

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Tulare County Office of Education announces: *Remembering the Holocaust* Exhibition in Education Center Holocaust Survivor to Visit Tulare County Students April 25 - 28**

Students from Tulare County Office of Education's Court and Community Schools and Reconnecting Youth program have recently created exhibits depicting aspects of the Jewish Holocaust to remind the community about the tragedy that unfolded in Europe during the 1930s and 40s. Thirteen 4-foot by 8-foot panels – now on display in the Education Center of the Tulare County Office of Education – tell of the suppression of human rights and of the roles of individuals who supported and fought against the German Nazi practices. The Tulare County Office of Education is located at 2637 West Burrel in Visalia near the County Civic Center.

The month of "Remembering the Holocaust" exhibition culminates with the visit of Holocaust survivor, Elane Norge Geller. Reconnecting Youth and Court and Community students will host Ms. Geller at the Tulare County Office of Education on Monday, April 25 at 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Ms. Geller will visit additional students around the county on Tuesday through Thursday, April 25 – 28, 2005.

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Elane Norge Geller was born in a Polish town not too far from the birthplace of the late Pope John Paul II. When rumors that the Nazis were coming to Poland began to circulate, her father prepared Elane, 4 years old at the time, to live with a Christian family until the crisis had past. That never came to pass. Instead, she survived life in a Nazi concentration camp – imprisoned for nearly five years.

She shares her message of human dignity, compassion and remembrance for those who gave their lives during World War II. “You would do well to ask yourself why a sane person would relive this story about such great pain,” she told one audience of high school listeners. “It’s about prevention of racism and bigotry and anti-Semitism. If you’re not safe, I’m not safe.” She emphasizes this message and makes it all the more relevant by connecting it to our current modern dilemmas such as gang violence and ethnic, cultural, and international conflicts.

“The opportunity to hear the personal experience of a Holocaust survivor is becoming rarer and rarer,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “Ms. Geller’s story is both an inspiration and a solemn cautionary tale about what happens when human beings dehumanize one another. It certainly has relevance for students studying world events today.”

For additional information, contact Robert Herman, Public Information Officer, at (559) 733-6606.

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