



The Scroll

Congregation Shaarey Israel

*The Traditional Synagogue of
Rockland County and Northern New Jersey*

VOL. LXXI, NO. 8

APRIL 2021

NISSAN-IYAR 5781

5,4,3,2,1, liftoff. Whenever we count towards something we are looking forward to, we almost always count down. Whether it's the beginning of a new year, the end of a sporting event or the days until vacation, as we get closer the number gets smaller. The notable exception to this is the counting of the *Omer*.

For some reason when we count the days until *Shavuot* and the receiving of the *Torah* we count up-today is one day, today is 2 days, today is 33 days, etc.

This anomaly helps us understand the underlying reason for counting the *Omer*. As much as we are anticipating receiving the *Torah*, we recognize that the

Revelation is part of a larger process that began with Passover. The capacity to appreciate and observe the *Torah* is premised upon having the freedom to do so. We are not counting to the receiving of the *Torah* as much as we are recording our progress from our moment of freedom to our moment of revelation.

In the waning days of this pandemic we are also counting the days until the next sign of progress, whether that be the easing of restrictions or the opportunity for inoculation

via the vaccine. We are counting the days until we can be together again with friends and family and congregation. We might not know when the count ends, but we know that it is coming. We also recognize that as much as we are anticipating the reopening of our society, the return to normalcy will be part of a larger

process that began with the incalculable sacrifices of our health care workers and first responders and medical researchers. It is they who have given us the opportunity for freedom, and when our society reopens it is time for a holiday to honor them.

As the days pass and the numbers grow let us appreciate the annual opportunity to evolve from a state of spiritual slavery to spiritual revelation, and let us also appreciate the reopening of our society and the opportunity to build upon the sacrifices of our heroes for a better future for all of us.



Respectfully Yours...

from the desk of

Rabbi Weinbach

Counting Up to A Better

TOMORROW

The Scroll

Congregation Shaarey Israel's
Monthly Publication
Published 10 times a year

Rabbi Elchanan Weinbach
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Submissions to **The Scroll** are welcome and must be received by the 10th of the month prior to publication.



CANDLELIGHTING FOR...

APRIL 2021

Date	Light Candles	Shabbat Ends
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2	7:05	8:10
9	7:12	8:17
16	7:20	8:25
23	7:27	8:32
30	7:34	8:39



From the Editor...

Have you noticed how our conversations have changed in recent weeks? "How's the family?" "Where will you be going on vacation this year?" "Do you have tickets for Broadway?" These topics of conversation have been replaced by: "Did you get your COVID vaccine yet?" "Did you get your second shot?" "Which vaccine did you get, Moderna, Pfizer or J&J?" "Where did you get it?" "How long were you on the list before you got the appointment?"

Funny how our lives have changed over this past year. Who would have thought that there would be such an illness overtaking our lives and leaving death and destruction in its wake? We are thankful that medical treatment and vaccine availability have come a long way in the past year. Signs of "recovery" are beginning to be evident. Gradually more of our congregants are returning to weekly Shabbos services. Hopefully the protocols set by the medical pundits and the CDC will be observed so that we will be able to live enjoying the "normality" we so greatly desire.



Roberta



Submissions for the May issue are due by April 20th. Please **promptly** send in any articles or flyers, via e-mail, to be included in the issue.--ED.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jonathan Meister

As I wrote last month, we are starting to see a return to "normal" albeit a new normal. Each week our Shabbat attendance is growing as more and more of the Congregation gets vaccinated and the weather improves. However, the "new normal" for the time being will still require a truncated service to some extent (no singing), mask wearing and social distancing. Despite this, the idea that we can come to Synagogue and maintain our commitment to Judaism and our community is a promising sign.

