

## FAITH &amp; SPIRIT

## EXHIBIT

# An old religion reborn in E. Europe

**A Fort Worth photographer documents the renewal of Jewish traditions in Poland and Ukraine.**

By **DIANE SMITH**  
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FORT WORTH — The pages of a worn book display names of people buried in a Jewish cemetery destroyed by Nazis.

Holocaust survivors stand by an old synagogue in Ukraine.

A woman in Ukraine learns how to celebrate Sukkot, a Jewish festival that celebrates the fall harvest and commemorates the 40 years Jews spent wandering in the desert.

The images, which document the re-emergence of Jewish communities that struggled behind the old Iron Curtain in Ukraine and Poland, were captured by Fort Worth photographer Loli Kantor.

The photographs, titled "There Was a Forest — Jewish Life in Eastern Europe Today," are on display at Beth-El Congregation in Fort Worth and Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

"I wanted to find living communities and document," said Kantor, the daughter of Holocaust survivors. "The impression was that it was all gone, but there is life there. There are changes."

Kantor's photos depict a new chapter for Jews who survived first under the Nazis and later under the Soviet communist regime. Their communities also lost younger generations who moved to America, West Germany and Israel in post-World War II Eastern Europe.

"I think they want community," she said. "They want to get back to their roots."

Kantor has captured modern life in *shtetls*, small Jewish enclaves. Her



Sukkot, Drohobych, Ukraine, 2007. In this photo by Loli Kantor, a Hasidic Jew, left, has come to teach townspeople the old holiday tradition, which had been slowly disappearing.

## If you go

Photographs from "There Was a Forest — Jewish Life in Eastern Europe Today," by Loli Kantor, are on display in Fort Worth and Dallas.

### Beth-El Congregation

4900 Briarhaven Road,  
Fort Worth  
Display continues through Thanksgiving. The public is welcome to view it 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

### Southern Methodist University

Mildred Hawn Exhibition Gallery, Hamon Arts Library  
6100 Hillcrest Ave.,  
Dallas  
Display continues through Nov. 15  
■ Information:  
[www.lolikantor.com](http://www.lolikantor.com)

Loli Kantor with one of her photos at Beth-El Congregation. Her art shows the re-emergence of Jewish communities in post-Iron Curtain Eastern Europe. "They want to get back to their roots," she said.

STAR-TELEGRAM/PAUL MOSELEY

work shows people trying to learn their Jewish traditions.

"They didn't practice Judaism," Kantor said. "They are kind of learning how to do things."

Several Kantor photographs have been on display at Beth-El Congregation during the Jewish high holidays of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur and will continue through Thanksgiving.