

▲ Family Tree

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which are related, are things that old people were said to be doing," said Daniel Horowitz, manager of genealogy and translations for My Heritage, an Israeli software and Web company that operates in 36 languages.

That reality is changing, he said, as modern tools make learning about the past cooler.

"Definitely, technology plays a very important role in bringing young people into genealogy," Horowitz said. "Once the computer and technology are used to research or share information, young people are attracted to it. The amount of young people getting involved in things like Facebook – it's incredible. In Israel, there's a Facebook for kids 12-15 years old. That's a very good catch to bring young people into genealogy."

While few teenagers and 20-somethings attended the conference,

some spoke of their young children catching the genealogy bug.

Barbara and Richard Wissokur came from Boston with their daughter, Amy Wissokur Graham, a Philadelphia librarian. When Barbara periodically updates the family database, she e-mails Amy, who shares the information with her three children for their class assignments.

"They've been working on this so long," Amy said of her parents, "that my mother is counting on me to move this forward."

Technology has proven itself to Ruth Epstein-Glicksberg and her husband, Moshe, retirees in Haifa. Ruth has compiled much of her family's history by hand on assorted scraps of paper. She started transferring the data onto a computer program, Family Tree Maker, but said she is thinking of switching to My Heritage's Family Tree Builder after hearing a session about it at the conference.

"It's terrible because it's a mess,"

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