



THE SALAAM NETWORK

*Striving to make our Beloved
Community of Louisville Whole*

Dear Members, Friends and Supporters of *The Salaam Network*,

I hope this finds you well. I write to you on behalf of *The Salaam Network* (TSN) to respectfully ask for your donation on Giving Tuesday (December 3, 2024)

Since its beginning in 2016, TSN has presented more than 150 programs (in-person and virtual), free of cost, at a variety of venues. Due to the scholarly merit and integrity of its programs, it has become a leading education network in Louisville. It has had the honor of getting the Better Business Bureau Accreditation (2021), the GUIDESTAR SILVER TRANSPARENCY AWARD (2021), and the TOP-RATED Award from GREATNONPROFITS.org for four consecutive years (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023).

During the time of the coronavirus pandemic when in-person programs could not be held, TSN undertook new educational initiatives conducted via zoom meetings. Amongst them was the setting up of a monthly Interfaith Group for the Study of Important Books related to Islam, interaction amongst Abrahamic religions, and other subjects of contemporary significance. The monthly meetings of the Interfaith Group which began in September 2020 continue to date.

To give you a comprehensive view of TSN's work and its significance during the past year, I would like to share with you a recent account written by Rev. Dr. Joseph Brennan, Ph. D., M. Div., M.S.W., TSN's Scholar-in-Residence who states:

"Since its creation, The Salaam Network has been an outstanding proponent of community education and understanding not only in Kentucky, but also in the much wider areas of its national and global outreach. This past year has not been an exception. TSN's Board of Trustees as well as its members have made outstanding contributions toward

fostering a knowledge-based and open-minded reflection on the meaning of the Palestinian-Zionist conflict that has hampered the possibility of world peace for over a century.

As in past years, Dr. Dennis Neyman, TSN Director and Community Outreach Coordinator, presented a special session to the National Unitarian Universalist Convention in which he offered peaceful alternatives to resolving international conflicts. His presentation was well-received by fifty participants who were interested in discovering such alternatives. Dr. Neyman also serves as the Kentucky representative of the Peace Memorial Foundation in Washington D. C.

Over the course of the year, TSN membership has engaged in a review of the classic work entitled "The Hundred Years' War on Palestine," by Dr. Rashid Khalidi, the most eminent historian of the Middle East. As part of these hour and half long sessions, TSN members have provided outlines of different chapters, while discussion on the larger political, cultural, theological and moral aspects of Palestinian history has been ongoing.

TSN also has a very valuable research component. Its lead researchers have dedicated more than three hundred hours of intensive investigation of a broad expanse of the Palestinian-Zionist conflict. This research has produced some ten publications, thirty reviews of relevant videos, countless review of information found in professional journals, including newspapers published in Israel and throughout Europe. This ample source of information was the basis for forty-five articles covering such areas as theology, sociology, philosophy, history, and politics of differing aspects of the conflict, which are available for sharing with interested individuals or groups. In all the articles, both sides of the issue were explored to provide participants with a broad and meaningful understanding of why this conflict has been such a long-term issue of controversy.

TSN's Scholar-in-Residence has also released a 90-minutes blog to the local community. The presentation covered the issue from Biblical times to the current discourse in the Israeli Knesset. It spoke in detail about international policies and treaties that have governed the politics of Palestine-Israel to this day. The complexity of possible solutions, including the two-state solution, was presented to provide listeners with a more complete understanding of the matter.

This is an outline of the role that TSN has played during this year in a world-community struggling to find accurate information, where such information has been suppressed, or - at the best - very limited. TSN continues to live up to its reputation as a quality education platform which provides the opportunity for equitable and honest interaction amongst those who participate in its in-depth programs. I recommend it highly to anyone

with an open mind who is willing to examine all sides of controversial social issues which affect the harmony and peace of the community.”.

The services rendered by TSN to the Beloved Community have been made possible through the continuing in-kind support of dedicated professional contributors and volunteer helpers. However, funding is needed to cover TSN’s running expenses and the cost of maintaining and developing its excellent website (<https://www.salaamnetwork.org>). TSN has no source of income other than the donations it receives from you. We lack the means to hire a fundraising expert and depend entirely on your generosity to meet our basic needs.

I thank you in advance for your support. Since TSN is a registered 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization, your donations are tax-exempt and receipts will be sent to you promptly.

Donations can be made to TSN by going to the website (<http://salaamnetwork.org>) and clicking on the DONATE button.

With gratitude for your time and attention,

Riffat Hassan,

Executive Director,

The Salaam Network