

## TREE OF COMMUNITY – TREE OF NAMES

The Project is aiming to refresh, enhance, enrich the sense of COMMUNITY: Community of people as well as Community of peoples; Congregation; Local community; Group of interest, etc.

The Project reaches this goal by giving us the experience of creating metaphorical visual image, which symbolizes this phenomenon, phenomenon of Community.

*I propose to create an Artwork – powerful, convincing image – metaphorical symbol of the unity of people; of those intertwined forces holding Community together; of the interdependency of all of us, for the sake of Life existence.*

**Community can be presented – metaphorically, symbolically – as a TREE.**

I want to use this, always well perceived form and concept of a tree, as a prime structure of the installation and as a representation of a growing-flourishing-living, creating-recreating itself entity.

We are “growing” our TREE and have it been blossoming.

Like all trees – in nature, in genealogy and, of course, like the most powerful tree – Tree of Life – our TREE exhibits these vitally important connections, these interacting forces which are making possible the growth of the TREE, from the roots to the blossoming crown.

For the Tree of Community, these are forces of mutual understanding, respect, acceptance, empathy, strive to help, appreciation of life of a human being, equally self and other.

Let us see how it is working, what is getting addressed, what participants are doing at this stage of Project.

We all possess one endless source of curiosity, discovery, knowledge – for ourselves as well as for the outside world: **OUR NAME**.

**Our Name** is the first thing we are saying out-loud introducing ourselves to the world. What are we willing the world to know about this person – “myself” – carrying this NAME? How will you present YOUR NAME to a community of people? What kind of visual image comes to your mind when you are thinking about YOUR NAME?

*Beautifully written word?~Pictorial symbol of its meaning?~Image showing the connection between you and Your Name(family connections, cultural, social connections; other)?~Image showing the way how YOU, carrier, owner, representative of Your Name is doing your part in Repairing the World?~Else? YOUR NAME IS IMPORTANT!*

Action begins at the Tree-Structure. “Empty Leaves” are attached to it. You are approaching. It starts: Give YOUR NAME to an Empty Leaf, fill its Emptiness – by writing the letters, texts; painting pictorial symbols or other images, etc., on the Your-Name-Leaf-Plate. As soon as the creation of Your-Name-Leaf is accomplished, Your-Name-Leaf moves up, onto the Tree-Structure. When there are no more Empties, the Tree-Structure turns into a flourishing TREE, with the blossoming crown, intertwining branches... all blooming with the stunning images of OUR NAMES!

**TREE** is grown. **ARTWORK** is created. The installation gets developed, obtains its shape – it becomes visually clear, convincingly clear, how much all its details and parts are interconnected, integrated into One Whole Piece. Even more: it is obvious that this Creation cannot exist otherwise. Seemingly superficial structure has been transformed into one truly “alive” piece of Art, TREE OF OUR NAMES, living proof of the success of a mutual creative effort – creative efforts of many. This harmonious concord of creativity is offering to these “many”, through very attractive, psychologically nourishing, entertaining, artistic activity the heartwarming experience of a fine communal undertaking. This shared unforgettable excitement of great creative accomplishment – beautiful Artwork as well as Action of Creating it – brings all participants together, makes them so close to each other!

Being both formally and factually a Community, showing themselves as such in many, many good ways, now they feel “Community” as the uplifting artistic revelation.

