

GIVE FOR GOOD LOUISVILLE 2026 APPEAL LETTER

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

I hope this finds you well and that you have had a good summer. I write to you on behalf of *The Salaam Network* (TSN) to ask respectfully for your donations through the Give for Good Louisville fundraising event which will take place on September 10, 2026.

The link to give this year, starting on September 7 is

<https://www.giveforgoodlouisville.org/organization/the-salaam-network>

Since its beginning in 2016, TSN has presented more than 160 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 six consecutive years (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025).

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, and now have membership across the nation.

As stated by Rev. Dr. Joseph Brennan, Ph. D., M. Div., M.S.W., TSN's Scholar-in-Residence: "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." As in past years, Dr. Dennis Neyman, TSN Director and Community Outreach Coordinator, and Dr. Joseph Brennan, made a virtual presentation to the National Unitarian Universalist Convention in which they offered peaceful alternatives to resolving international conflicts. This presentation was well-received by the 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 2025 – 2026, the TSN Interfaith Study Group members have engaged in a review of a widely-acclaimed classic entitled "*Lobbying on Both Sides of the Atlantic*" by Dr. Ilan Pappé, a world-renowned Israeli historian, and Dr. Norman Finkelstein, a distinguished specialist in the history of Gaza. As part of the monthly ninety-minute-long sessions, Interfaith Study Group members have provided outlines of different chapters,

while discussions on the larger political, cultural, theological and moral aspects of the Middle-East conflict and its ramifications for the world.

After the start of the U. S. – Iran War in February 2026, the TSN Interfaith Study Group has started an advanced course of study directed by Dr. Riffat Hassan, Professor Emerita, University of Louisville, which is aimed at providing the historical background to the civilization and culture of Iran. The educational materials which are being compiled for this Project will be of great value to students and others who want to have a better understanding of Islamic and Iranian history in the context of contemporary issues of concern. TSN intends to share these materials with any community institution or organization which has similar educational goals.

This is a brief overview of TSN's important work during 2025-2026. It continues to live up to its reputation as a quality education platform which provides the opportunity for open and equitable interaction amongst those who participate in its in-depth programs, and others who are part of its community outreach.

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>) and having a small book fund. 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.

Thanking you for your time and attention,

Riffat Hassan,

Executive Director