



Students hear from Holocaust survivor

WOODBINE -- Fifth graders from Dennis Township Elementary School recently visited the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage to hear from Fred Spiegel, a Holocaust survivor and lecturer.

Lisa Salimbene, school secretary and field trip organizer, believes the experience is of immense value to students.

"This is an opportunity for our children to hear about what happens when we allow intolerance to take over as it did in Nazi Germany," Salimbene said. "This is even more important since this might be the last generation that gets to hear a first-hand account from the remaining survivors."

The students were moved by the experience, according to school officials. Spiegel, who lived through three concentration camps, was liberated by American troops when he was 13, and he spoke at length about his ordeals.

Barb McKeefery, fifth grade social studies teacher, observed that many students made connections between what Spiegel explained and what they have learned about slavery, Jim Crow laws and discrimination faced by many immigrants.

"Hearing Mr. Spiegel talk and seeing the displays at the museum was a valuable experience for our students because they gained a deeper understanding of history," McKeefery said.

Located in the heart of Woodbine, the Sam Azeez Museum celebrates the history of the Jewish founders of Woodbine and is named after Sidney "Sam" Azeez, a Woodbine native, inventor and entrepreneur.



Students study a display at the Sam Azeez Museum in Woodbine.



Katie Herlihy and Tiffany Woolley were among the students who participated in the field trip.



Fred Spiegel, a survivor of the Holocaust, speaks to students from Dennis Township Elementary School during a recent field trip.



Fred Spiegel was rescued when American troops liberated the Nazi concentration camp in which he was held. He was 13 at the time.



The Dennis Township fifth grade looks at displays at the museum.