



Press release: A new rabbi for the Conservative/Masorti Movement.

The Zacharias Frankel College ordains its first student.

The Zacharias Frankel College will celebrate its first Rabbinical Ordination on Sunday, June 18, 2017 at 3:00 pm at the JCC of the Jewish Community in Berlin.

Nitzan Stein Kokin who is originally from Southern Germany, will be the first student to have completed her studies at the Conservative/Masorti Rabbinical College. With gratitude reflecting on her years of study, she says “the training at the Zacharias Frankel College really enhanced me intellectually and spiritually. I am looking forward to serving the Jewish people and spreading the word of Masorti Judaism in Germany and Europe.”

The Zacharias Frankel College of the University of Potsdam which was founded in 2013 in cooperation with the Leo Baeck Foundation, works as a Masorti Rabbinical Seminary under the religious auspices of the Ziegler School in Los Angeles. Like the Conservative/Masorti Movement worldwide, it embraces a robust observance of Jewish law and ritual with interpretation of contemporary values, such as egalitarianism.

Rabbi Gesa Ederberg, Assistant Dean responsible for the practical training, comments on the cooperation with the Ziegler School: “Frankel combines the West Coast experience of training rabbis for the 21st century with an exciting location in the middle of Europe, connecting the students deeply to Jewish history and the origins of modern Jewish thought and to a very diverse and vibrant Jewish community that needs teachers and leaders in order to create its own and unique future.”

Students learn at the School of Jewish Theology at the University of Potsdam and receive their practical training at the College’s premises in Berlin.

Numerous guests are expected from around the world, among them Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, Dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies and Associate Dean Rabbi Cheryl Peretz as well as members of the Rabbinical Assembly and representatives of the Conservative/Masorti movement.

Rabbi Zacharias Frankel (1801-1875), after whom the College is named, is considered to be the founding father of the centrist stream between Orthodox and Reform Judaism. Frankel was also the founding director of the Jewish Theological Seminary in Breslau.

For more information:

First Rabbinical Ordination of the Zacharias Frankel College
18 Juni 2017 at 3 pm
Great Hall of the Jewish Community in Berlin
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