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Leon Leyson, Real Member of "Schindler's List," Speaks Aug. 30

-The Youngest Member of Schindler's List Will Recall Memories of Oskar Schindler-

ORANGE, Calif. Leon Leyson, Holocaust survivor and the youngest member of Schindlers List, will speak at Chapman University at 7 p.m. Wednesday, August 30 in the Chapman Auditorium, Memorial Hall. His topic will be Making a Difference: Memories of Oskar Schindler. The event is free and open to members of the Chapman community; however, the free tickets must be picked up in advance in 303 Argyros Forum (the Student L.E.A.D. office). The event is part of Welcome Week 2006.

Throughout the Holocaust years, ordinary people faced moments of decision that transformed them into witnesses, perpetrators or rescuers. Oskar Schindler, who became known to the world through Steven Spielbergs Academy Award-winning movie *Schindlers List*, chose to become a rescuer. A member of the Nazi Party, Schindler went to Krakow, Poland in 1939, soon after Germanys invasion of that country, to seek his fortune. Yet, by the end of the war, Schindler had given away the vast wealth he had accumulated in order to protect the Jews who worked for him and for whom he had come to feel responsible. Schindler never believed that he was helpless to make a difference; instead, he dared to do what he believed was right, even when it put his own life at risk. His actions saved some 1,100 Jews.

Leon Leyson was 13 years old when his father brought him into Schindlers enamelware factory. Because they were protected by Schindler, Leon, his parents and older brother and sister all survived the war. Two other brothers and all of Leysons extended family were killed.

After the war, Leyson spent three years in a displaced persons camp near Frankfurt, Germany. He came to the U.S. in 1949, served in the U.S. Army and became a teacher. He taught at Huntington Park High School for 39 years. Leyson has been featured in several documentaries and television programs, and recently appeared with Spielberg on the *Today Show*, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the release of *Schindlers List*.