

## Resilience in Response to Violence: Children, Adolescents, & Adults

Saturday, March 7, 2026

10:00 AM - 1:30 PM EST via Zoom

3.5 CE/CME Available

### Salem Eid S. Al Arjani, PhD

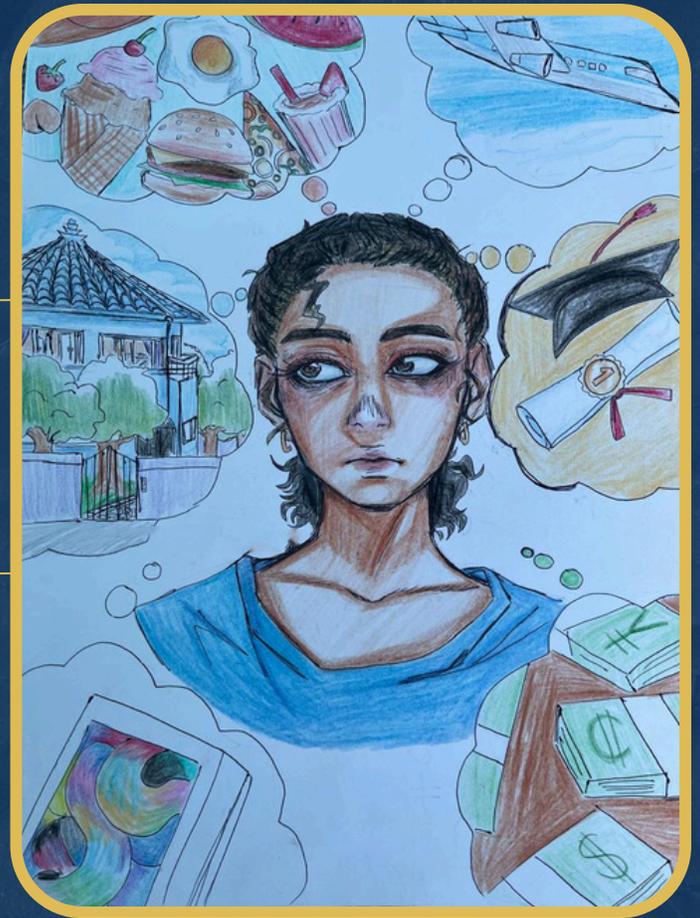
*Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist, Trauma  
Researcher & Director of the Mental Health  
Program at Gaza Children Village*

### Ann Masten, PhD, LP

*Regents Professor, McKnight University Professor  
University of Minnesota*

### Merav Roth, PhD

*Training Analyst, Associate Professor  
School of Therapy, Counseling, and Human  
Development University of Haifa*



## About the Program

This year, the Henri Parens Symposium will focus on resilience in the face of violence. Our speakers will be **Ann Masten, PhD, LP**, a distinguished researcher on resilience, and **Merav Roth, PhD**, Training Analyst and world-renowned trauma expert, as well as one of the organizers of the psychoanalytic on-the-ground response in Israel.

A case presentation will be given by **Salem Eid S. Al Arjani, PhD**, a Palestinian psychoanalytic psychotherapist, trauma researcher, and Director of the Mental Health Program at Gaza Children's Village, which provides daily education, nutritious meals, healthcare, and trauma-informed support to orphaned and vulnerable children through their Academies of Hope.

Dr. Masten calls resilience "ordinary magic", a combination of a person's own adaptive system and their supportive connections with others. In Dr. Masten's research, she has found that resilience is more common than we may think, even in response to violence.

Dr. Roth bears witness to the extraordinary resilience of the human spirit through her work with those who have endured profound trauma.

