

**Call Ciara and Get Results!**

Directly Mailbox to over 1,414 Homes!

"I can offer your business an affordable advertising rate that won't break your budget."

14 Hand Avenue • Elizabethtown, NY 12932 • 518.873.6368 x211 • Ciara@suncommunitynews.com



SERVING LAKE PLACID, SARANAC LAKE, TUPPER LAKE AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS

Published by Denton Publications Inc.

# THE SUN

VALLEY NEWS

Saturday, January 16, 2016

www.SunCommunityNews.com

» In **SPORTS** | pg. 3  
**Winter Carnival**  
 reception & dinner  
 Royalty Dinner on tap for Tuesday, Feb. 9

» In **OPINION** | pg. 4  
**Donald Trump's**  
 Vermont visit  
 Delivers howls of protests

» In **ARTS** | pg. 7  
**Brave the cold**  
 this weekend  
 During the Long Lake Winter Carnival

## NC Honor Flight lands new director

Summer 2016 will see the organization to expand scope to include more Korean War vets, more ambitious flight schedule

By Shawn Ryan  
 shawn@suncommunitynews.com

PLATTSBURGH — This summer, North Country Honor Flight will fly on with a new director.

Barrie Finnegan was recently elected to run the local chapter of the national organization, stepping in for former Direc-

tor George King, who led NCHF since 2014 and stepped down at the end of what he said was a successful 2015 season.

Finnegan, who has been involved in the organization since 2013, and was most recently the Executive Director of Operations, is inheriting an organization now well ensconced in the North Country landscape, which is beginning the inevitable transition of their mission from flying World War II veterans to their memorial in Washington, D.C., to including veterans from other conflicts as well.

Korean War veterans began regularly flying to Washington with NCHF in 2015 but, Finnegan says, World War II veterans

» Story Continued | pg. 9



Honor Flight Director Barrie Finnegan shows off the new Honor Flight flag, which was designed by Essex County Sheriff Richard Cutting. The program has an ambitious schedule this year, and is exploring ways to transport more vets to the nation's capital during the brief flight season.  
 Photo by Shawn Ryan

## Seeing art through Tibetan eyes

"Arts in Exile: Tibetan Treasures in Small Town America" premieres at the Strand Theatre Jan. 20

PLATTSBURGH — Craving independence and appreciating arts are two similarities between American and Tibetan culture.

Mountain Lake PBS' newest documentary, "Arts in Exile: Tibetan Treasures in Small Town America," explores how a small city like Plattsburgh can be inspired by, and connected to, the culture of Tibet from across the globe.

The documentary, making its big-screen debut Jan. 20 at the Strand Theatre, uses the story of Plattsburgh's Tenzin and Yangchen Dorjee as a lens to explore the way Tibetans use the arts to keep their culture alive, despite the fact that many Tibetans now live in exile.

Since moving in 2008, the Dorjees have sought to bring awareness of the arts and culture of Tibet to Plattsburgh through three past Tibetan Arts Festivals and their business

» Story Continued | pg. 5



Two community members use the Mountain Lake Mandala reference key to distinguish the different tiles signifying Tibetan culture.  
 Photo by Teah Dowling

## Keep OFA director, says elder care non-profit

Aging nonprofit: Essex County needs to maintain "standard of excellence" during department restructuring

By Pete DeMola  
 pete@suncommunitynews.com

ELIZABETHTOWN — The reorganization of a county department is giving a local elder care group gray hairs.

A nonprofit organization that offers elder care services to the tri-county area urged lawmakers on Monday to reconsider their decision to appoint a director of aging services as part of ongoing department restructuring.

Essex County's aging population needs to be monitored, said Donna Beal, the executive director of Mercy Care for the Adirondacks.

A director is paramount — not a staffer who leads a sub-

» Story Continued | pg. 2

**DELIVERING QUALITY SINCE 1901**

*Western Spruce,  
Cedar, Fir,  
Birch, Oak,  
Cherry  
and more!*

**Haselton Lumber Co., Inc.**  
Lumber, Millwork, & Building Materials  
*Established in 1901*

**NO  
MINIMUM  
ON CUSTOM  
MILLING**

1763 HASELTON RD. • WILMINGTON, NY 12997 • 518-946-2233 • 1-800-724-6780  
**PREFERRED CHOICE FOR CONTRACTORS AND HOMEOWNERS**

## Arts in Exile

From page 1

### Himalaya Restaurant.

The film highlights to Dorjee's efforts to launch a large-scale Festival of Tibetan Arts and Culture for not only Plattsburgh, but all of the Adirondack region.

"Even though our Tibetan neighbors face an incredible strain as they live outside their homeland, they have turned to the arts as one method to help solve the problems they face with their currently occupied country," said Paul Larson, documentary producer. "As Tibetans face a sad situation an unexpectedly uplifting story emerges in this film."

Tibet has had various stages of autonomy throughout its history. In 1950, shortly after the Chinese Civil War, the People's Republic China incorporated into their territory as an autonomous province, a status that continues today.

### TIBETAN FESTIVAL

The month-long Festival of Tibetan Arts and Culture gave community members an opportunity to immerse themselves in Tibetan culture by participating in demonstrations, musical performances, lectures and ceremonies.

Tashi Rapten, who trained in traditional Tibetan medicine, not only held a public lecture on that subject, but gave private health consultations to curious community members.

Tibetan Tamdin gave musical performances of contemporary Tibetan music and made temporary tattoos for children and permanent ones for adults.

"We wanted the kids and adults of the region to have an experience that involved another culture," said Janine Scherline, director of development at Mountain Lake PBS, in a previous interview. "It may seem like we have a small Tibetan community, and we do, but their influence is all around us."

### MOUNTAIN LAKE MANDALA

The mural came to be by the hands of local artist Sue Young and approximately 500 community members, who made exactly 3,480 mosaic tiles.

After months of planning, researching and creating, the mural was unveiled Sept. 25 not as a mural, but as a mandala -- specifically, the Mountain Lake Mandala.

"A mandala is never created for an individual but for everyone and that is exactly what we did here," Tenzin said in a previous interview. "This mandala will be on this wall for years to come and everyone who passes by will benefit from its beauty."

### FILM CREDITS

Although Larson produced the film, he couldn't do it, he said, without the help of Mountain Lake PBS team and others outside of the station.

Director of Photography Daniel McCullum captured images of arts, performances and the everyday lives of local Tibetans.

Larson and Editor Michael Hanson collaborated on how to put those images into what, they believe, is a well structured story.

Larson also worked closely with people from the Strand Center for the Arts, SUNY Plattsburgh, Adirondack Center for Tibet Adirondack Youth Orchestra and Plattsburgh Renewal Project on various elements of this production.

"We created this film because we saw an unique opportunity to document an extremely rare arts festival that our Tibetan neighbors in Plattsburgh have helped organize four times," Larson said. "We really wanted to show how the people of a small community are connected to the wider world."

*"Arts in Exile: Tibetan Treasures in Small Town America" will premiere Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Strand Theatre. The screening is free and open to the public. The producer, along with the Festival of Tibetan Arts of the Adirondack Coast partners, will be in attendance for a brief question and answer session after the film. The film's broadcast premiere on Mountain Lake PBS will be Thursday, Jan. 21 at 9 p.m. Learn more about the program and view the trailer at [mountainlake.org/programs/arts-in-exile](http://mountainlake.org/programs/arts-in-exile).*