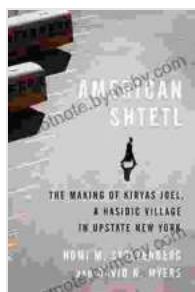


# The Making of Kiryas Joel: A Hasidic Village in Upstate New York

## : A Tapestry of Faith and Community

Nestled amidst the rolling hills and tranquil landscapes of upstate New York lies Kiryas Joel, an enigmatic Hasidic village that has captivated the imagination of outsiders and insiders alike. Founded in 1977, Kiryas Joel serves as a sanctuary and spiritual haven for a vibrant community of Satmar Hasidim, a devout and insular branch of Orthodox Judaism.



## 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 story of Kiryas Joel is one of profound faith, resilience, and communal determination. Led by the charismatic Grand Rabbi Joel Teitelbaum, a visionary leader who sought a refuge for his followers, the Satmar Hasidim embarked on a remarkable journey to establish their own village.

## Land Acquisition and the Birth of a Community

In the 1970s, as the Satmar community in Brooklyn sought to expand, they faced a growing need for affordable housing and a space to preserve their unique way of life. With the guidance of their Grand Rabbi, they embarked on a quest for a suitable location to create a village of their own.

Scouting various sites, they eventually settled on a 588-acre plot of land in Monroe, New York. Despite facing initial resistance from local landowners and environmental concerns, the Satmar Hasidim persevered, purchasing the land in 1977.

### **Development and Infrastructure: Building a Sanctuary**

The development of Kiryas Joel was a transformative undertaking that required meticulous planning and unwavering dedication. The Hasidim set about creating a self-sufficient village that would meet the needs of their growing community.

Roads, water systems, and homes were constructed, and a bustling commercial center sprang up. Schools, synagogues, and social service organizations were established, creating a comprehensive infrastructure that catered to the educational, religious, and social needs of the residents.

### **Education: Nurturing the Future Generations**

Education holds paramount importance in the Satmar Hasidic community. Recognizing this, the leaders of Kiryas Joel established a robust educational system that emphasizes both religious studies and secular knowledge.

Yeshivas and girls' schools provide rigorous instruction in Torah, Talmud, and other religious texts. Simultaneously, students receive a well-rounded

education in core academic subjects, preparing them for further education or vocational training.

### **Social Services: Supporting the Community**

Kiryas Joel is also known for its extensive social services network, which provides a safety net for its members. These services include healthcare clinics, food banks, counseling services, and support for the elderly and disabled.

The community's strong sense of mutual aid and cooperation ensures that no resident is left behind, fostering a spirit of collective responsibility and compassion.

### **Economic Initiatives: Fostering Self-Sufficiency**

Economic self-sufficiency is another cornerstone of Kiryas Joel. The community has developed various businesses and industries, including construction, manufacturing, and retail. These enterprises provide employment opportunities and generate revenue within the village, reducing dependence on external sources.

Additionally, the village has attracted investments from outside entrepreneurs, further diversifying the local economy and creating jobs.

### **Growth and Transformation: A Dynamic Community**

Over the years, Kiryas Joel has experienced significant growth and transformation. The village's population has steadily expanded, and the community has continued to evolve in response to changing needs and circumstances.

New housing developments have been constructed to accommodate the growing number of families. Schools and other facilities have been expanded and upgraded to meet the demands of the growing population.

### **: A Beacon of Faith and Community in Modern Times**

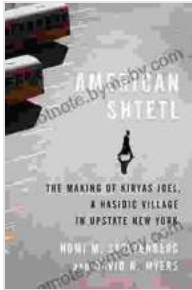
Kiryas Joel stands as a unique and enduring testament to the power of faith and community. From its humble beginnings as a small settlement, it has blossomed into a thriving village that embodies the values and aspirations of the Satmar Hasidic community.

The making of Kiryas Joel is an ongoing story, one that continues to unfold as the village adapts to the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. As the community grows and evolves, it remains a beacon of faith, tradition, and communal solidarity in the heart of upstate New York.



## References:

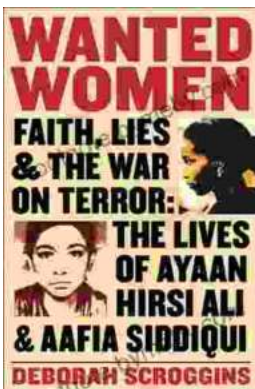
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- The Village That Time Forgot (The Atlantic)
- The Untold Story of America's Ultra-Orthodox Jews (NPR)



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