



Word-by-Word: A Jewish Women's Writing Circle

"...I am grateful to God for this gift, this possibility of developing myself and of writing, of expressing all that is in me. I can shake off everything if I write; my sorrows disappear; my courage is reborn. But, and that is the great question, will I ever be able to write anything great...?"

- Anne Frank

Word-by-Word: A Jewish Women's Writing Circle will provide up to 20 Jewish women writers engaged in serious Torah scholarship the support and guidance to complete publishable books of Jewish textual analysis that will be significant contributions to any Jewish library. Word-by-Word will offer writers a three-year stipend and community to develop talent by providing skill-based workshops, professional coaching, peer mentoring, an annual retreat, and opportunities to network with publishers and experienced authors. Sefaria is proud to partner with Dr. Erica Brown on this new initiative, co-led by Sefaria's Chief Learning Officer, Sara Wolkenfeld.

The finished book must be written in English, must be at least 150 pages (75,000 words), and must be in a form that is suitable for publication.

Each participant will receive a total stipend of \$18,000 (\$6,000/year over three years).

WORD-BY-WORD LEADERSHIP

This cohort program is being run by Sara Wolkenfeld, Chief Learning Officer of Sefaria, and Dr. Erica Brown, Director of the Sacks-Herenstein Center and Vice Provost for Values and Leadership at Yeshiva University.

SCHEDULE

Applicants must be willing to commit to the following schedule:

- Annual writing retreat in June. The first retreat will be held June 18-22, 2023
- Monthly online meetings of a 1.5 hour duration. Participants are required to attend at least 8 of the 10 meetings. Each meeting will present an opportunity for one participant to present and workshop a piece of writing. All those attending will be expected to read the piece under discussion in advance and to contribute to the conversation in a meaningful and collaborative way. These online meetings will include workshops with outside experts from the writing and publishing world.
- Writing requirements of at least 15,000 words the first year, at least 20,000 words the second year, and at least 40,000 words the third year in order to maintain her grant.

REQUIREMENTS

Receipt of the stipend and coaching funds will be dependent on meeting attendance and writing requirements.

Participants should be located in a time zone that makes it reasonable for them to participate in programming on U.S. time zones.

Each participant is entitled to 10-15 hours of coaching per year. The program leaders will work with each author to match her with an appropriate coach. Coaching sessions will be scheduled at the discretion of the participant.

Participants who do not fulfill the terms of the grant will not be able to continue in the cohort.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Qualified applicants are requested to submit a synopsis of the proposed book, a table of contents, and a writing sample that comprises a section of the draft of your manuscript (3000 words maximum).

The deadline for submission is March 13, 2023. Applicants will be notified by April 30th.

[Take me to the full application](#)

Questions? Please email Rachel Buckman at rachel@sefaria.org



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