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On a brisk December evening, Merry Madness takes over Downtown Portland & the Old Port...

Celebrate the Season

**Victorian Nutcracker**
PORTLAND BALLET  
Dec. 23  
Merrill Auditorium  
portlandballet.org  
772-9671, $22-$52

**Nutcracker Burlesque**
VIVID MOTION  
Dec. 16-18, 20-23  
Saint Lawrence Arts Center  
vividmotion.org  
773-5568, $13

**Maine’s First Gift Baskets**
PASSAMAKOMODD WARES  
ABBE MUSEUM  
abbemuseum.org, 288-3519  
$10-$3,500

**Hang On High**
OJIME BEADS  
STONES & STUFF  
stonesandstuff.com  
874-0789  
$16-$36

**Dates for This Holiday Season**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>Bodhi Day (Buddhist)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 20-28</td>
<td>Hanukkah (Jewish)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 25</td>
<td>Christmas (Christian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 26-Jan. 1</td>
<td>Kwanzaa</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 1</td>
<td>New Year’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 6</td>
<td>Epiphany (Christian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 9-12</td>
<td>Mahayana New Year (Buddhist)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 14</td>
<td>Makar Sankranti (Hindu)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>Chinese New Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Year of the Dragon)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td>Nirvana Day (Buddhist)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 21</td>
<td>Mardi Gras (Christian)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>Persian New Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 13-15</td>
<td>Thai New Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 13-15</td>
<td>Cambodian New Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 6-14</td>
<td>Passover (Jewish)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 8</td>
<td>Easter (Christian)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FROM TOP: PORTLAND BALLET/J. MALLOY / ABBE MUSEUM/E. MALLOY / STONES & STUFF/MAKERY/STONE'S & STUFF/SHAW/CHINESE NEW YEAR/SHAW
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FROM TOP: ROBERT WITHERS; L.L. BEAN

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>total carat weight</th>
<th>price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>.25 ct</td>
<td>$650.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>.30 ct</td>
<td>$850.00</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>.70 ct</td>
<td>$2,550.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>.80 ct</td>
<td>$2,950.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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