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- HOME
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- NEWS EDITORIAL EDITOR'S COLUMN OPINION LETTERS
- CLASSIFIEDS
- ADVICE ASK A RABBI ARTS & CULTURE BOOKS CALENDARS CYBERSITES HEALTH KOSHER CUPBOARD LIFECYCLES NEIGHBORHOODS NEWSLETTER SABBATH WEEK SINGLES TRAVEL
- JEWISH VACATIONS
- FRESH INK FOR TEENS
- WRITE ON FOR ISRAEL
- SPECIAL SECTIONS
- DIRECTORIES
- MANHATTAN BROOKLYN/STATEN ISLAND QUEENS LONG ISLAND WESTCHESTER/BRONX
- View Last Week's Issue

Tuesday, April 13, 104 / 30 Nisan 3864  
[NEWS](#)   [NY](#)   [Nat'l](#)   [Israel](#)   [Int'l](#)   Short Takes

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## Rabbi Tells Nassau DA About Lesbian Wedding

**Debra Nussbaum Cohen**

Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum will officiate at the wedding of two women this Sunday, as she has for dozens of other gay couples since being ordained in 1990. But this time, before standing under the chupah in Port Washington, L.I., she has contacted the Nassau County District Attorney's Office to say she would be performing the ceremony.

Andrea Kantor and Mindy Alpert, both of Great Neck, met five years ago at Congregation Beth Simchat Torah, New York's gay and lesbian synagogue, where Rabbi Kleinbaum is the spiritual leader.

Their wedding has been planned for a year, said Rabbi Kleinbaum, and they don't want it to become a political event. But "they support me because of the discrimination they face as a gay couple."

The rabbi wants to stand in solidarity with the two Unitarian ministers arrested in upstate New Paltz this month for officiating at a gay marriage, she said.

"I'm certainly not hoping to be arrested," Rabbi Kleinbaum said. "I'm hoping to highlight the discrimination that exists against gay people."

She called the Nassau County Clerk's Office Wednesday to learn the requirements for obtaining a marriage license.

"Nothing mentioned gender, but when I asked if the office would issue one to a same-sex couple, the clerk said no," she said. "This is about equal protection for all American citizens."

- Here is a list of other articles in this section
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  - [Caretaker's Son Accused In Anti-Semitic Spree](#)
  - [Court Rejects Bid To Enforce Chametz Law](#)
  - [Googling Intolerance](#)
  - [Olmert File Closed In Greek Island Case](#)
  - [Palestinians Must Pay For '96 Killings](#)
  - [Religious Court Jails Wife For Refusing A 'Get'](#)
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[Back to top](#)



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