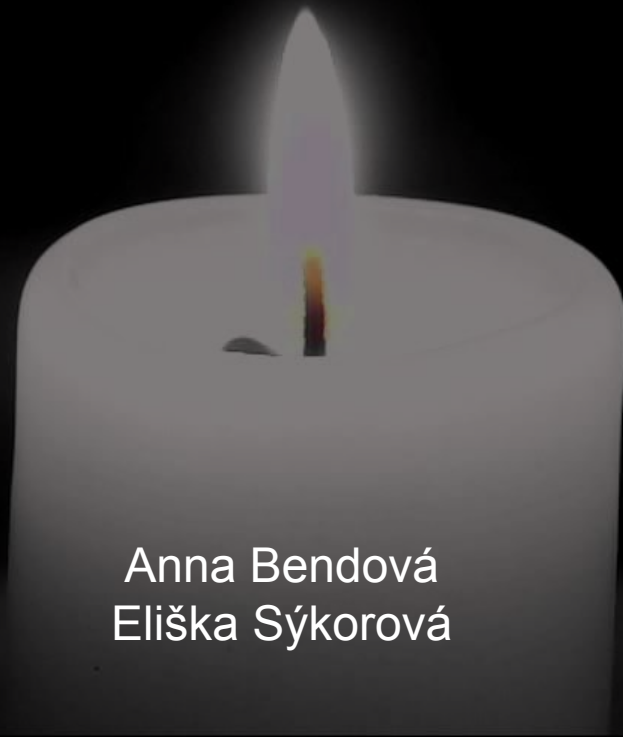


# Schindler's list



Anna Bendová  
Eliška Sýkorová



# Oskar Schindler

\* 28. April 1908,  
Svitavy

† 9. October 1974,  
Hildesheim

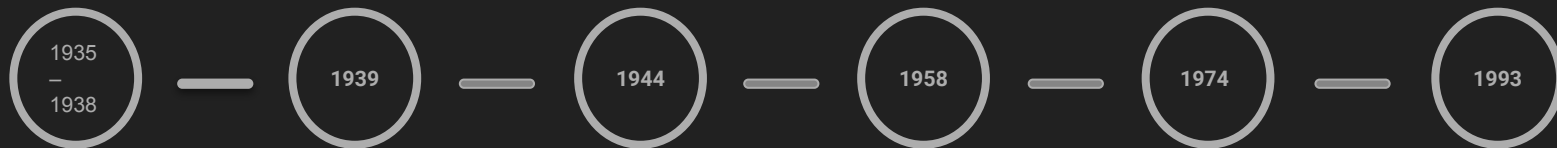
# Who was Oskar Schindler?

- German industrialist
- Member of the Nazi party
- Credited with saving 1,200 Jews during the Holocaust by employing them in his factories in occupied Poland and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia
- Initially motivated by profit, then dedicated to save the lives of his Jewish employees

The image shows a handwritten list on aged, yellowed paper, likely a ledger or record book. The list is organized into columns and contains names, dates, and other entries, possibly related to the historical context of Oskar Schindler's activities. The text is written in a cursive or semi-cursive hand. The list is organized into columns and contains names, dates, and other entries, possibly related to the historical context of Oskar Schindler's activities. The text is written in a cursive or semi-cursive hand. The list is organized into columns and contains names, dates, and other entries, possibly related to the historical context of Oskar Schindler's activities. The text is written in a cursive or semi-cursive hand.

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# “Whoever saves one life saves the world entire.”



He joined separatist Sudeten German Party and became a **spy for the Abwehr**, he was arrested by the Czech government and then released as a political prisoner under the terms of the Munich Agreement.

He **joined the Nazi Party**, continued to collect information for the Nazis while working in Poland. He **acquired an enamelware factory in Kraków**, Poland. In 1944 there were about 1750 workers including 1000 Jews.

He convinced Amon Göth, commandant of the Kraków-Plaszów concentration camp, to allow him to **move his factory to Brněnec**, which saved his workers from certain death in the gas chambers.

After the war he moved to West Germany, then to Argentina, then he went **bankrupt** and moved back to Germany. When he failed at several business ventures, he relied on financial support from Schindlerjuden – “Schindler's Jews”.

He died in Hildesheim, Germany and **was buried in Jerusalem on Mount Zion**.

He and his wife Emilie were named **Righteous Among the Nations** by the Israeli government.

# Schindlerjuden and the List

- Schindlerjuden were a group of 1,200 Jews who were saved by Oskar Schindler - he gave them status of industrial workers at his factory.
- The original list of the Jews transported to Schindler's factory in Brněnec, was made by Itzhak Stern, Mietek Pemper and Oscar Schindler in October 1944 - most likely it doesn't exist anymore.



- Another one was made by Pemper upon the prisoner's arrival to Brněnec. Both of them are preserved in Yad Vashem Memorial.
- The list represents pure good and life.
  
- The final list in the movie is the one Jews gave to Schindler - a list of their signatures vouching for Schindler as a good man. It is supposed to help him if allies catch him. The saved ones are becoming saviors by this.