By the time this month's **Scroll** is published, we will be in the middle or have just completed Passover. For a second year Passover is celebrated in a markedly different manner than in the past. However, there is a certain amount of comfort provided in the fact that our rituals continue and that continuation of tradition is what we are about as a people and a Congregation. We did manage to have a Siyum for the first born and while we did not have our traditional bagel and cream cheese breakfast following Shacharit, we had individually wrapped cookies to at least give those in attendance some continuation of tradition albeit in a different manner. The night before, we had a board meeting. That occurred on Zoom as it has for the past year but it has happened on a monthly basis. The Rabbi sold the Congregation's Chametz to Peggy; Edwin and Chanel made the building spotless as always, the property is immaculately maintained by them on the inside and outside.

Despite the difficulty of these times, please remember that what we have stood for in the past is how we continue to operate. I believe that what makes us a unique Congregation is the fact that those who are members, especially those who are active members, have a deep rooted sense of tradition, of our people's history and rituals and that sense is what has gotten us through these challenging times. Staying the course, acting in a safe and responsible manner in the way we meet and greet each other whether inside or outside services or the building will allow us to continue to have our special community for a long time to come.

As I write this article, one of the simplest pleasures of the recent past has made its way back and that is the TV show *Shtisel* which has returned for a third season on Netflix having recently aired in Israel. I won't provide any details of the show so as not to spoil it for anyone but I highly recommend it

for its honest portrayal of the struggles of a family. While that family happens to be Ultra-Orthodox or Haredi and could be plucked straight out of Monsey as opposed to Jerusalem, what is so important about this show is that it has such a level of reality/humanity for Jewish people and you don't have to be Orthodox or Jewish at all to understand it and connect. However, the fact that it is a portrayal of a Jewish family makes the connection even more special and part of that is that even in our own small corner of the world, in Rockland County, where we certainly have all kinds of mixed emotional, physical feelings about our more Orthodox neighbors, the show allows you to see these fellow Jews as having the same emotional/physical struggles and conflicts of every person, Jewish or not. The fact that these are Jews being portrayed makes simply a more honest emotional connection for those of us watching it as there is a certain familiarity and understanding when we watch as "traditional" Jews. When we see them praying on the show or eating or facing real life problems that many of us have faced we can look and say they aren't much different than us.

As a Congregation we are not all the same yet we essentially share the same core values. Staying true to our mission has allowed us to stay the course through this past year of challenges. There is hope on the horizon as people are vaccinated and return to Shul. Soon enough we can start talking about a return to programming, some form of social (safe gathering) in the building or even out in the parking lot but something that allows us to be together as we were in the past. Until that happens, I urge you to continue on the path that we have been following. Come to shul only if you are healthy and comfortable doing so. Participate in on line daily lessons and the classes that are provided. Keep in touch with each other in any manner you can, simply checking in to see how you are doing.

If you have watched *Shtisel* or plan on doing so, you will realize that the characters are always saying "Yasher Koach", seemingly in every other sentence at times and with a thick Yiddish/Israeli twist often hard for some to understand. To you all as a Congregation, I say "Yasher Koach" for continuing to act in a responsible manner in how we have gotten through this past year as the outlook brightens for a return to at least a "new normal" in the very near future.



Every so often, I go back and read my past articles published here in *The Scroll*. Sometimes I do it for inspiration and sometimes I do it just to check myself to ensure that I am providing an interesting mix of topics from month to month.

Well, I just did that.

I have a white board in my office. I want to go over to it and write 100 times, "I will NOT write about COVID." In rereading some of my last few articles, it seemed to me that every article I read dealt, in one way or another, with the COVID pandemic. I do not like being repetitive and, even if the topics were different and COVID was only an element in the article, I feel like it has become too prevalent in my writing.

Now, don't get me wrong. When I write these articles, I write on topics that are on my mind and that I believe will be of interest and use to you, the reader. This pandemic has colored everything for over a year, so I guess it is natural that it would show up, in one form or another, many times. Today, however, I am going to say, at least for this month, ENOUGH ABOUT COVID! I am sick and tired of this bloody pandemic and its effect on our lives. So, let's try, even for a few moments, to just forget about it and take a break.

So, what shall I write about?

