Darshan Yeshiva

First Hand Look At Inclusion

There are intense debates about if (or how) to include non-Jews in Jewish life. In the video, you have heard three examples of ways in which non- Jews may become involved in your Jewish community, based on true stories from independent minyanim.

These stories include three themes:

- Interfaith Relationships
- Potential Converts
- Non-Jewish Friends/Family

The lessons we learn from this include:

- Understanding that non-Jews do seek out Jewish communities and that we need to be aware of their needs (ahavat *ger)*
- The nature of Jewish families is changing
- We should not assume who is a Jew and who isn't (and what that identity means)

The best policy regarding non-Jewish inclusion in the Jewish community is the informal policy set by your community. Non-Orthodox communities tend to have a less formal stance, while Orthodox communities tend to be firmer.
In all practicality, the inclusion of non-Jews in Jewish life (as far as independent minyanim are concerned) is Jewish ritual life.

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