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## About the Speakers

**Salem Eid S. Al Arjani, PhD**, is a psychoanalytic psychotherapist and trauma researcher based in Gaza. He holds a PhD in Psychological Counseling from Al-Aqsa University and completed advanced training in dynamic psychoanalysis for children and adolescents at the Binational School, Jerusalem / Hadassah Medical Center. He is also certified in EMDR through EMDR for Peace. Dr. Al Arjani has worked extensively with children and adolescents affected by conflict-related trauma and forced displacement. Having himself experienced repeated displacement, his clinical work integrates lived experience with psychoanalytic theory, emphasizing ethical, relational, and existential dimensions of trauma. He has published widely on trauma, violence, adaptation, and self-transcendence, and is the author of *The Boundless Self* (2024) and *The Psychology of Values* (2025). Dr. Arjani currently serves as Director of the Mental Health Program at Gaza Children Village, which serves approximately 10,000 students, both boys and girls, between the ages of 7 and 17, across three educational stages: elementary, middle, and secondary school. They are actively working to expand the scope of their services and increase the number of children they are able to support. Each Academy is staffed with two school counselors and one psychologist, ensuring consistent psychological and emotional care. Their work with children is guided by a creative and future-oriented vision, with a strong emphasis on rebuilding ethical values and supporting the development of a well-integrated generation. This approach aims to address and compensate for the educational, psychological, moral, and social losses that children have endured.

**Ann Masten, PhD, LP**, is Regents Professor Emerita at the University of Minnesota (UMN). She studies resilience in human development, particularly in the context of homelessness, poverty, disaster, war, migration, and military service. She is a past President of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) and Division 7 (Developmental) of the American Psychological Association (APA). Her honors include the 2025 APF Gold Medal for Impact in Psychology and 2025 SRCD Distinguished Scientific Contributions to Child Development Award, the 2024 Grawemeyer Award in Psychology, and honorary degrees from Erasmus University of Rotterdam and Colgate University. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2021. Thousands of participants from more than 180 countries have taken her free online course on “Resilience in Children Exposed to Trauma, Disaster and War.” Dr. Masten has published more than 300 scholarly works.. Her autobiography is included in the 2025 volume, *Pillars of Developmental Psychology*, and the second edition of her book, *Ordinary Magic: Resilience in Development* also was published in 2025.

**Professor Merav Roth, PhD**, is a clinical psychologist, a training psychoanalyst, a teaching professor and chair of The “Interweaving” center for culturally sensitive therapy at the School of Therapy, Counseling and Human Development, University of Haifa. She is a leading figure in providing Israeli mental health aid after October 7th, one of the establishers of Kibbutz Beer’s mental health aid, Co-founder and co-chair of FLM (First Line Med), a civil organization providing long term, free of charge therapy for the victims and their family members that received the PACE (Psychoanalytic Assistance in Crises and Emergencies) Award by the International Psychoanalytic Association. She provides counseling to the Israeli Coalition of Trauma and to the Israeli Hostages and Missing Families Forum. Roth is the author of numerous papers, chapters and books on literature, trauma, and ethics. She is a recipient of the Sigourney Award for “extraordinary interdisciplinary work on psychoanalysis and literature and pioneering psychoanalytic study and treatment of trauma”.

## EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Define resilience from a multisystem developmental perspective, and explain the concept of “ordinary magic”.
2. Describe the threshold where an overwhelming experience becomes a trauma.
3. Describe the opposing currents within the psyche – the pull toward repetition, silence, and despair, and the counterforces of love, ethical standing, and creativity – through which recovery and renewal become possible.

## CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION/CONTINUING EDUCATION

### Continuing Medical Education (CME):

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of American Psychoanalytic Association and the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia. The American Psychoanalytic Association is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American Psychoanalytic Association designates these Live Activities for a maximum of 2.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**IMPORTANT DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR ALL LEARNERS:** None of the planners and presenters of this CME program have any relevant financial relationships to disclose.



### Continuing Education for Psychologists (CE):

The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia maintains responsibility for this program and its content. Every session of this program offers CE credit for psychologists.

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For more information, please contact the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia:

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