

HOLIDAY EVENTS & SHOWS

Omiyage museum store

Through Dec 24, 11am-6pm (Tue-Sat), noon-5pm (Sun), Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center (121 NW Second Ave, Portland). Shop for unique Japan-inspired gifts and crafts by local artists, designers, and authors at Omiyage, the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center's holiday shop. Featured items for sale include jewelry, fashion and home accessories, cards, origami creations, art objects, books, a selection of curated vintage items, and more. For info, call (503) 224-1458 or visit <www.oregonnikkei.org>.

Winter Wonderland at PIR

Through Dec 25, 5:30-9:30pm (Sun-Thu), 5-11pm (Fri-Sat), 5-9pm (Dec 24-25), Portland International Raceway (1940 N Victory Blvd, Portland). Enjoy the annual Winter Wonderland drive-through holiday lights extravaganza at Portland International Raceway (PIR). Illuminating the skies are Toyland, the Poinsettia Arch, Candy Cane Lane, Reindeer Road, and 250 display pieces featuring animated designs. Winter Wonderland benefits the Portland Police Bureau Sunshine Division, an organization that provides food and clothing to those in need. For info, call (503) 823-7223, ext. 1, or visit <www.winterwonderlandportland.com>.

OBT's The Nutcracker

Through Dec 26, 7:30pm (Tue-Fri), 2pm (Wed-Fri & Dec 26), noon (Sat), Keller Auditorium (SW Third Ave & SW Clay St, Portland). Watch the Oregon Ballet Theatre's presentation of George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*, featuring dancers Ansa Deguchi, Xuan Cheng, and others. Popular with young and old, the work is both a paragon of classical ballet and a fun fantasy for all. For info, or to buy tickets, call (503) 2-BALLET (222-5538) or visit <www.obt.org>.

Peacock Lane

Through Dec 31, 6-11pm, Peacock Lane (between SE Stark & SE Belmont St, one block east of SE César Chávez Blvd, Portland). Experience all the holiday warmth that 110 volts of AC power can provide as Portland's famous Christmas-light display illuminates the night. The free event is presented by homeowners, who encourage visitors to view the display on foot and enjoy hot cocoa. Peacock Lane is raising funds this year to apply for designation on the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places. For info, visit <www.peacocklane.org>.

ZooLights

Through Jan 1, 5-9pm (except Dec 24-25), Oregon Zoo (4001 SW Canyon Rd, Portland). Ring in the holiday season with the annual ZooLights display at the Oregon Zoo. The family tradition features music and more than 1.6 million lights illuminating life-size animal silhouettes, trees, buildings, walkways, and the zoo train. Popular returning displays include trumpeting elephants, swinging siamangs, a 35-foot-long Chinese dragon, leaping reindeer, tobogganing polar bears, playful penguins, and more. See related story on page 8. For info, or to buy tickets, call (503) 226-1561 or visit <www.oregonzoo.org/zoolights>.

"Gingerbread Adventures"

Through Jan 2, 9:30am-5:30pm (Tue-Sun),



HOLIDAY TRADITION. Xuan Cheng dances as the Sugarplum Fairy with Brian Simcoe as Cavalier in the Oregon Ballet Theatre presentation of George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*. Performances are scheduled through December 26 at Keller Auditorium in downtown Portland. (Photo)James McGrew, courtesy of the Oregon Ballet Theatre

Oregon Museum of Science & Industry (1945 SE Water Ave, Portland). Enjoy "Gingerbread Adventures," a display of gingerbread sculptures — including alien landscapes, a Tardis time machine, a Mars city, and others — by six architectural firms paired with six bakeries highlighting the innovation, engineering, and food science involved in assembling the elaborate creations. Exhibit activities include do-it-yourself gingerbread workshops, cookie lab experiments, and more. Visitors also have an opportunity to vote for their favorite sculpture. For info, call (503) 797-4000 or visit <www.oms.edu>.

Cirque Dreams Holiday

Dec 22-24, 7:30pm (Thu-Fri), 2pm (Sat), Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall (1037 SW Broadway, Portland). Attend *Cirque Dreams Holiday* to witness gingerbread men flipping in mid air, toy soldiers marching on thin wires, snowmen daringly balancing, icemen powerfully sculpting, penguins spinning, puppets dancing, and reindeer soaring high above a landscape. The show features an international cast of more than 30 multi-talented artists. For info, or to buy tickets, call (503) 248-4335 or visit <www.portland5.com>.

