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The Candle Night Newsletter--#14
December 18, 2006, Copyright (c) 2006
Candle Night Committee

Turn off the lights and take it slow, for two hours from 8 to 10 p.m. on the night of December 22,
2006.

How about spending some quality time in the candlelight.

Topics

*Candlescape is now open--Post your message!

*Lucia Celebration in Sweden

*What is real "happiness"--Gross National Happiness in Bhutan

Lucia Celebration in Sweden

Stories on Candle and Fire

On December 13, people in Sweden and other Scandinavian countries celebrate Saint Lucia, who brings "light" to the darkness of winter. It's traditional for the eldest daughter in the family to portray Saint Lucia. She serves coffee to family members early in the morning. Lucia is dressed in a white gown with a red sash around her waist. She also wears a wreath with lighted candles in her hair. Lucia Celebration is also held in hospitals, schools, offices and other public places, making it one of the most favorite holiday traditions in Sweden.

Churches have Lucia concerts, where a Lucia, dressed in white, and a train of children hold candles and sing Lucia songs and Christmas carols. In many cities, there is a parade of children dressed in white, who walk through the streets singing traditional songs. You will see many Lucias on that day. If you are lucky (or unlucky) you will see a man dressed as Lucia!

On Lucia day, people eat "lussekatt," saffron-flavored buns. There are several stories about the origin of the name, but their unique shape topped with raisins resemble cats. "Katt" means cats. Ginger cookies are also traditional Lucia sweets. In addition to coffee, "glogg" (mulled wine with raisins and almonds) is also served.

Lucia Day, which falls on the winter solstice according to the Julian calendar, offers hope that the dark winter nights in Sweden will start getting shorter day by day.

(Yuko Kishikami, the Candle Night Committee)

What is real happiness--"Gross National Happiness" in Bhutan
Essays on Candle Night

Bhutan is a kingdom located in the Himalayan mountains. After 1971, when the isolation policy ended, the limited number of immigrants and people in Bhutan kept their traditional way of life.

In November, Shin-ichi Tsuji, a promoter of Candle Night, held an event to introduce Bhutan to Japanese people.

Bhutan uses "Gross National Happiness" (GNH) as an indicator to show the affluence of a country, instead of GDP and GNP.

"Western people and Japanese people can manufacture a quality watch, but they don't have the time to use it. People in Bhutan don't have the technology to produce a quality watch, but they have plenty time to use it. They can wait for a bus for three days, if they missed theirs.

When I hear the story, I come to realize that Candle Night should be measured by GNH, not by GNP, an economic indicator.

(Kim Yuka, the Candle Night Committee)

Candlescape is now open--Post your message!

"Candlescape" displays messages in many languages from participants around the world.

Click the globe at the bottom of the screen, and it will start moving.

When you find the place you want to look at close up, double-click that point on the globe.

Then, double-click the dot on the close-up map and the message will be displayed.

You can send your own message by clicking the "post your message" button and following the instructions.

Note: Recommended system requirements: Windows CPU: Pentium/Celeron 1GHz or greater, Macintosh CPU: PowerPC G4 800 MHz or greater; System Memory: 512 MB or greater; Display resolution 1024 x 768 or higher; Flash Player 8 or higher.

234 events are registered on our event page. (as of December 18)

<http://event.candle-night.org/>

The following URLs are registered events outside Japan:

*noite das velas Brazil 2006

<http://event.candle-night.org/detail.php?id=1189>

*Candle Night 2006 in Melbourne

<http://event.candle-night.org/detail.php?id=1181>

*Six events will be held in Taiwan

<http://event.candle-night.org/detail.php?id=1180>

<http://event.candle-night.org/detail.php?id=1179>

<http://event.candle-night.org/detail.php?id=1178>

<http://event.candle-night.org/detail.php?id=1177>

<http://event.candle-night.org/detail.php?id=1176>

<http://event.candle-night.org/detail.php?id=1044>

In Tokyo a movie event in the candlelight is planned. The event will use electricity generated by bicycles.

<http://event.candle-night.org/detail.php?id=1040>

Please send your event information too!

Please send us information on Candle Night events in your community.

We also invite your local stories, festivals and events related to candles and fires.

Please send emails to: eninfo@candle-night.org

We hope you enjoyed this issue of the Candle Night Newsletter.

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We welcome your comments. Please send them to:

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