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The Candle Night Newsletter--#20  
October 25, 2007, Copyright (c) 2007  
Candle Night Committee

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Here in Japan, the hot summer has ended and now it's autumn. We hear news of the beautiful colored leaves and first snow on Mt. Fuji. What season is your country in?

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#### Topics

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- \*A Family's Wishes on Candle Night
- \*Getting the Candle Night Message Across to the World--Fuji Xerox Co.
- \*Candles for hope and courage--Relay For Life 2007 in Ashiya, Hyogo

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A Family's Wishes on Candle Night--  
The Story of Ivory (Los Angeles U.S.A.)

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Ivory (pen name) and her three daughters aged 9, 4, and nine-months old, from Los Angeles, U.S.A., enjoyed Candle Nights on June 22 and 23.

They started to prepare at around six o'clock. Ivory and the children put about 100 tea light candles in lanterns and jam pots, placing them around the deck. They enjoyed Candle Night from 8 to 10 p.m.

They read story books and ate dinner in the garden by candlelight. They had a good time enjoying the outdoors at night. Some of the books they read included, "The Important Book" by Margaret Wise Brown, "Prayer for a child" by Rachel Field, and "Good Night Story." Ivory drank herbal tea and talked with her children about what they want to be in the future. It got darker around 8 p.m. Ivory expressed, "Candles are beautiful at nightfall, too.

They prayed for peace in the world and for the safety of their friends' father who is in Iraq. It was a time to be thankful for their safety and happiness for the two years they've been in L.A. Ivory says, "In L.A., airplanes and helicopters fly, even at night. But when we had a Candle Night, we could see many stars after we spent slow time in the candlelight."

Finally, they carried their lanterns inside. The children were happy because they stayed up a little late that night. They found something special in the candlelight. She told us she would tell her friends about her wonderful experience.

You can enjoy Candle Night with many people, with your friends and families, or just by yourself.

How about having a Candle Night in the winter solstice?

Download an English flyer on Candle Night from:

[http://www.candle-night.org/english/how\\_to\\_join\\_candlenight\\_ura.pdf](http://www.candle-night.org/english/how_to_join_candlenight_ura.pdf)

[http://www.candle-night.org/english/how\\_to\\_join\\_candlenight\\_omote.pdf](http://www.candle-night.org/english/how_to_join_candlenight_omote.pdf)

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Getting the Candle Night Message Across to the World--

Fuji Xerox Co.

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A company is a place not just for working but also for socializing as well as making a contribution to society.

On this year's summer solstice, many people enjoyed Candle Night in various ways across Japan. Some people spent quiet time with their families and friends. Some joined events sponsored by non-governmental organizations or even by companies. This article introduces one such well-known company that organized a series of Candle Night events

Fuji Xerox Co., a Tokyo-based leading photocopier and facsimile machine company, supports the idea of Candle Night. This year, the company encouraged its overseas affiliates to organize Candle Night events from June 22 – 24. Responding to this call, five affiliated companies held events: PT Astra Graphia Tbk in Indonesia (322 participants in 15 places); Fuji Xerox Limited of Hong Kong (the number of participants is unknown); IndoChina Operations in Vietnam (the number of participants is unknown); Fuji Xerox of Shanghai Limited in China (1941 participants from 782 families for three days); and Fuji Xerox Taiwan Corporation (the number of participants is unknown).

During this period, these affiliate companies organized their own Candle Night events, such as photography contests, poster displays at their factories, a sign-up corner for participants, and others.

According to the participants, they enjoyed Candle Night, spending an enjoyable time with families at home in the candlelight. The gentle light of candles surely warmed their hearts.

Yasuaki Miyamoto of the Corporate Social Responsibility Department said, "This was the first attempt for us to organize Candle Night events. I was not sure how many people would join. So I am very satisfied that many employees participated and enjoyed the Candle Night much more than expected. We will organize various enjoyable events in the future so we can promote Candle Night both inside and outside Japan."

There are some many ways to enjoy Candle Night. Why don't you organize Candle Night events at your office next time?

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Candles for hope and courage--Relay For Life 2007 in Ashiya, Hyogo

A story related to candles

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"Relay For Life" is an activity to support cancer patients by sponsoring a 24-hour walk relay. Once a year, those who are dedicated to fighting cancer in their community, gather to participate in the Relay For Life to celebrate cancer survivors and caregivers, pay tribute to the lives lost to the disease, and raise money to help fight it.

The event was started in 1985 by Dr. Gordy Klatt, a surgeon and member of the American Cancer Society in Seattle, U.S.A. Currently, the events are held in more than 4,800 cities in the U.S.A. alone, and in more than 20 countries all over the world.

For more information on Relay For Life, please visit <http://www.relayforlife.org/relay/>

On September 15, the second Relay For Life event was held in Japan at Ashiya Park in Ashiya City, Hyogo Prefecture in western Japan. What was it like? Approximately 4,000 people, including staff members of the event, walked around a 400-meter track for 24 hours. The relay walk was highlighted by using candles with messages, called "Luminaries."

At around five p.m. some 2,500 candles were decorated around the track and formed the letters "HOPE" on the side slope of the track.

Each candle was kept lit for 12 hours. It was placed in soil in a half-cut plastic bottle and covered by a bag that participants wrote messages on for cancer survivors and their deceased loved ones.

Shinji Fujita, a staff member of the event said, "My colleagues in charge of Luminarie had a challenging time preparing them. They had to affix the handwritten messages from all over Japan to each bag. They took special care so they would not burn. They also worked hard to prevent the candles from going out from the rain and wind."

During Luminarie, the candles were the only light for the event. Although there were street lamps on the highway near the park, the beautiful candles and people's thoughts for the event filled the atmosphere during the "candle run."

Fujikawa told us that he had tears in his eyes when he read a message on one of the bags--"Don't be so hard on yourself. You have fought enough." People's messages are words from their soul. Most participants spent time during the event feeling the souls around them. Flickering candles reminded them of their loved ones. Flames of candles lit the night with thoughts filled with love.

For Ashiya's Relay For Life, please visit <http://rfl-jp.net/hp/ashiya/2007/>  
(Only in Japanese)

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Candle Night website will be updated as the winter solstice approaches. English website is now being renewed. Stay tuned!  
<http://candle-night.org>

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

We 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](http://www.candle-night.org/english/news/200611_candle_night_summer_solstice_2.php)

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:

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