"Yule Log"

Dec 24, 9:30pm-1:30am, Oregon Public Broadcasting Plus (OPB Plus). Enjoy all the benefits of a holiday fire in the hearth without the trouble of hauling logs and cleaning up ashes. On Christmas Eve, Oregon Public Broadcasting plays seasonal music while televising a roaring fire at Timberline Lodge. Viewers should not attempt to toast marshmallows at the screen. To verify showtime, call (503) 293-1982 or visit <www.opb.org>.

Union Gospel Mission Christmas Day meal

Dec 25, 10am-1pm, Union Gospel Mission (15 NW Third Ave, Portland). Those in need and the homeless are invited to join Union Gospel Mission for a Christmas Day meal. As part of this year's event, the organization is distributing hats, gloves, socks, and blankets to attendees. For info, or to make or drop off a donation, call (503) 274-4483 or visit <www.ugmportland.org>.

Potluck in the Park

Dec 25, 1-4pm, Portland Art Museum, Mark Building (1119 SW Park Ave, Portland). Enjoy or volunteer at a free Christmas dinner. The dinner — featuring turkey with all the trimmings — is available to anyone in need or alone on Christmas. The event, which takes place on Park Avenue between SW Main & Madison Streets, includes jazz musicians playing dinner music, free phone calls to loved ones, photos with Santa, and gifts. Pet food and kennels are available during the meal. Potluck in the Park also serves a free meal to anyone in need at 3:00pm every Sunday of the year, rain or shine, at O'Bryant Square (SW Ninth Ave & SW Washington St, Portland). For info, to arrange transportation, or to make a donation, call (503) 255-7611 or visit <www.potluckinthepark.org>.

Kwanzaa celebration

Dec 27, 6-7:30pm, North Portland Library (512 N Killingsworth St, Portland). Learn about the seven principles of Kwanzaa at an event celebrating the second principle, *Kujichagulia* (self-determination). For info, call (503) 988-5394 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Whale watching on the Oregon coast

Dec 27-31, Oregon Coast. Brave the winter

weather for a sight of some of the estimated 20,000 gray whales expected to pass by Oregon's coast during the last week of the year. Between 10:00am and 1:00pm each day, volunteers are stationed at 24 overlooks and parks along the Oregon coast designated as "Whale Watching Spoken Here" sites to provide information about the marine mammals and help spot them in the surf. For info, call (541) 765-3304 or visit <www.whalespoken.org>.

"Noon Year's Eve Party for Preschoolers"

Dec 31, 11am-12:30pm, Northwest Library (2300 NW Thurman St, Portland). Families are invited to ring in the New Year with dancing, balloons, activities, and snacks at "Noon Year's Eve Party for Preschoolers." The free event is aimed at children younger than six years old with an accompanying adult. For info, call (503) 988-5560 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Dharma Rain Zen Center New Year's Eve celebration

Dec 31, 7pm-1am, Dharma Rain Zen Center (8500 NE Siskiyou St, Portland). Attend a New Year's Eve celebration at the Dharma Rain Zen Center's new location at Siskiyou Square. The event includes a vegetarian potluck, sacred dancing, a ceremony, meditation, and 108 strikes of the bell. No reservations are necessary and attendees are asked to bring a vegetarian dish to share. For info, call (503) 728-0654 or visit <www.greatvow.org>.

"Jai Ho! Bollywood New Years Eve"

Dec 31, 8pm-1:30am, Hawthorne Theatre (1507 SE César Chávez Blvd, Portland). Enjoy "Jai Ho! Bollywood New Years Eve," a party for persons age 21 and older featuring DJ Prashant and special guests. For info, call (971) 344-2022 or visit <www.jaihonewyear.com>.

"New York Philharmonic New Year's Eve"

Dec 31, 9-10:30pm, Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB). Watch "New York Philharmonic New Year's Eve," a Live from Lincoln Center performance ringing in the New Year with a night of American classics. To verify showtime, call (503) 293-1982 or visit <www.opb.org>.

DJ Anjali & The Incredible Kid New Year celebration

Dec 31, 9pm-3am, Melody Ballroom (615 SE Alder St, Portland). Ring in the New Year with DJ Anjali and The Incredible Kid, who drop the latest electronic sounds emerging from South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, Jamaica, and the U.K. The event, which is for persons age 21 and older, also features guest DJs and a 10-piece live cumbia band. For info, call (503) 281-3918 or visit <www.anjaliandthekid.com>.

First Run & Walk

Dec 31, 10pm (festivities), midnight (run & walk), World Trade Center Plaza (121 SW Salmon St, Portland). Start the New Year in a healthful manner by taking part in the annual walk or run along the waterfront and across two bridges. The event features music, food, dancing, and more beginning at 10pm. For info, or to register, call (503) 644-6822 or visit <www.aasportsltd.com/firstrun>.

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