

# The Making of Kiryas Joel: A Glimpse into the Hasidic Village that Captivates the Imagination

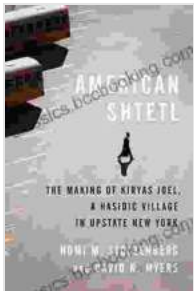
## A Journey to the Heart of Hasidic Culture



Nestled amidst the rolling hills of Upstate New York lies a hidden gem: Kiryas Joel, a thriving Hasidic village that has captivated the imagination of outsiders and insiders alike. This unique community, founded by a group of Satmar Hasidim in the 1970s, has grown into a vibrant and insular enclave, preserving its centuries-old traditions while navigating the challenges of modernity.

## Origins and History

The story of Kiryas Joel begins with the Satmar Hasidim, a branch of Orthodox Judaism founded in Hungary in the 19th century. After fleeing persecution during the Holocaust, a group of Satmar Hasidim, led by Grand Rabbi Joel Teitelbaum, sought refuge in the United States. In the 1970s, they Free Downloaded a 100-acre farm in Monroe, New York, to establish a community where they could live according to their strict religious principles.



## American Shtetl: The Making of Kiryas Joel, a Hasidic Village in Upstate New York by David N. Myers

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 21518 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 484 pages

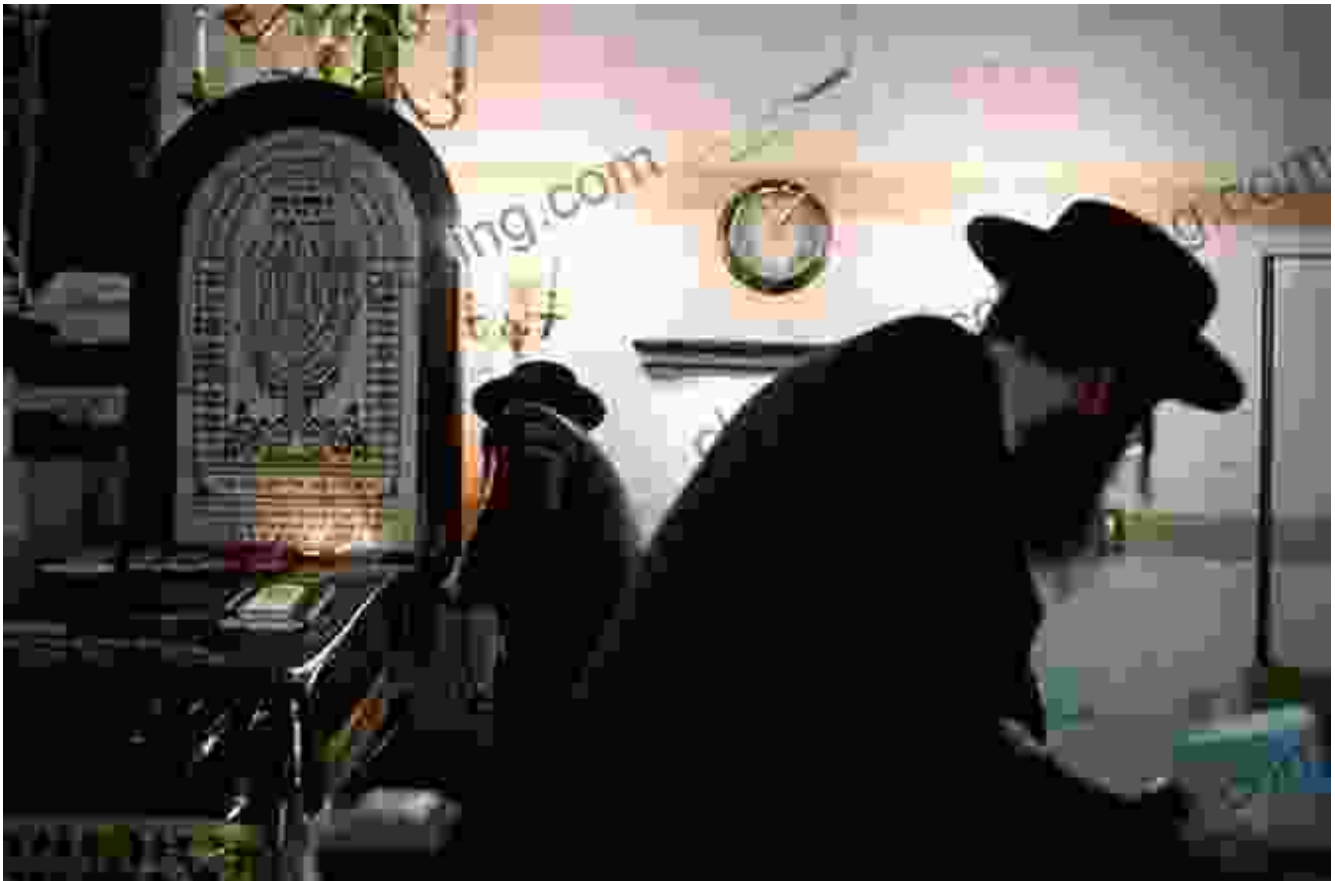


The early years of Kiryas Joel were marked by both challenges and growth. The community faced opposition from some local residents and had to overcome obstacles to secure essential services like water and electricity. However, the Hasidim persevered, building homes, businesses, and religious institutions. As the population grew, so did the need for additional land, and Kiryas Joel gradually expanded its boundaries.

### Life in Kiryas Joel

Today, Kiryas Joel is home to approximately 30,000 Hasidic Jews, making it one of the largest Orthodox Jewish communities in the world. Life in the

village revolves around religious laws and customs known as Halacha, which govern every aspect of daily life. Men and women live separately, with distinct roles and responsibilities. Modesty in dress and behavior is highly valued, and the community emphasizes education, both religious and secular.



Education plays a central role in the Hasidic community. Boys attend cheders, religious schools, where they study the Torah and Talmud. Girls attend separate schools where they learn about Jewish history, culture, and domestic skills. Religious observance is paramount, and residents spend much of their time praying, studying, and attending synagogue services.

### **Commerce and Community**

Despite its emphasis on tradition, Kiryas Joel has also embraced certain aspects of modernity. The village boasts a thriving economy with businesses ranging from kosher restaurants to construction companies. The community is largely self-sufficient, with its own currency exchange, school system, and emergency services. While maintaining their religious identity, the Hasidim have also developed a strong sense of civic responsibility and actively participate in local government and community events.



