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***The Basque Educational Organization Secures Film Option Agreement to Bring The Surgeon and the Shepherd: Two Resistance Heroes in Vichy France to the Screen***

**[San Francisco, CA — December 15, 2025]** — The Basque Educational Organization (BEO) has signed a film option agreement with author Meg Ostrum for her book, The Surgeon and the Shepherd: Two Resistance Heroes in Vichy France. The agreement marks the first step in adapting her words about resistance heroes in occupied France during World War II into a motion picture.

“As an organization, the BEO has had insightful conversations through the years with our greater community, discussing the Basque people’s participation in occupied France during World War II. What we’ve learned is that, unless someone was actively involved in the resistance, even family members did not know the danger their mothers, fathers, and siblings faced or the risks they took. These stories weren’t passed down. Fortunately, we continue to learn with books such as The Surgeon and the Shepherd. This is the true story of a young Belgian ophthalmologist, Charles Schepens, and his collaboration with the Basques on the French side of the Pyrenees mountains, to save at least 100 lives by getting them over the border and into Spain.” Anna Marie Etcheverria, President of the BEO, continues, “The BEO is honored to be a part of this project, not only to share this compelling story, but to give voice to the resistance heroes who never used their own during these precarious times, and to learn from the experiences that lingered in the stillness of some very dark and long nights.”

“Once I read the book, I knew this unique story of courage and ingenuity deserved to be shared more broadly. It was personal for me, but I immediately recognized that this story would resonate with many people,” said Pierre Jambon, BEO Advisory Board Member.

The BEO, a charitable nonprofit organization serving the Basque diaspora since 1984, focuses on educating the public about the Basque people, their history, and culture through creative storytelling. The organization offers several opportunities to join conversations prompted by literature, the performing arts, and the visual arts. The BEO’s commitment to sharing the many facets of the Basque culture is becoming increasingly recognized, and this project marks a significant chapter for the organization.

The BEO is working in partnership with Mr. Pierre Jambon, the project’s Executive Producer. Mr. Jambon served in various executive roles for over 35 years at several multinational companies in the defense and automotive industries. The BEO will serve as Creative Partner and Content Guide.

To learn more about this story, watch [Réseau Sans Nom](#). For updates and ways to get involved in the project, visit [www.basqueeducational.org/project-schepens](http://www.basqueeducational.org/project-schepens). For any inquiries, contact Pierre Jambon directly at [pierrej@basqueeducational.org](mailto:pierrej@basqueeducational.org).

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