Schindler's Ark &  
Thomas Keneally



- The novel was published in 1882 by Thomas Keneally titled as Schindler's Ark
- In United States edition it was titled as Schindler's List and later on in other countries as well
- Book describes the life story of Oscar Schindler, who saved 1,200 Jews during the wartime
- Novel shows real people and actual places, but the exact details of dialogues are not known and added by the author
- Thomas Keneally was inspired by a Holocaust survivor, Poldek Pfefferberg, who became an advisor and after publishing the book, he tried to convince Steven Spielberg to film Keneally's book. Once he said: "Schindler gave me my life, and I tried to give him immortality."





# Movie & Steven Spielberg

- The idea to make a movie about Schindlerjuden even earlier. Spielberg was not so sure of making the movie in the beginning, when the Universal Pictures bought the rights and he tried to pass the project to few other director before he made a statement.
- Keneally was hired to rewrite his book as a script, Kurt Ludtke was suppose to write another draft, but in the end Spielberg hired Steven Zailian to write a script - it was too short so he asked him to extend the script.

Steven Spielberg received the first Oscar of his career with this movie and it was listed among the greatest movies ever made

- Shooting began on March 1, 1993 in Krakow - schedule was planned of 75 days. It was shot at or near actual locations, but some of the places had to be reconstructed ( Płaszów camp, etc.) However, it was forbidden to do extensive shooting or construct sets in the Auschwitz, so they made a replica just outside the entrance.
- The movie opened on December 15, 1993 and it earned \$322 million worldwide on a \$22 million budget.
- Schindler's list does not try to be a documentary. While they were shooting the movie, there were few antisemitic incidents.

- Shooting the movie was very emotional for Spielberg - some moments reminded him an elements of his own childhood.
- Spielberg wanted viewers to have a personal connection with the characters so they feel as if they were part of it. He presents characters as individuals, with their faces and names. Spielberg wants the viewers to identify with the character, to feel their suffering. It helps to realize, that every victim had a story and their own life. The individualism is also really explicit in the final scene, where in full colour appears the real survivors of Holocaust - the real Schindlerjuden.
- There was occasionally used German and Polish language to make it even more realistic.

# Plot

- In Kraków during World War II, the Germans have forced local Polish Jews into the overcrowded Kraków Ghetto.
- Oskar Schindler, a German from Czechoslovakia, arrives in the city hoping to make his fortune. As member of the Nazi Party, Schindler bribes Wehrmacht and SS officials and acquires a factory to produce enamelware.
- He employs Itzhak Stern, a local Jewish official to help him arrange financing for the factory. Schindler hires Jewish workers because they cost less, while Stern ensures that as many people as possible are saved from being transported to concentration camps or killed.



- SS commandant Amon Göth arrives in Kraków to oversee construction of Płaszów concentration camp. When the camp is completed, he orders liquidation of the ghetto. Many people are shot and killed in the process of emptying the ghetto. Schindler witnesses the massacre and is profoundly affected.
- Schindler is careful to maintain his friendship with Göth and continues to enjoy SS support. Göth brutally mistreats his Jewish maid Helen Hirsch and randomly shoots people from the balcony of his villa.
- As the Germans begin to lose the war, Göth is ordered to ship the remaining Jews at Płaszów to Auschwitz. Schindler convinces Göth to allow him to move his workers to a new factory in Brněnec. Schindler and Stern create "Schindler's List".



- As the Jewish workers are transported by train to Brännlitz, the one carrying the women and girls is accidentally redirected to Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- Schindler bribes the commandant of Auschwitz to win their release.
- At the new factory, Schindler forbids the SS guards from entering the factory floor and encourages the Jews to observe Shabbat.
- Over the next seven months, he spends much of his fortune bribing Nazi officials and due to his own machinations, the factory does not produce any usable armaments.
- Schindler runs out of money in 1945, just as Germany surrenders, ending the war in Europe.



- As a Nazi Party member and war profiteer, Schindler must flee the advancing Red Army to avoid capture. The workers give Schindler a signed statement attesting to his role in saving Jewish lives and present him with a ring engraved with a Talmudic quotation: "Whoever saves one life saves the world entire." Schindler is touched but also ashamed, as he feels he should have done even more.
- Next morning the Soviet officer comes to announce to the workers they have been liberated. They leave the factory and walk to a nearby town.
- In the epilogue many of the surviving Schindler's Jews and the actors portraying them visit Schindler's grave and place stones on its marker.







## Main Characters

# Oskar Schindler

- He was played by Liam Neeson. Even though Kevin Costner and Mel Gibson were interested in portraying Schindler, Spielberg wanted someone quite unknown. After he saw Neeson in Anna Christie on Broadway, he decided for him to play the role.
- Liam Neeson is also the last one putting roses on Schindler's grave in the final scene.





## Amon Göeth

Played by Ralph Fiennes - during the audition Spielberg said he saw a sexual evil with a moments of kindness in his eyes which instantly run cold. He had to put on 13 kg and in the costume he looked so much like Göeth, that Mila Pfefferberg trembled with fear, when she first saw him.

