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The Candle Night Newsletter--#17

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Candle Night Committee

The 2007 Candle Night Summer Solstice will be from June 22nd to 24th, from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m..

What are your plans for Candle Night this year?

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Topics

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*"Candlenight" music video by Anja Light is now on YouTube.

*Stories about lights--Easter in Romania

*Mauritius held the 2nd Candle Night

*Candle Night around the world

*"Candlenight" on YouTube

Anja Light, a singer-songwriter and environmentalist, released "Candlenight" on YouTube.

Anja Light was born in Sweden and grew up in Australia. She has been an environmentalist and anti-nuclear activist in Australia, Malaysia, Japan and other countries since she was a teenager.

Please enjoy her beautiful song, "Candlenight" at the following URL.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5i0JbmBHs5I>

Stories about lights--Easter in Romania

This year's Resurrection Day, or Easter Sunday, fell on the 8th of April. In Romania, Easter is called "Paste," which is one of the largest festivals in the country. To celebrate Easter, people work hard to

prepare special dishes for the feast. The Easter dishes in Romania include colorful Easter eggs, a variety of lamb dishes made from almost the entire lamb, and Romanian specialties like "sarmale" (stuffed cabbage) and "cozonac" (pancake-like sweets). Lamb dishes and cozonac are the most popular Easter foods in Romania.

On the eve of Easter Sunday, people start gathering at church a little before the midnight. And then, on the stroke of the midnight, priests holding crosses, pictures of saints, and candles come out of the backroom of the church, chanting a sermon. People attending the mass also hold candles in their hands, and they get holy fire from the priests to light their candles. Then, they gather at a square in front of the church, saying to each other, "Christ returns to life!" and "Indeed He returns!" Thus, Easter begins with a fantastic view of candlelight spreading at the square.

In Romania, it is said that your wishes come true if you make a wish and keep your candle lit on your way home from the midnight mass. After returning home from church with holy fire lighting their candles, people enjoy a feast to celebrate Easter with families and friends, even at midnight. First, they eat bread they were given at church. Then, they break colored eggs by hitting each other with the eggs while saying "Christ returns to life!" and "Indeed He returns!" When the feast ends, candles are lit again so the guests can return home with candlelight to make a wish.

A Japanese lady living in Romania, says: "These days in Romania, religion is not very closely linked with people's daily lives. It might be in line with the trends of the times, and not so many people go to church regularly. Most of the young generations seldom go to church except on Easter and Christmas, just like young Japanese do not join most of traditional ceremonies except New Years. Still, it is wonderful that they celebrate Easter as an occasion, even if it's only once a year, to spend a relaxing time with their families and friends and wish for their happiness. For the Easter celebration, families get together for preparation, cleaning their houses, making special dishes and coloring Easter eggs. They also share their dishes with their neighbors, which is nice. And the greatest part of Romania Easter, for me, is the midnight mass with candle light--the view of thousands of candles lit in the darkness in the silence of night makes us feel at peace, no matter whether we are Christians or not. I think this annual festival lasts long even in the modern days because everybody feels it is an important part of life to have a moment to let us keep peace in our souls."

People have a few days before Easter to enjoy a relaxing time.

On Easter day, people go to church, including those who come less frequently. It is not just a religious festival but also a good occasion for people to slow down to figure out their lives.

(Yuko Kisikami, Candle Night Committee)

*Mauritius held the 2nd Candle Night.

On May 4, 2007, Mauritius held a Candle Night event. It was their second Candle Night, the first one taking place last year.

Organized by civic associations, such as the Association Civique Midlands, this year's Candle Night in Mauritius gained support from the Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS) and the Central Electricity Board. Chairman of the Grand-Port Savanne District Council (GPSDC), Mayor of the Municipal Council of Curepipe (MCC) and the representative of the CEB were the main guests of the event.

In the candlelight, participants enjoyed songs, a sitar recital, rock music and dance.

Although gaining media attention is still difficult in the country, we believe the organizers call for people in Mauritius to change their energy-use habits, saying "Small steps make the difference, and small steps are meaningful ones."

(Yuko Kisikami, Candle Night Committee)

*Subscribers of the Candle Night Newsletter spreading throughout the world.

Subscribers of the Candle Night Newsletter are spreading to the following 48 countries and regions. If you don't find your country in the list below, please let us know.

Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cuba, Egypt, France, Germany, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, U.K., U.S.A., Viet Nam, Zimbabwe, Cook Islands

We are very happy to know that more and more people in the world have come to know Candle Night. We hope more and more people share the same feelings in the candlelight.

(Candle Night Committee)

The next Candle Night, Candle Night Summer Solstice 2007, will be held from June 22 to 24, 2007. Please turn off your lights and enjoy slow quality time.

We also released the 2006 Activity Report on the following URL. Please take a look to see the whole picture of our initiative.

http://www.candle-night.org/english/news/200611_candle_night_summer_solstice_2.php

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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