

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

April 4, 2014

## **Media Alert**

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**Tulare County Office of Education announces:**

## ***Remembering the Holocaust* events for Tulare County high school students**

**April 7-11, 2014**

The study of the World War II Holocaust will come alive for students in several Tulare County high schools April 7-11 with a visit from Holocaust survivor, Elane Geller. This year, Ms.

Geller's visit also includes a public evening presentation at Granite Hills High School on April

10. A schedule of Ms. Geller's presentations follows:

### **Monday, April 7**

9:00- 10:00 a.m. - Tulare Western High School

10:30- 11:30 a.m. - Tulare Union High School

### **Tuesday, April 8**

9:00- 10:00 a.m. - Mission Oak High School (Tulare)

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. - Exeter High School

### **Wednesday, April 9**

12:00- 3:00 p.m. - Dinuba High School (two presentations in school theater)

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## **Thursday, April 10**

9:45- 10:45 p.m. - Granite Hills High School

1:45- 2:45 p.m. - Porterville High School

6:00- 7:30 p.m. - Granite Hills High School (*free evening event open to the public*)

## **Friday, April 11**

10:00- 11:00 a.m. - Lindsay High School

Ms. Elane Norich Geller was born in a Polish town not too far from the birthplace of the late Pope John Paul II. When rumors started that the Nazis were coming to Poland, her father began to prepare four-year-old Elane to live with a Christian family until the crisis had passed. Instead, she survived life in a Nazi concentration camp, imprisoned for nearly five years. Her personal story is an inspiration, as well as a solemn cautionary tale about what happens when groups of people are dehumanized and acknowledged stereotypically rather than as individuals.

Tulare County Office of Education proudly sponsors Holocaust survivor visits each year. “The opportunity to hear the story of a Holocaust survivor first-hand is a rare one,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “I appreciate Ms. Geller coming to Tulare County year-after-year to share her experiences with our students.”

To help students understand the Holocaust, Elane Geller shares a 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 tells

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audiences of students. “It’s about prevention of racism and bigotry and anti-Semitism.” She makes her message relevant by connecting it to modern dilemmas, such as gang violence, and ethnic, cultural, and international conflicts.

Information about the Tulare County Office of Education is available at [www.tcoe.org](http://www.tcoe.org), or by calling the Public Information Office at (559) 733-6606. For more information on “Remembering the Holocaust,” call Gina Mechigian at (559) 651-3014.

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