Hello, this is Diane Urbani de la Paz with What’s Out There, ways to connect with art and culture while staying close to home, for the week going forward from December 18, 2020.

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“Alone Together” is the name of an online performance by the internationally known violist Richard O’Neill this Saturday evening. This is a 5 o’clock soiree celebrating O’Neill’s recent Grammy award nomination for his recording of a modern concerto by the young American composer Christopher Theofanidis. O’Neill will play a few melodies from this concerto, as well as the Sarabande and Prelude in D Minor by J.S. Bach.

And, since he is actually in Korea right now, quarantining in advance of a concert there, he’ll offer a lullaby Korean mothers sing to help their children fall asleep. O’Neill, who spent his youth in Sequim and went on to become a kind of classical music rock star, will join his old friend James Garlick of Port Angeles, now an internationally known violinist. The two cofounded the Music on the Strait chamber music festival two years ago. On Saturday evening they will discuss their hopes for its future. This get-together and short concert will be found at https://www.musiconthestrait.com/, as I said at 5pm Saturday evening.

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The Jefferson County Library website is the place to go house hunting – as in gingerbread and graham-cracker-and-candy house hunting. An array of “Homes for the Holidays,” a contest presented by the library, awaits you there. It is truly magnificent what people have done. The 51 edible abodes include the Peppermint Palace, the Bird House, the Gingerbread Camper, Santa’s Funhouse, the Rustic Cabin, and the Valentine’s Christmas Castle. You can vote for your favorites in the youth, family and adult divisions, now through Sunday. The website is https://jclibrary.info/, and the houses are found under the “Homes for the Holidays” calendar item there (https://jclibrary.info/programs-events/gingerbread2020-vote/).

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This week’s takeout adventure had my carnivorous companion and I visiting Hanazono, also known as the noodle place, on Taylor Street in downtown Port Townsend. As an Asian food enthusiast with relatively simple tastes, I chose the California roll, and it was deliciously unfussy. The sushi rice was delicate as could be. My companion selected the donburi with teriyaki and salmon, which were satisfying in the way that our beloved Northwest fish is. What drew me back to Hanazono, however, was the green tea tiramisu. I never thought I would put those words together in a sentence, much less see them in a dessert. Then I tasted it, and was won over forever. Hanazono is open Wednesdays through Sundays, noon to 3 and 4 o’clock to 7 o’clock.

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The Rose Theatre continues to stream and pop. The cinema’s website, https://rosetheatre.com/, offers about 35 movies you can stream at home, from documentaries to narrative features. One that caught my eye was Martin Eden, a lush Italian production based on a Jack London novel about a man who passionately desires the life of a writer. Whichever movie strikes your fancy, there’s popcorn to pair with it. Rose owner Rocky Friedman mans the window at the Taylor Street theater, this Saturday from 1 o’clock to 4 o’clock. He’s been out there since summertime, dedicatedly handing out the corn, seasoned with the various toppings that were once available when you saw a movie at the Rose.

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And that is the story for What’s Out There. I’m Diane Urbani de la Paz, here for you on KPTZ. Thanks for listening.