



# HISTORY OF THE JEWS IN FRANCE UNDER THE VICHY REGIME

## A workshop by the Mémorial de la Shoah, Paris, France

Friday, January 6, 2017

Register at [deborah.farnault@memorialdelashoah.org](mailto:deborah.farnault@memorialdelashoah.org)

Participating teachers will receive a Certificate of Attendance and Course Completion Form for five and a half (5.5) contact hours.

Free admission - Complimentary parking in Parking Garage 2

### Florida Atlantic University

Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education

Theatre Lab/Parliament Hall

777 Glades Rd

Boca Raton, FL 33431

A free one-day workshop for teachers and educators organized by the Mémorial de la Shoah (Paris, France) and hosted by the Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education at the Florida Atlantic University with the support of Consulate General of France in Miami, the Embassy of France in the United States, and SNCF.

This workshop is organized in conjunction with the presentation of “Hélène Berr, a Stolen Life” an exhibition designed, created, and distributed by the Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris, France (curators Karen Taieb and Sophie Nagiscarde), with the guidance of Mariette Job (niece of Hélène Berr), and made possible through the generous support of SNCF.

## SCHEDULE

### 8:00am–8:30am > Registration

Coffee, tea, and breakfast snacks will be provided.

### 8:30am–10:00am > “Collecting Archives of the Holocaust: from the CDJC to the Mémorial de la Shoah” by Jacques Fredj

A lecture by Jacques Fredj, who will give a broad historical context and introduce the Mémorial de la Shoah’s mission since the creation of the CDJC, the Center for Contemporary Jewish Documentation, in 1943.

### 10:00am–10:15am > Break

### 10:15am–11:45pm > “Hélène Berr and the Fate of the Jews in Vichy France” by Susan Rubin Suleiman

Hélène Berr was a young Jewish woman studying English literature at the Sorbonne when she started writing her Journal, in the spring of 1942. Her upper middle-class family had been living in France for generations, and her father, a chemical engineer, had an important position in a French firm that manufactured explosives. Despite all this, the Berrs suffered a fate similar to that of 75,000 other Jews in wartime France: Hélène and her parents were arrested by Vichy police in March 1944 and taken to the transit camp at Drancy, outside Paris, from where they were deported to Auschwitz. They did not survive. To fully understand Hélène Berr’s story, we need to situate it in the larger context of the anti-Jewish policies of the Vichy regime, which worked with the Nazis in persecuting and rounding up Jews. And we must compare her individual story with those of other Jews who lived in France at the time—many of whom survived persecution, while others (25% of the total Jewish population in the country at the time) suffered the same fate as Hélène.

### 11:45pm–12:45pm > Lunch Break

Lunch boxes and beverages will be provided.

### 12:45pm–2:15pm > “Weapons of the Spirit” by Pierre Sauvage

A lecture by Pierre Sauvage, who will introduce and screen his film *Weapons of the Spirit* (short version, 35 min). While 76,000 Jews of France were deported with the collaboration of the Vichy Government, 75% of the Jews of France survived the Holocaust, largely thanks to the French population. *Weapons of the Spirit* presents a chapter of the rescue of Jews in France during Nazi occupation; it recounts the exceptional history of the village of Chambon-sur-Lignon and its area, which took in and saved as many as 5,000 Jews.

### 2:15pm–2:30pm > Break

### 2:30pm–3:30pm > Rosette Gerbosi’s Testimony

A lecture by Rosette Gerbosi, a French/American hidden child, who will share her wartime experience under the Vichy Regime.



Hélène Berr's official portrait, 1942 © Mémorial de la Shoah – Coll. Mariette Job

**Rosette Gerbosi** is a French/American child survivor of the Holocaust. She was born in Paris, France in 1932. Her father owned a fur coat factory, allowing her and the rest of her family a comfortable lifestyle. When the Germans took control of France, Rosette was still a child in school and had to wear the yellow star on all her clothing. After many arrests of close friends, her parents were convinced that it was time for Rosette to escape the Occupied Zone. A deal was made with a non-Jewish friend to take her to live in Piégut-Pluviers in the Free Zone of France. She stayed in Piégut-Pluviers until the end of the war, when she was reunited with her older brother, Bernard, the only survivor of her immediate family. Rosette Gerbosi volunteers her time at the Holocaust Museum and Education Center of Southwest Florida to share her story.

**Jacques Fredj** holds an advanced degree in History from the University of Paris, France. In 1992, he was appointed as new Director of the Center for Contemporary Jewish Documentation. He became Executive Director of Mémorial de la Shoah at its inauguration in 2005. Fredj is also responsible for the creation of the Mémorial de la Shoah in Drancy, a new building which was inaugurated in September 2012; he is the curator of the permanent exhibition for this new space, located across the street from the Cité de la Muette, former internment and deportation camp for the Jews of France.

Fredj is the curator of numerous exhibitions and the author of publications in France related to the history of the Holocaust. The prestigious publishing house Gallimard recently published his important study: "History of the Jews of France, From the Middle Ages to the Holocaust." Fredj also wrote "Drancy, an Internment Camp at the Gates of Paris," which was published in French and in English by the Edition Privat in 2015.

**Pierre Sauvage** is a French/American documentary filmmaker and lecturer, who was a child survivor of the Holocaust and a child of Holocaust survivors. Described by Tablet Magazine as "a filmmaker of rare moral perception," Sauvage is the President of the Chambon Foundation, which he founded in 1982, the first educational foundation committed to "exploring and communicating the necessary and challenging lessons of hope intertwined with the Holocaust's unavoidable lessons of despair." He is best known for his feature documentary, *Weapons of the Spirit*, which tells the story of the "conspiracy of goodness" of a mountain community in France that defied the Nazis and took in and saved five thousand Jews, including Sauvage and his parents. Sauvage himself was born in this unique Christian oasis—the area of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon—at a time when much of his family was being tortured and murdered in the Nazi death camps. *Weapons of the Spirit* won numerous awards upon its initial release in 1989. An updated 25th-anniversary edition of the film will be released in Fall 2014, along with his new documentary, *Not Idly By—Peter Bergson, America and the Holocaust*. Sauvage is also in post-production on the feature documentary *And Crown Thy Good: Varian Fry in Marseille*.

**Susan Rubin Suleiman** was born in Budapest and emigrated to the U.S. as a child with her parents. She obtained her B.A. from Barnard College and her Ph.D. from Harvard University, and has been on the Harvard faculty since 1981, where she is currently the C. Douglas Dillon Research Professor of the Civilization of France and Research Professor of Comparative Literature. Suleiman is the author or editor of numerous books and more than 100 articles on contemporary literature and culture, published in the U.S. and abroad. Her latest book, *The Némirovsky Question* (Yale University Press, fall 2016), is about the Russian-French novelist Irène Némirovsky and issues of "foreignness" in 20th-century France. Her other books include *Crises of Memory and the Second World War*; *Authoritarian Fictions: The Ideological Novel as a Literary Genre*; *Subversive Intent: Gender, Politics, and the Avant-Garde*, and *Risking Who One Is: Encounters with Contemporary Art and Literature*. In addition to her scholarly work, Suleiman is the author of *Budapest Diary: In Search of the Motherbook*, a memoir about Hungary. Her book reviews and articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *The American Scholar*, *Moment Magazine* and other newspapers and magazines. Suleiman has won many honors, and has held a Guggenheim Fellowship, among others. During the 2009-2010 academic year, she was the invited Shapiro Senior Scholar-in-Residence at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. She lives in Belmont, Massachusetts.

