

# SINISTER WISDOM

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## EDITORIAL GUIDE



SINISTERWISDOM.ORG

# Sinister Wisdom

A Multicultural Lesbian Literary & Art Journal

## Table of Contents

Note from the Editor and Publisher .....	1
Getting Started .....	2
Selecting a Theme .....	2
Draft Call for Submissions .....	2
Promote the Call for Submissions .....	3
Receive Submissions .....	3
Respond to Submissions .....	4
Acquire Rights .....	4
Prepare the Manuscript .....	5
➤ Guidelines for Contributor Biographies .....	5
Prepare the Art Program .....	6
➤ Art Specifications .....	6
➤ Cover Art Specifications .....	6
➤ Image Reproduction Rights .....	7
Compile All Files for the Editor/Publisher .....	7
Deliver Files .....	8
Copyediting .....	8
Page Proofs .....	9
Timeline .....	9
Zoom Release Party .....	10
Promoting the Issue .....	10
Appendix .....	12
➤ Appendix A: Sample Call for Submissions .....	12
➤ Appendix B: Quick CMS Guide for Style and Consistency .....	14
➤ Appendix C: Sample Contributor Page Proof Email .....	16
➤ Appendix D: Sample Contributor Copy Email .....	18
➤ Appendix E: Sample Contributor Contact Info Spreadsheet .....	20
➤ Appendix F: Sample Zoom Release Party Script .....	21

# Sinister Wisdom

A Multicultural Lesbian Literary & Art Journal

**Julie R. Enszer, PhD**  
**Editor & Publisher**

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## Note from the Editor and Publisher

Dear Sisters,

Thank you so much for your interest in guest editing an issue of *Sinister Wisdom*. When you commit to edit an issue of *Sinister Wisdom*, you join a lineage of women who have edited, co-edited, supported, and labored to ensure that *Sinister Wisdom* regularly publishes literary and creative work by lesbians. Thank you for your spirit, good will, and hard work on behalf of all lesbians.

Guest editing an issue of *Sinister Wisdom* is an enormous amount of work. Guest editors usually spend two to three years working on the project from the initial idea to issue publication. The time commitments vary during the process, but they are substantial. Fortunately, the time, energy, and labor involved in producing an issue of *Sinister Wisdom* is enjoyable, and most women have found great satisfaction in the issue they edited and in helping the issue reach the hands of women who read it.

The information compiled here will help you on your journey editing an issue of *Sinister Wisdom*. While we have outlined information and guidelines here for your use, *Sinister Wisdom* has no hard and fast rules. We embrace guidelines and thoughtful conversations about how to best produce issues that surprise, delight, challenge, and satisfy our subscribers and lesbians in the world.

Most importantly, I am here as a resource, collaborator, thought partner, and sounding board as you embark upon this journey. I am looking forward to working with you and helping you fulfill your vision for an issue as you join with the generations of women who have edited *Sinister Wisdom*.

In sisterhood,

Julie R. Enszer, PhD  
Summer 2022

## Getting Started

Potential editors are invited to approach the *Sinister Wisdom* editor and publisher at any time in any way about guest editing an issue. Email, call, write, or request a zoom meeting!

Often it helps if guest editors are familiar with previous issues. Many issues are available online for free at [sinisterwisdom.org/issues](http://sinisterwisdom.org/issues) and [sinisterwisdom.org/archive](http://sinisterwisdom.org/archive). In addition, you can order recent issues through the website [sinisterwisdom.org](http://sinisterwisdom.org) or request a few samples from the *Sinister Wisdom* editor and publisher.

## Select a Theme

Issues edited by guest editors often have a theme. *Sinister Wisdom* has published a range of themed issues. Review past themes on the website [sinisterwisdom.org](http://sinisterwisdom.org). Themes can be direct or evocative.

Select a theme and verify with the editor and publisher that it is a good fit for the current publishing plan. Then draft a 300–400 word call for submissions.

## Draft Call for Submissions

When you have a draft call for submissions, discuss it with the editor and publisher. At this point, you will negotiate a timeline that gives a deadline for submissions and generally allows for an extension of that deadline by one week to three months. Then, complete the call for submissions.

Examples of past themes include Asian Lesbians (Appendix A includes an example of the call for submission for this theme), [We Teach Sex \(To Everyone\)](#), and [Common Lives/Lesbian Lives](#). Peruse these calls for submissions for additional inspiration and understanding about themes for issues.