Well, I have been thinking a lot about the topic of laughter. One of our greatest gifts is the ability to just let loose with an unconstrained belly laugh that leaves us gasping for breath and wiping tears from our eyes. I truly think there is nothing better.

I'll let you in on a personal secret. You may think that I feel successful when I write a good article, lead a special service, give a meaningful sermon, or lead a good learning group. Nah.

The Scroll...4 You want to know when I really

feel good about what I have accomplished?

When I can send my wife into paroxysms of laughter. When I crack a joke and I hear her shriek with uncontrolled laughter. Sometimes, I will just wait with a smile on my face and wait for her attack to subside and sometimes I will laugh as hard, or perhaps even harder, than she does. When I can get her to laugh, after 35+ years of marriage, I feel a special connection with her. I feel like I have done something truly special and given the love of my life a gift: a special memory we can remember in our old age and laugh about again.

I remember a special story. When I started at Shaarey Israel, the Rabbi used to start every sermon with the same phrase: "A story is told..." He would, following an age-old rabbinic tradition, begin his message with a joke. When he took his first Shabbat off after I became cantor, I knew that I would be delivering the sermon. I had an idea for the topic I wanted to cover and I wanted to throw a twist at the congregation. So, I went to the rabbi and asked his permission to use his iconic phrase to start my sermon. He consented. So, I started my sermon with "A story is told..." and the entire congregation laughed at my use of the phrase. I then proceeded to tell a true, very sad, and meaningful story about the Holocaust, and my sermon unfolded from there. It all worked out better than I ever hoped.

Then there is the topic of music. I don't know about you, but I love to listen to music of all kinds. I'll confess that as I am typing this article, I have my headphones on and some rock and roll is playing in my ears. Music gets my mind moving, my blood pumping, and my creative juices flowing. I have had many times when I have had to work deep into the night and all that kept me going was the music blaring out of my computer speakers (if I was in the office and alone) or out of my headphones. I admit to actually standing up from my chair, sometimes, and dancing while, at the same time, typing

computer code at high speed. I remember those moments with a smile and not a small amount of pride too.

Let me share another memory with you, this one music related. We recently purchased an Amazon Alexa which we have in our kitchen. Chana and I were in the kitchen and, if memory serves, we were cooking together. Suddenly, I called out "Alexa, play..." I chose a song that Chana and I both knew and it had a good beat. Next thing you know, I took Chana by her hand and we just started dancing around the kitchen. It was a special moment for me (and I hope for her) as we, in our acutely inexperienced ways, shared a private dance.

Here's another topic. I recently looked on Facebook and it reminded me that I had a "memory." It was a picture of two of my grandchildren that was incredibly cute. I am sure you know the type, two babies sleeping in perfectly posed positions. Since my daughter-in-law Allison is a master photographer (you should check her work out at <https://www.allison-bazianphotography.com/>), the picture she took of her two children (this was before the youngest was born) was too beautiful to just pass by. I downloaded the photo and sent it to Chana. Needless to say, the shout of glee when she saw it was probably audible across the street.

Our lives are made up of moments. Yes, we have practical experiences to deal with, like work, cleaning, etc., but those are not the moments that make up life in my humble opinion. They are necessary but life happens in-between. What really counts are the moments of laughter, togetherness and love.

There are many ways to have those moments but I will let you in on a secret: The best moments are not scripted or planned. They are great because they happen spontaneously; because you are with someone you love.

This time between *Pesach* and *Shavuot* is a time when we remember 24,000 students of Rabbi Akiva who died because "They did not show proper respect to each other." Perhaps they were so focused on intellectual advancement through their learning that they missed the whole point of *Torah* and *Mitzvot*: to make us better people. The more we look to make moments with those we love, the closer we come to the ideal that *Hashem* wants from us. We need to care about each other, especially those we love. The moments you create are the essence of what life is about.

Chana and I wish that you enjoy lives filled with treasured moments.

