

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH

PRESENTS

# OPERATION NEMESIS, JUSTICE, AND INTER- GENERATIONAL TRAUMA:

*HOW RESISTANCE PROMOTES RESILIENCE*

by **Dr. Marian Mesrobian MacCurdy**

*Visiting Professor, University of Massachusetts at Amherst*

**Thursday, December 14, 2017, 7:30 p.m.**

**NAASR Center, 395 Concord Avenue, Belmont, MA**

The Armenians have suffered a personal and collective trauma born not only of genocide but also of its denial. Despite the military tribunals held after World War I, justice eluded the Armenians. The Turkish government has never acknowledged the truth of the Genocide and, on the contrary, adds exponentially to the trauma and continues to engage in active denial. This presentation focuses on how Operation Nemesis, resistance, and building community helped to counteract the inter-generational trauma of the unacknowledged Genocide.

Silence perpetuates trauma; exposing the truth lessens it, as can building community. This lecture will examine these issues in relation to the Armenian community in the U.S. It will also look at resilience—what makes some people able to cope effectively even after multiple traumas, while others struggle. Action, even extra-legal action, can attenuate a trauma response, especially if it results in self-protection or perceived justice. This is one of the key contributions that the Operation Nemesis narrative has made to Armenian culture—resistance can counter not only the effects of oppression but also the sense of victimhood. The act of resistance itself can be therapeutic to survivors.

Dr. Marian Mesrobian MacCurdy is retired professor and chair of the Department of Writing at Ithaca College, and currently visiting professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She has published scholarly articles, personal essays, and poetry in such journals as *Raft*, the *Journal of Poetry Therapy*, and the *Journal of Teaching Writing*. She is the author of *Sacred Justice: The Voices and Legacy of the Armenian Operation Nemesis*, as well as *The Mind's Eye: Image and Memory in Writing About Trauma* (2007) and *Writing and Healing: Toward An Informed Practice*, with co-editor Charles Anderson (2000).

**Contact NAASR at 617-489-1610 or [hq@naasr.org](mailto:hq@naasr.org) for more information.**

**The NAASR Christmas Open House will take place the same night as Dr. MacCurdy's lecture, from 6 p.m. till 11 p.m. with a break for the program. Come early and stay late.**

**Everything in the NAASR Bookstore will be 35-75% off!**

**What a great chance to do some Christmas Shopping!**