Olga Shmuylovich

5.29.04





**TREE OF THE COMMUNITY**

**CONGREGATION BETH EL**  
Of the Sudbury River Valley

May 16, 2004

Artists: *Olga Shmuylovich*  
*Nikolay Chernyayev*



**HOW  
TO  
TURN**

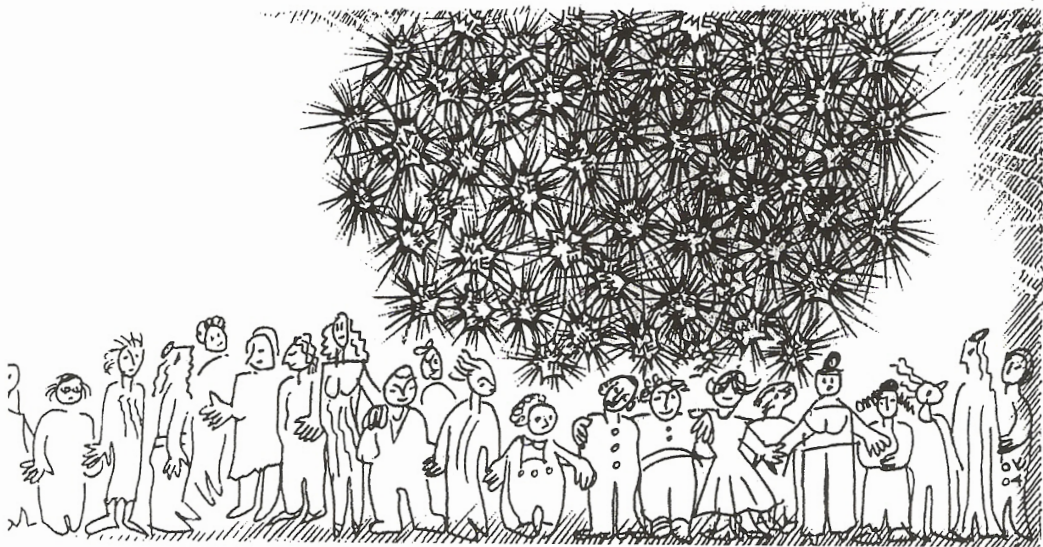
◁ **THIS**

**I  
N  
T  
O**

**THIS**

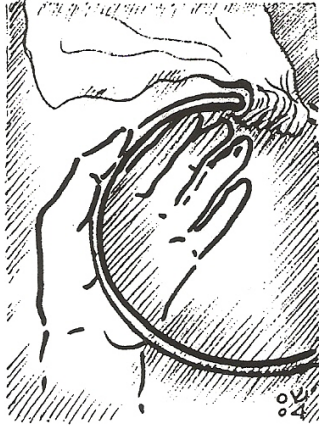


see on back ▷



Olga Shmuylovich, TREE OF NAMES, Flyer, front





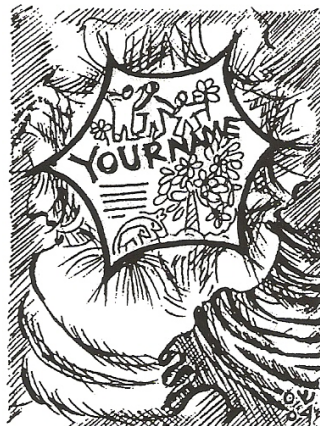
1



2



3



4

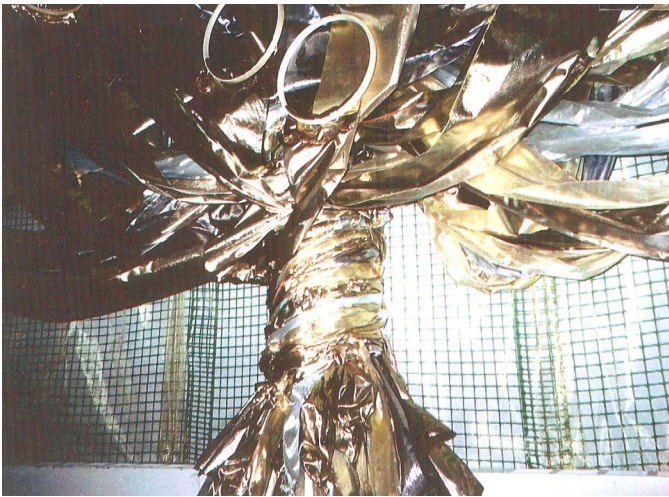
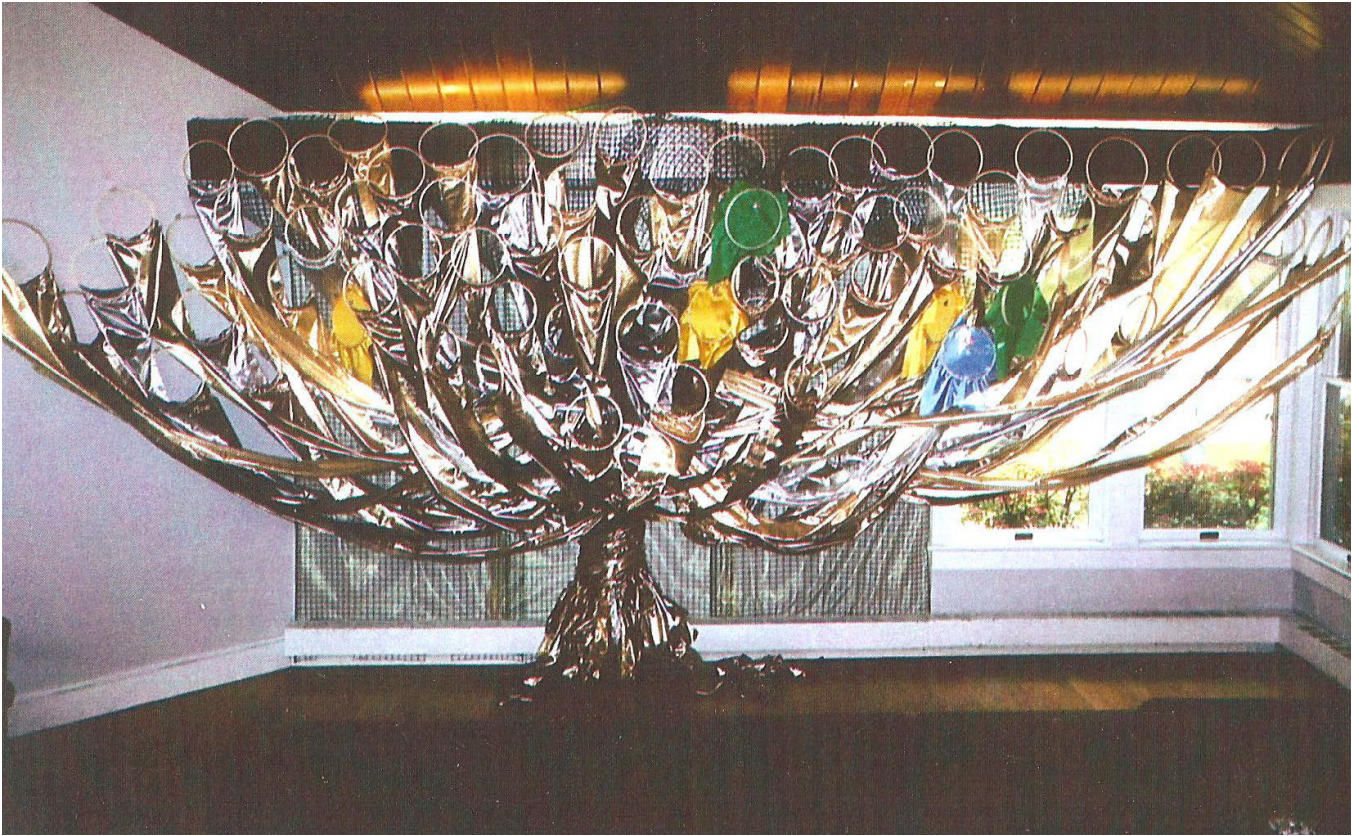