The success of Kiryas Joel is attributed to the strong sense of community among its residents. They support each other through thick and thin, and there is a palpable sense of unity and belonging in the village. The Hasidim have also forged relationships with their non-Hasidic neighbors, fostering dialogue and understanding between different cultures.

### **Challenges and Controversies**

Like any community, Kiryas Joel has faced its share of challenges and controversies. Some critics have raised concerns about the village's insular nature and its impact on the environment. Others have questioned the separation of genders and its implications for women's rights. However, the Hasidim have defended their way of life as a legitimate expression of their religious beliefs and have sought to address environmental concerns through sustainable practices.





## **A Window into a Unique World**

Kiryas Joel offers a fascinating glimpse into a world that is both ancient and modern, insular and interconnected. It is a place where centuries-old traditions coexist with contemporary realities. While not without its complexities, the Hasidic village serves as a reminder of the diversity and richness of human experience. By shedding light on the history, culture, and challenges of Kiryas Joel, we gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of religious life in the contemporary world.

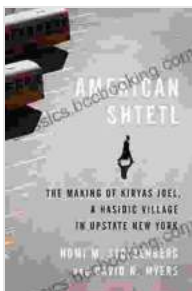
The Making of Kiryas Joel is a testament to the resilience, adaptability, and enduring faith of the Hasidic community. From its humble beginnings to its present-day vitality, the village stands as a symbol of both the challenges and triumphs of preserving cultural identity while navigating the

complexities of the modern world. As we learn about the unique tapestry of Kiryas Joel, we are reminded of the importance of embracing diversity and fostering dialogue across cultural and religious boundaries.

### Further Reading:

- [New York Times: Inside the insular world of Kiryas Joel](#)
- [Haaretz: A new world: The rise of Kiryas Joel and the transformation of American Jewry](#)
- [The Atlantic: The conflict over Kiryas Joel, an ultra-Orthodox enclave in New York](#)
- [The Making of Kiryas Joel: Hasidic Village in Upstate New York](#)

[Copyright © 2023. All rights reserved.](#)



## American Shtetl: The Making of Kiryas Joel, a Hasidic Village in Upstate New York by David N. Myers

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 21518 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 484 pages





## How to Know When Language Deceives You

Unmasking the Power of Persuasion in Everyday Life In the realm of human communication, language holds immense power to shape our thoughts, sway our...



## 50 Things To Know About Planning Home Schooling Excursions

: The Power of Hands-On Learning Embarking on home schooling excursions can be an incredibly rewarding experience for both children and parents. These excursions offer a rich...