- Amon Göeth was a Nazi soldier in Plaszów work camp. He is said to be a cruel and sadistic man which was deeply entrenched in Nazi philosophy. Time to time he shot Jews randomly from his balcony, mostly as target practise. Jews are just a mass for him and he does not treat them as individuals.
- He made many agreements with Oskar Schindler
- After the war, he was tried by the Supreme National Tribunal of Poland, found guilty and sentenced to death. He was hanged on September 13, 1946





## Itzhak Stern

- He was played by Ben Kingsley.
- Itzhak Stern was Schindler's accountant. He is seen as an intelligent man who never loses his pride. He is able to awake good in Schindler and he helps him to save Schindlerjuden..
- He firstly met Schindler when he wanted to buy the factory.

- He was born in Krakow and he was an important leader in Jewish community. Even though Schindler was a member of Nazi Party, he was very friendly to Stern and he followed his suggestions during the war.
- After the liquidation of Krakow ghetto, in 1943, most of the Jews were sent to work camp to Płaszów. Stern stayed in contact with Schindler and they tried to find a way, how to provide better conditions for Jews.
- When Schindler decided to open a new factory in Brněnec, he helped him to write a list of 1,200 names - the future Holocaust survivors - Schindlerjuden.



# Leopold Pfefferberg

- He was played by Jonathan Sagalle.
- Leopold Pfefferberg used to be a high-school teacher in Krakow, during the war he was Schindler's black market connection and also one of his employees. In the real life he was also known under the name Leopold Page. he inspired Thomas Keneally to write the novel about Oskar Schindler.
- Pfefferberg was a founder of the Oscar Schindler Humanities Foundation



# Ancillary characters

## Emilie Schindler

- She was played by Caroline Goodall. Emilie was Oscar's wife and is said she was very good and patient, although he had cheated on her. They lived separately, but in Brněnec she has done a great job helping the Jews.


## Helen Hirsch

- She was played by Embeth Davidtz. She was Amon Göeth's maid - she was also an object of his disgust, but also a desire. Schindler won her in the card game with Göeth and rescued her by that.

# Music

- John Williams composed the score.
- He was amazed by the film, but felt it would be too challenging for him. As he said to Spielberg: “You need a better composer than I am for this film.” Spielberg responded, “I know. But they’re all dead!”
- Williams won an Academy Award for Best Original Score for Schindler’s list at the end.
- A famous Israeli-America violinist Itzhak Perlman performs the main theme on the violin.

- The folk Yiddish song *Oyfn Pripetshik*, in the scene where the Nazis are liquidating the ghetto, is a song that Spielberg knew from his grandmother.
- The song *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav*, appearing at the end of the movie, was actually written after the war in 1967 and Israelis do not associate it with holocaust but with the Six-Day War. In Israeli prints of the film the song was replaced with *Halikha Le-Kesariya*.



Original Motion  
Picture Soundtrack

A FILM BY STEVEN SPIELBERG

# SCHINDLER'S LIST

Music Composed and Conducted by John Williams  
Violin Solos by Itzhak Perlman



## Symbols in the movie

### The girl in red coat

- While the film is shot primarily in black and white, a red coat is used to distinguish a little girl in the scene depicting the liquidation of the Kraków ghetto.
- Later in the film, Schindler sees her exhumed dead body, recognizable only by the red coat she is still wearing. It is the point of the movie when Schindler, after seeing her death body, changes.

- The red might symbolize innocence, hope or the red blood of the Jewish people being sacrificed in the horror of the Holocaust.
- Spielberg said the scene was intended to symbolize how members of the highest levels of government in the United States knew the Holocaust was occurring, yet did nothing to stop it.
- The character is similar to Roma Ligocka, who was known in the Kraków Ghetto for her red coat. Ligocka, unlike her fictional counterpart, survived the Holocaust.



F HD

A lit candle with a bright flame against a dark background. The candle is white and the flame is yellow and blue. The background is black.

## Candles

- To Spielberg, the black and white presentation of the film came to represent the Holocaust itself: "The Holocaust was life without light. For me the symbol of life is color. That's why a film about the Holocaust has to be in black-and-white."



- There are two scenes in the movie when we actually see light – when the candles are being lit: in the opening scene with a family observing Shabbat and at the end, when Schindler allows his workers to hold Shabbat services.
- These candles for Spielberg represent a glimmer of hope.
- At the same time when the color fades out in the film's opening moments, it gives way to a world in which smoke comes to symbolize bodies being burnt at Auschwitz.

The image features three lit candles in ornate holders, arranged in a horizontal line on a dark, reflective surface. The central candle is slightly taller and more prominent. The background is dark and out of focus. The title 'Schindler's List' is written in a gold, cursive font across the middle of the scene, positioned between the candles.

*Schindler's List*

Emilie Schindler once said that Schindler did nothing remarkable before the war and nothing after it. He was fortunate therefore that in the short fierce era between 1939 and 1945 he had met people who had summoned forth his deeper talents.

As is written in the Talmud:

*“Whoever saves one life saves the world entire.”*

This quote will be connected with Oskar Schindler for ever.

Thank you!