Postscript: We all need someone to look over our shoulders and my wife is that person for me. I almost never submit one of these articles without reading it to her first. Her reaction will usually tell me whether or not I have written an article that is meaningful and entertaining. Well, as I read this one to her, she broke into peals of laughter more than once. This article, with which I had hoped to share the importance of meaningful moments, turned into a moment in and of itself. Like I said, the best moments of life are the ones you don't plan on.

Note: The opinions expressed in this article are mine and mine alone. Have a comment? Disagree with me? Please let me know. You can email me at: njChazzan@gmail.com.

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Condolences to...

The Cohen family on the loss of their beloved mother and grandmother, Laura Cohen.

MEN'S CLUB MESSAGE

Mark Pfeffer, President

Additional participants in Men's Club Calendar Sweepstakes

Tkt#	Name
190-191	Jennifer Rodriguez
192-201	Joe Moskovic
202-206	David Stein

Date	No.	March Winners	\$
1	21	Grace Donath	14
2	111	Rachel Leifer	14
3	13	Marsha & Gary Forman	12
4	27	Sam Farber	16
5	166	Roberta & Marv Lieman	14
7	131	Barbara Weisel	14
8	36	Marty Goldstein	14
9	98	Jules Stern	12
10	81	Eric Frankel	14
11	88	Evie Maher	16
12	185	Elaine & Al Bernstein	14
14	61	Jay Safier	14
15	25	Larry Katz	14
16	162	Lois Price	14
17	33	Saul Leff	12
18	139	Golde & Mel Math	14
19	143	Ira Lieman	14
21	150	Red Avner	16
22	175	Morty Julius	12
23	3	Audrey Meister	12
24	190	Jennifer Rodriguez	14
25	9	Mel Singer	14
26	67	Herman Berzon	14
30	53	Jay Safier Grandchild	14
31	137	Charna & Bill Weissman	14

**Sweepstake drawing continues
through June.**

Ya gotta be in it to win it.

We thank the following for their
donation to the Yellow Candle Project in
commemoration of Yom HaShoah:

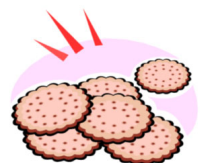
Red Avner
David and Natalie Cohen
Gary and Marsha Forman
Marty and Bobbie Goldstein
Esther and Marty Ingber
Morty Julius
Lewis and Mara Lewin
Marv and Roberta Lieman
Audrey Meister
Mark Pfeffer
Norton and Dale Smith
Barbara Weisel



We must never forget!
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SISTERHOOD MESSAGE

President Audrey Meister

When Women Support Each Other Incredible Things Happen!

Jt's April, the end to this bleak winter, and recovery from a Pandemic. I hope everyone enjoyed their Shalach Manos packages. A special thanks goes to Joyce Trubitz, who worked tirelessly through many months to get it together! IT IS OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR! We are now in the midst of Passover. On Passover we tell our story, It's the story of slavery to freedom of the Jewish People. It's through all these stories, our prayers and beliefs, that remind us of who we are!

As you are aware, Sisterhood this year suspended in-person get togethers and meetings early in the pandemic. As more of us have received the vaccine for Covid-19, we may be able to suspend the suspension soon! We still have to be cautious and wear our masks.

P.S. This month we have a special guest writer for this section. My first in three years of asking. Elly Egenberg volunteered for this issue. If anyone would like to write in the future (May and June) please let me know in advance.

Guest Writer, Elly Egenberg

May most esteemed and beloved Sisters, this year has taught me the value in quiet contemplation. In the value of choosing which side of any given argument is worth the sacrifice of solidarity. I would rather have my friends and their friendship than fight over a political point. What does it really matter in the long run which scientist I choose to affirm a fact with, or which talking TV head I choose to believe has the true spin on an event? We have seen too much in-fighting in families when in reality, the outcome of the news is completely out of our hands. I have gained a joy-filled perspective by turning on the radio to a music station and learning the lyrics to songs I mistakenly thought I did not like. Let me sing at the top of my lungs in the vernacular of a younger generation. Let the beat wash over me and be the conduit in which I return to a space of quiet contemplation. I can be both loud and silent at the same time. I crave human interaction. Won't you join me as we return to the new normal?



