Earth Hour is a worldwide campaign that aims to educate the community about the threats of climate change, informing individuals and businesses about the difference they can make by reducing their emissions at home and in the workplace.

Earth Hour is an Australian initiative that began in Sydney in 2007. Approximately 2.2 million people and 2,100 businesses took part in the first year.

In 2008 Earth Hour was held on Saturday 29 March, 2008 and involved between 50 and 100 million people in 370 cities and towns around the world, including Chicago, Toronto, Copenhagen, Dublin, Atlanta and Bangkok took part.

Earth Hour 2009 aims to reach 1 billion people in more than 1,000 cities, encouraging them to turn off their lights as a message to the world's leaders that strong action needs to be taken to combat climate change.

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We also recieved information on Candle Night events from our global partners.

\*Earth Candle Night Mauritius will be held on May 8, 2009.

\*The FOE Hong Kong will hold "Dim It" on June 21, 2009.

We will pick up how people spend the time without electric lights in our future newsletters.

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Event Report--Candle Night December 2008

Many People Enjoyed Candle Night--Candle Night Saskatchewan, Canada

The first Candle Night in Regina City, Saskatchewan State was held with much enthusiasm on December 21, 2008.

The State of Saskatchewan is located on the prairie in midwest Canada. The summer is comfortable, dry and moderate. The average summer temperature is 25 to 30 degrees Celsius,

but winter temperatures can get as low as 25 degrees below zero Celsius. In January and February, it is freezing cold--sometimes it could be an astonishing 45 degrees below zero. It snows less because the freezing temperatures are said to keep snow away. Akira Watanabe, one of the organizers of the event said, "It is very impressive to see the road stretching straight on the prairie, slightly covered with snow, under the clear cold blue sky."

It was a clear sunny day on December 21 when the Candle Night event was held. The event site, "The Exchange", is where many cultural and other community events are held. Candle Night was a lengthy event held from 3:00 to 6:00 in the afternoon and again from 6:00 to 9:00 in the evening. Some 50 people joined the afternoon event, while 110 came to the evening gathering. The event was picked up on the Leader Post, a local paper and Global TV, a local TV and radio station. It was also introduced on a website for immigrants in Canada. Twenty-six businesses supported the event. Some artists in the area volunteered their artistic talents.

Candle holders decorated at the center of the performance stage were created by Ms. Carol Cairns, a rising artist in the area. They were globe-shaped holders made of Japanese "washi" paper.

At the afternoon event, "Briarpatch", a national newspaper dealing with environmental topics gave an exhibition at their booth. An information booth to introduce Japan was also there. Local beeswax candle creators, Greg and Lynda Rideout held demonstrations for participants. About 90 percent of the candles at the event were their candles, either by their donation or by purchase.

At the evening event, a live acoustic concert was performed by local musicians. A story-telling performance was also held, featuring the earth, the environment, peace and human relations. There was also an auction

The performers included:

Brett Dolter (Guitar & Vocal)

Scott Fulton (Drum), Carl Johnson (Guitar & Vocal)

Etienne Soulodre (Flute, Tenor Saxophone)

James Donais & Megan Leach: "A Story of White and First Nation Friends"

Hilary Craig: Raven Brings the Light

Kevin McKenzie "What I heard from My Mom"

Akira Watanabe "The Flight of the Hummingbird"

The event was held jointly by Regina EcoLiving, an organization that is engaged in environmental activities and the dissemination of information in Regina City, and Little Japan on the Prairies. Organizers are: Malin Hansen of Regina EcoLiving, and Kiyohito Hirakata and Akira Watanabe of Little Japan on the Prairies. Many Saskatchewan citizens, Canadians of Japanese origin, and Japanese who live in Saskatchewan participated in the event.

Participants who enjoyed the event gave the following comments:

Great way of celebrating the special night!

The most comfortable atmosphere I've ever been as a storyteller.

It's a dream setting any storyteller dreams of.

Great experience!! Great success!!

Watanabe would like to hold the next Candle Night event with local event organizers that have been working for ecological fairs and lantern festivals.

If you have a chance to visit the city in the summer of 2009, why don't you join them?

Yuko Kishikami

Candle Night Committee

Related URLs:

Ms. Hilary Craig: Raven Brings the Light:

<http://coldwatercounselingcenter.org/raven.aspx>;

Regina EcoLiving <http://www.reginaecoliving.ca/>

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Candle Night is a cultural movement

As global environmental awareness is raised, we have received some comments and questions from our readers on how Candle Night is related to environmental issues, especially with energy saving and CO2 emissions.

The following is an answer to those questions:

"Candle Night" is a cultural movement to encourage people to spend some quality time with

their loved ones and friends in more natural light, away from everyday life and artificial lighting. It does not encourage burning candles instead of using electric lighting.

"Candle Night" can offer people time to think about what really matters to them during quiet and quality time in the candlelight, something all of us tend to forget in our busy everyday lives. We hope it will eventually lead us to long-term solutions to current problems and give us a chance to overcome our "economic supremacy." Even though lighting candles may emit small amounts of CO2, we believe the benefits of the Candle Night activities are valuable to our societies and our futures.

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#### Editor's Note

Early in February, I enjoyed snorkeling at the coral reefs around Shiraho Village of Ishigaki Island, a southernmost area of Japan. It has the largest blue coral colonies. I would have enjoyed it forever, but I was trembling from the low temperatures. The construction of a new airport on Ishigaki Island started raising concerns about the influence the construction is having not only in the sea, but on the land of Ishigaki Island too.

(YK)

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

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We welcome your comments. Please send them to: [eninfo@candle-night.org](mailto:eninfo@candle-night.org)

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