



## NEWS

**Contact:**

**Bob Norton**

**(860) 240-5202**

[Robert.norton@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Robert.norton@cga.ct.gov)

## Commission on Aging, Earth's Elders Foundation Host 'Super Centenarian' Event at Connecticut State Capitol

### *62 Lifesize Portraits Celebrate the Lives of People At Least 110 Years Old*

HARTFORD—A month-long exhibit featuring life-size photographic portraits of 62 of the world's oldest people—"super centenarians" at least 110 years old—will be presented by the Earth's Elders Foundation and Connecticut Commission on Aging at the State Capitol in June.

Presented in the Legislative Office Building concourse adjacent to the State Capitol, the exhibit brings to Connecticut the Earth's Elders Foundation program presented at the United Nations last year.

**The display marks the first stage of the foundation's plans to offer a new curriculum in Connecticut schools designed to foster intergenerational respect and understanding.**

The photos appear in a book entitled "Earth's Elders: The Wisdom of the World's Oldest People" by award-winning photographer and author Jerry Friedman, founder of the non-profit Earth's Elders Foundation of Kent, Conn.

The foundation strives to raise consciousness about America's elderly and to bring the very young into contact with the very old through in-school programs that foster inter-generational activities.

**"We are thrilled to work with the Earth's Elders Foundation to bring this inspirational exhibit to Connecticut and to support its educational initiatives," said Connecticut Commission on Aging Executive Director Julia Evans Starr. "The foundation and the commission have the same ultimate goal—to improve the quality of life for older adults."**

**Professors from New York's Bank Street College of Education worked with Friedman to develop a school curriculum for elementary and high school students that encourages the young to interact with older adults.**

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**The curriculum features innovative ways to learn about history, geography, health and ethics by exploring original family documents and engaging family and community elders to create oral histories.**

**Friedman said successful pilot programs were introduced during the 2005-2006 school year in a small group of public and independent schools in New York City and Westchester, N.Y.**

“It’s very gratifying for the foundation to present this exhibit and to offer the educational component of our work to schools in our home state,” said Friedman. “It’s fitting and exciting that the foundation’s efforts in Connecticut will be launched in our beautiful State Capitol in collaboration with the Commission on Aging.”

The free exhibit will be available for public viewing June 2 through June 29. For further information, call the Connecticut Commission on Aging at (860) 240-5200.

The commission is the non-partisan, independent state agency solely devoted to advocacy for older adults. It serves as an objective source of information and works directly with the state legislature, executive branch and other state agencies to shape effective public policy.

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