Sisterhood Slate of Board of Trustees Positions 2021-2022

Position	Name
President	Joyce Trubitz
VP Fundraising	Sheree Newmark
VP Programming	Louisa DePaola
VP Membership	Stacie Podos
Corresponding Sec.	Eleanor Donath
Recording Sec.	Elly Egenberg
Financial Secretary	Julie Feldman
Treasurer	Lois Bashoff
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Parliamentarian	Barbara Weisel
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Trustee	Diane Leifer
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CHAI LIGHTS

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Tyler Dubbs
Chelsea Egenberg
Rachel Egenberg
Travis Egenberg



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

8 Douglas & Barbara Kohn
11 Henry & Lynda Meyers
13 Martin & Brenda Bell
20 Loretta & Bob Burton
29 Melvin & Golde Math

Mazel tov on the Engagement of...

Stacie & Ken Podos' son,
Jared to Maddison Gan

Mazel tov on the Birth of...

Peggy & Marc Cabillis' grandson,
David Alexandre Duarte



Mazel tov to...

Loretta and Bob Burton
celebrating their
69th Year Wedding
Anniversary.



A Note of Thanks...

Thanks to each and every one of you in our congregation who supported Sisterhood's Shalach Manos project; it is so greatly appreciated. I also have to mention the women who helped me this year since we couldn't have a pack-out or Purim party. I couldn't have done it all without Susan Farber, Staci Podos, Mimi Marenberg, Barbara Wiesel, Esther Ingber, Eleanor Donath, Lois Bashoff, Audrey Meister and as always Jennifer and Peggy. Some of them ordered items we needed, some kept the books, a poem was composed, some of us packed and sorted. Our idea for this year was printed on a small card explaining clearly our thoughts and hopes during this year as we dealt with Covid. Hope you enjoyed your bags and I am looking forward with great hope to next year when we will again have a pack-out, the Megillah reading and a Purim Party... all of us together!

By the way, Sisterhood has donated extra towels and masks to the Woman's/Family Shelter in New City a place we have supported with our Wishing Well in the Gift Shop for many years.

Joyce Trubitz



CSI Funds & Contributors...

Congregation Shaarey Israel

In memory of Laura Cohen

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Robin & Barry Haberman
Beth & Jonathan Meister

In honor of the birth of Rabbi & Leah Chanofsky's great-grandson

Red Avner
Robin & Barry Haberman
Beth & Jonathan Meister
Sue Weiss

In honor of the engagement of Nitzan Bradin and Margo Blonde

Sue Weiss

In memory of Stanley Saunders

Eleanor & Paul Donath

In honor of the engagement of Jared Podos to Maddison Gan

Red Avner
Robin & Barry Haberman
Beth & Jonathan Meister

Ann Klein & Gertrude Mahran Memorial Fund

In memory of Ann Klein

Susan & Aron Schiller & Family

In memory of Otto Lichtenstein & Betty Guetherman

Peggy & Ed Krupnik

Abe & Mildred Dworkin Memorial Scholarship Fund

In memory of Ruth Forman

Joyce Trubitz

In memory of Ann Klein

Lois Price
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Joyce Trubitz

Mazel Tov on the engagement of Jared Podos to Maddison Gan

Joyce Trubitz

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(26th of Nisan, 5781

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If you are interested please call:
Bobbie Goldstein 201-746-0723
Paulette Frankel 845-641-1298

The Scroll...12

A Note from Rabbi Weinbach...

A reminder that we are broadcasting services six days a week in the morning and in the afternoon and that my weekly class will be broadcast Tuesday night at 7:00 on Zoom and Facebook Live. I am also pleased to be initiating a new course of study entitled "Mitzvah Moments", which will be sent to you several times a week with each installment covering one of the 613 Torah Commandments.

We will be conducting Shabbat services. If you intend to join us please let us know at CSICovidMinyan@gmail.com. Also while we welcome all of our congregants we remind you that the best medical advice is for persons over 65 not to attend.

