

# Dancing Jews

A folk-dance teacher from Teaneck leads a tour that includes klezmer and abandoned shuls

By [JOANNE PALMER](#) | November 21, 2019, 2:01 pm



Romanians and visitors danced together in a restaurant.

Oy Romania...

It was a paradise, at least the way the early 20th century Yiddish singer Aaron Lebedeff remembered it; his song got faster and faster and more and more riotous as he detailed some of the food and the pleasures until he nearly exploded with joy.

Of course it did not end well. (It being life in Romania, not the song, which did, spectacularly.) The relatively few who survived the Holocaust were driven out in the postwar era; now almost none out of what had been many are left.

That complicated history — wholesale murder, but also the music and dance and well-lived lives that came before and also are lodged in descendants' memories — was part of the lure of a trip that Jim Gold of Teaneck led to Romania last month.

Mr. Gold is a folk dancer and teacher; he often leads tours to Europe, but this one was different.