

## A Message from the Rabbi, October 2017

I first visited Yam HaMelach, the Dead Sea, located near Israel on the Eastern side and near Jordan on the Western side, in 1993. It was one of the most memorable highlights of my trip, along with many others, including witnessing our sacred nation's leadership's advance of the historic Oslo Accords.

I will never forget the unique sensations of floating on the beautiful Dead Sea and watching tourists lather their bodies with this natural landmark's rich and silky mud on the beach.

I truly felt regenerated and renewed after this amazing experience and when I studied in Jerusalem in the third year of my rabbinical studies, I made another pilgrimage, in the little spare time I had, to this wondrous resource.

We have exquisite health spas in France, one of which (Aix-les-Bains) my mother benefited from years ago, but I have to say I had never experienced anything like Yam HaMelach. It is a unique sea, which contains an exceptional amount of salt and is packed with minerals that are said to be particularly good for one's skin.

As you know, we are fortunate enough to enjoy a bit of Yam HaMelach in our American malls, with Israeli vendors talking up their beloved Sea and advertising with great pride and conviction all sorts of beauty products fashioned from her precious ingredients. With every sample comes a great deal of passion.

On Friday, October 27, during Oneg following abridged services at 7:30 p.m., Tal Ezer, Professor of Ocean Earth & Atmospheric Sciences at ODU who did extensive research on the Dead Sea, will be our special guest in honor of Parashat Lech Lecha, in the Book of Genesis, which features Yam HaMelach.

This will be an exclusive event, which will enable us all to learn about the Dead Sea from a scientific point of view. Professor Ezer will also share with us findings from his recent research on climate change, sea level rise and local flooding.

I hope many of you will take advantage of Professor Ezer's presentation!  
L'Shalom,  
Rabbi Severine Sokol