Reach out to me with any concerns you may have in these difficult times; a good number of congregants have found this to be helpful. You can always reach me via email at RabbiWeinbachCSI@gmail.com or on my cell phone at 845-770-4191.



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CONGREGATION SHAAREY ISRAEL MEN'S CLUB 12th ANNUAL CALENDAR SWEEPSTAKES

***\$4725 IN PRIZES**

MARCH 2021 \$1270

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 \$55	2 \$50	3 \$35	4 \$70	5 \$50	6 X
7 \$60	8 \$50	9 \$35	10 \$50	11 \$70	12 \$60	13 X
14 \$50	15 \$50	16 \$50	17 \$35	18 \$60	19 \$55	20 X
21 \$70	22 \$35	23 \$35	24 \$50	25 \$50	26 \$35	27 X
28 Pesach	29 Pesach	30 \$60	31 \$50			X

APRIL 2021 \$1135

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 \$50	2 \$35	3 X Pesach
4 Pesach	5 \$50	6 \$50	7 \$60	8 \$35	9 \$35	10 X
11 \$35	12 \$35	13 \$35	14 \$35	15 \$35	16 \$35	17 X
18 \$50	19 \$35	20 \$35	21 \$35	22 \$50	23 \$50	24 X
25 \$35	26 \$35	27 \$35	28 \$35	29 \$50	30 \$35	

MAY 2021 \$1045

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 X
2 \$35	3 \$35	4 \$50	5 \$35	6 \$55	7 \$35	8 X
9 \$35	10 \$35	11 \$70	12 \$35	13 \$35	14 \$50	15 X
16 \$35	17 Shavuot	18 \$35	19 \$35	20 \$35	21 \$35	22 X
23/30 \$35/35	24/31 \$50/55	25 \$35	26 \$35	27 \$35	28 \$50	29 X

JUNE 2021 \$1275

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 \$35	2 \$35	3 \$35	4 \$65	5 X
6 \$75	7 \$50	8 \$50	9 \$50	10 \$35	11 \$50	12 X
13 \$60	14 \$35	15 \$75	16 \$55	17 \$35	18 \$50	19 X
20 \$35	21 \$60	22 \$55	23 \$35	24 \$75	25 \$100	26 X
27 \$35	28 \$35	29 \$70	30 \$55			

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2021 Sweepstakes

25 LITTLE KNOWN FACTS re SCHINDLERS LIST

Editor's note: As Yom HaShoah is approaching, I thought this was an appropriate article to include in this issue.

1. Steven Spielberg took no money for this film. He refused, saying that it would be "blood money." He donated the money to create the Shoah Foundation, which searches for Holocaust survivors and records documentary video and audio materials with their memories.
2. The scene with the liquidation in the Krakow ghetto in the original script took only 1 page. Steven Spielberg turned it into 20 pages and 20 minutes of on-screen action "based on live testimony." For example, the scene in which a young man escapes from German soldiers, telling them that he must remove his luggage from the street, was taken directly from the story of a surviving eyewitness.
3. Steven Spielberg offered director Roman Polanski to lead the work. Polanski refused, because it was too personal for him; he was simply not morally ready yet. Few know that Polanski was in the Krakow ghetto until he was eight years old, but he managed to escape from the ghetto on the day of the liquidation. He was sheltered by Polish families until the end of the war. Polanski's mother died in the Auschwitz concentration camp. Polanski himself would later direct his own film on the Holocaust, *The Pianist* (2002).
4. When they first met on the set, Mila Pfefferberg, one of Schindler's Jews who survived, was shocked by how much Ralph Fiennes (as Amon Goeth) resembled the real person. Her hands were shaking and she even started to stutter.
5. Steven Spielberg could get permission to shoot right inside Auschwitz, but decided not to do it out of respect for the victims. All scenes were filmed in a specially built replica of the camp, which was located near Auschwitz.
6. Liam Neeson auditioned for the role of Schindler a few months before getting the lead role in the film. It seemed to him that he would not get the role, so he accepted the offer to perform in the remake of Eugene O'Neill's Broadway production of *Anna Christie*. After attending one of the performances, Steven Spielberg, his wife, Kate Capshaw, and her mother came to Neeson's dressing room. After Spielberg introduced his wife and mother-in-law, Neeson hugged the elderly woman, and Capshaw remembered how he did it. She later told her husband: "He did it the way Oskar Schindler would have done it." A week later, Neeson received the offer from Spielberg.
7. The original list of "Schindler's Jews" was found in a suitcase along with his documents in Schindler's attic in an apartment in Hildesheim in 1999. Oskar Schindler remained there during the last years of his life, until his death in 1974.
8. Steven Spielberg's determination to make the film became final when studio executives asked him why he didn't simply make a donation instead of wasting time and money on a depressing film.
9. Ralph Fiennes put on 13 kilograms by drinking Guinness for his role as Amon Goeth.
10. When Steven Spielberg first showed the final version of the film to composer John Williams, Williams was so shocked that he had to go out for a walk to pull himself together. Upon his return, Williams told Spielberg that the film deserved a better composer than him. Spielberg replied, "I know, but they are all already dead."
11. Steven Spielberg watched episodes of *Seinfeld* every night after work to somehow improve his mood.

