

The Dr. Fritz Bamberger Memorial Lecture

What Does Kiryas Joel Tell us About Liberalism in America?

The Curious Case of a Satmar Hasidic Village

Tuesday, November 21, 2006

7:00 pm: Reception | 7:30 pm: Lecture

This lecture will present the fascinating story of Kiryas Joel, a legal municipality composed almost entirely of Satmar Hasidim in Orange County, New York. The community has been the subject of hot controversy, both by external critics who charge it with violation of 'separation of church and state,' and by its own members, embroiled in a battle of succession since the death of Grand Rabbi Moses Teitelbaum, in 2006. Interestingly, opposing camps within the village often challenge one another by using the language of liberal constitutional values more commonly associated with external critics. Amidst all of this controversy, Kiryas Joel engages in a constant struggle to balance its cultural insularity with the need to accommodate to the larger world.

Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion
One West 4th Street (between Broadway and Mercer)

Please RSVP: (212) 824-2293; lkaplan@huc.edu
Admission: Free | Photo ID required for entrance



Nomi M. Stolzenberg, J.D. is the Nathan and Lilly Shapell Professor of Law at University of Southern California Law School. A graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School, Stolzenberg writes largely on issues of property law and literature, legal conceptions of maternity and paternity, liberalism and its critics, and law, language and ethics. Her newest work, "The Profanity of Law," will soon appear in *Law and the Sacred*. At present, Stolzenberg is working on a book (together with Myers) on the Satmar Hasidic community of Kiryas Yoel, New York.



David N. Myers, director of the UCLA Center for Jewish Studies and co-editor of the "Jewish Quarterly Review," received his A.B. at Yale College and his doctorate at Columbia. He has written extensively in the fields of modern Jewish intellectual and cultural history, with a particular interest in the history of Jewish historiography. He has authored *Re-Inventing the Jewish Past: European Jewish Intellectuals and the Zionist Return to History* (Oxford: 1995) and *Resisting History: Historicism and its Discontents in German-Jewish Thought* (Princeton, 2003). In addition to his current project on Kiryas Joel, Myers is working on books about the Diaspora Hebraist thinker Simon Rawidowicz and on the history of Jews in Los Angeles.