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Technology is Transforming Genealogy Research

By Hillel Kuttler

PHILADELPHIA (JTA) — In genealogy research, crumbling documents and high-speed Internet connections often go hand in hand.

So it goes for Schelly Talalay Dardashti.

At a workshop she ran a few years ago in Barcelona on the role of technology in conducting genealogy research, Dardashti met a former attorney, Maria Jose Surribas. Surribas now works as a

freelance archivist and has helped Dardashti research her roots in the Colombian town of Lerida.

Dardashti now can trace her family there to 1353, to Moshe Talalaya, a kosher winemaker.

“If not for technology, we’d be doing what we used to: dealing with the dust and the creepy-crawlies, like Maria does in Spain, wearing a face mask,” said Dardashti, of Tel Aviv. “Technology has made it possible for people interested in the same topics to

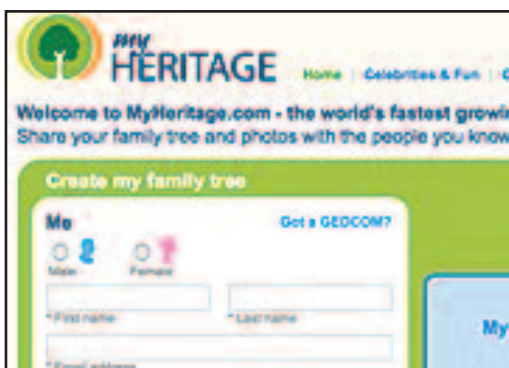
share, collaborate and learn.”

The ever-expanding research opportunities enabled by technology was a central theme at last month’s conference in Philadelphia of the International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies, which drew nearly 900 people.

Last year’s conference session on using Google for genealogy research proved so popular that three Google sessions were held this time.

Speakers, including representatives of companies specializing in technology-assisted genealogy, covered such matters as constructing digital family trees and sharing them online, searching databases, choosing genealogy software, collaborating with other researchers via social networking sites and utilizing face-recognition technology to identify relatives in photographs.

“Until now history and genealogy, see **FAMILY TREE** page 7 ▶



GOLDA MEIR HADASSAH WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS. Golda Meir President Arlene Harvis talks to the ladies about the group at a recent tea held in Ventnor. (Photo by Marilyn Kessler) See Page 20.

The High Holiday Survival Course: Turning the High Holidays into a Life Changing Experience

The High Holidays are believed to be the most inspirational period of the Jewish year. For many Jews, however, the High Holidays are simply an exercise of boredom.

Chabad at the Shore, in conjunction with the Jewish Learning Institute, will be offering a special Holiday education series to the community. This three-part course will explore the esoteric and kabalistic meaning behind these special days. The goal is to present a refreshing perspective aimed at bringing a newfound appreciation and excitement to the holidays.

The course will be held for three Wednesdays beginning on Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Chabad House in Margate, (8223 Fulton Ave.). The fee is \$49 per student (textbook included). The lessons will be presented by Rabbi Avrohom



Rapoport. “Whether you consider yourself a Reform, Conservative, Orthodox or an unaffiliated Jew, this class will bring meaning and insight that will enhance your holidays no matter where you attend services,” says Rabbi Avrohom Rapoport. “We see **JLI** page 3 ▶

JCC Brunch & Learn: The Jewish People: A Story of Survival

A Brunch & Learn event will be held at the Milton and Betty Katz JCC on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 10:30 a.m.

This month participants will watch and discuss the film “The Jewish People, A Story of Survival,” in which journalist Martha Teichner traces the history of the Jewish people, explaining how this vibrant culture has endured and thrived despite more than 4,000 years of slavery, oppression, anti-

Semitism and genocide. Historical photos, rare documents and interviews with noted scholars serve to illuminate how the Jews survived for centuries — while other communities vanished — under the Babylonians, Romans, Nazis, Russians and other cruel regimes.

This event is free and open to the entire community. A bagel brunch will be served. For more information or to RSVP contact Josh Cutler at 822-1167.

Super Sunday

No one has a monopoly on Israel Advocacy.

Bob Seltzer



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Honorable Menschen

The Palm GM, Paul Sandler, to be honored at Gilda’s Club annual luncheon. PAGE 14



Labor Day Op-Ed

The struggle for workers’ rights. Sybil Sanchez



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Federation supports World ORT’s pre-aliyah training for B’nai Menashe in Mumbai, India. The B’nai Menashe claim descent from the lost tribe of Menashe.