25 LITTLE KNOWN FACTS re SCHINDLERS LIST

12. When Steven Spielberg returned to Cal State Long Beach University to pursue his bachelor's degree, 34 years after he left the university, his academic advisor accepted the film as a student pre-requisite required for admission. By that time, *Schindler's List* had already won Spielberg's Golden Globes and Oscars for Best Director and Best Picture.

13. In real history, Itzhak Stern was not alone in helping Oskar Schindler compile the list. Another person who made the list was Marcel Goldberg. Many survivors spoke of him with contempt as he took bribes to exclude or add people to the list.

14. Spielberg was required to do *Jurassic Park* (1993) prior to *Schindler's List*. This was even stated in his contract. This was done by the studio on purpose because studio executives feared that if the director had directed *Schindler's List* first, he would have been too squeezed out to do *Jurassic Park* later.

15. Steven Spielberg refuses to give any autographs related to this film.

16. To collect costumes for 20,000 extras, the costume designer ran an ad. Since there was an economic crisis in Poland at that time, most of the things were purchased there. Many people were ready to sell clothes that they had left over from the 1930s and 40s.

17. It is said that during the filming the atmosphere was so dark and depressing that Steven Spielberg even asked his friend Robin Williams to make some comedy sketches.

18. As a producer, Steven Spielberg initially wanted someone else to direct the filming, fearing that he would not be able to make the story true. Martin Scorsese turned him down because he believed the film should be directed by a Jewish director. Roman Polanski was not

ready, because he himself experienced these events. Billy Wilder also did not fit, because if he did, then this film would be his last. Apparently, Wilder himself convinced Spielberg to do it.

19. Ironically enough, after filming this movie, Liam Neeson (Schindler) and Ralph Fiennes (Amon Goeth) became very good friends.

20. There is a Jewish tradition that when someone visits the grave, they leave a small stone as a sign of respect. This explains the epilogue where actors and "Schindler's Jews" stone Oskar Schindler's grave.

21. The person who puts the flower on the stones on the tombstone in the final shots is Liam Neeson, not Steven Spielberg, as some think.

22. When the film was shown in the Philippines, censors decided to cut out some nudity and violence. When Steven Spielberg found out about this, he demanded that the film not be shown at all or left as it is. Philippine President Fidel Ramos intervened and lifted censorship. The film was shown without any changes.

23. About 40% of the film was shot using a hand-held camera.

24. In the epilogue, all the actors accompany the real "Schindler Jews" they play in the film.

25. Kevin Costner and Mel Gibson offered themselves for the role of Schindler, but Steven Spielberg decided to take a lesser-known actor as the main star.