5



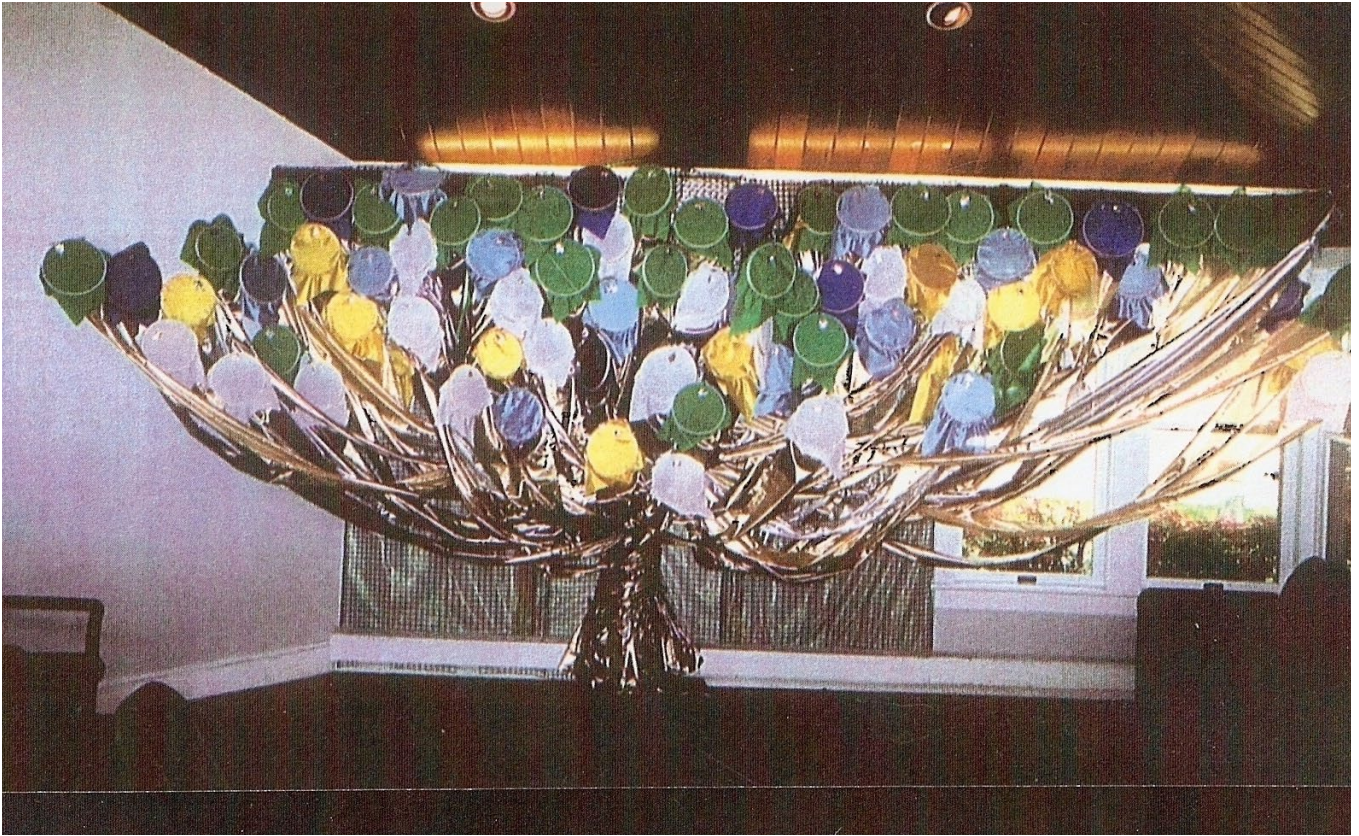
6





Olga Shmuylovich, project "Tree of Names"





Olga Shmuylovich, project "Tree of Names", with participation of Nikolay Cherny (b)