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HUMA 5105; April 2007; Dr. Roger Nash, supervisor

## An Unexpected Study of Unity

### Abstract:

How can things direct an individual towards perceiving forces of unity? This paper examines the ideas and practices represented by various things that were encountered during a practicum with *Shaar Hashomayim* Synagogue. Curiosity regarding particular things, such as a photograph, enticed an investigation into the philosophical, theological and ethical aspects of Judaism. With the aid of some prevalent texts on Judaic thought, an enhanced comprehension of Jewish community and culture emerged.

Although this study is primarily focused upon Jewish thought and culture, a discussion of the perceived role and state of Sudbury's interfaith community is undertaken. A concise comparison is drawn between *Interfaith Dialogue's* mission statement and certain Jewish ideas.

Consideration of common modes of Jewish thinking eventually yielded reflection upon forces that stimulate either cohesion or contention amongst Jews in Sudbury and in many other cities.

While exploring the significance of certain things, forces that facilitate unity with others and with new aspects of one's self became an apparent theme of this practicum.