When developing a call for submissions, as well as throughout the process of compiling an issue, keep in mind **identity language**. The editors of *Sinister Wisdom*'s *We Teach Sex (To Everyone)* issue, for instance, originally held the name Lesbians Teach Sex, but was modified to include more inclusive language based on feedback from solicited writers. At *Sinister Wisdom*, identity language is broad, capacious, emergent, ever evolving, and always under discussion.

On the website, *Sinister Wisdom* outlines these areas as “what we publish”:

*Sinister Wisdom* publishes work by Lesbians. *Sinister Wisdom* takes the definition of lesbian from Cheryl Clarke. In her influential essay, ["Lesbianism: An Act of Resistance."](#) Clarke writes, "I, for one, identify a woman as a lesbian who says she is. Lesbianism is a recognition, an awakening, a reawakening of our passion for each (woman) other (woman) and for same (woman)."

*Sinister Wisdom* is interested particularly in work that reflects the diversity of our experiences: as lesbians of color, multiracial lesbians, ethnic lesbians, Jewish lesbians, Arab lesbians, old lesbians, young lesbians, working-

class lesbians, poverty-class lesbians, genderqueer lesbians, butch lesbians, masculine-of-center lesbians, androgynous lesbians, femme lesbians, trans lesbians, disabled lesbians, and fat lesbians.

*Sinister Wisdom* welcomes experimental work.

*Sinister Wisdom* will not print anything that is oppressive or demeaning to lesbians or women, or that perpetuates stereotypes.

*Sinister Wisdom* keeps an open and critical dialogue on all the issues that affect our lives, joy, and survival.

## **Promote the Call for Submissions**

To generate enough submissions for your theme, you will need to broadcast your call for submissions widely **AND** solicit submissions individually from writers you know and/or admire.

### ***Sinister Wisdom* will promote it in the following ways:**

Set it up in Submittable for submissions and so that it can be found by Submittable users

- Post it on the *Sinister Wisdom* website
- Distribute it through email newsletters
- Share it on social media channels

### **Some other promotional strategies you may want to pursue:**

- Promotion through your social media channels
- Reaching out to social media influencers
- *Lesbian Connection*
- Lesbian pages on Facebook
- Other online and offline promotions
- Email potential contributors

Generally, for special issues, depending on the theme and its interest to a range of people as well as the promotion behind the call, editors find that as much as eighty percent of their submissions and selected work is personally solicited. The balance comes through the open call. The labor of soliciting and cultivating submissions is vital to the success of issues.

## **Receive Submissions**

To receive and review submissions, you need a Submittable account. *Sinister Wisdom* uses Submittable for all submissions. Using this online site ensures that we can track submissions, that all people who submit receive a response, and that we can gather email addresses to communicate further with submitters as people interested in the work of *Sinister Wisdom*.

To create your personal Submittable account, go to [Submittable.com](https://www.submittable.com), click “sign in,” and then click “sign up.” From there you will enter your name, email, and create a password.

Once you have created your account, send your email address linked to the Submittable account to [sinisterwisdom@gmail.com](mailto:sinisterwisdom@gmail.com). We will link your account to our Submittable page so that you can be assigned submissions for review.

## Respond to Submissions

On Submittable, you will be assigned all submissions for your themed issue. You will be able to make notes about the submission and, when appropriate, accept and reject submissions directly on the site.

Please remember, *Sinister Wisdom* is a community journal here to nurture lesbian culture and lesbian imagination. For many lesbians, *Sinister Wisdom* is a first publication or a dream publication. We want to treat everyone with respect and appreciation for their creative work and creative vision. In all communications with submitters and in all notes about submissions, speak and write with kindness and generosity.

Generally, there are three outcomes for a submission to the issue you are curating:

1. You can accept their piece (sometimes with requests for revisions),
2. You can suggest that the *Sinister Wisdom* general editor consider the piece for another journal issue (for example, you may really like the work and the author, but it just does not fit in with the issue that you are curating), and
3. You can reject the piece.

There are standard templates for the first and last option in Submittable, and we encourage you to enhance these templates with additional supportive language.

When you transmit your manuscript to the editor/publisher of *Sinister Wisdom*, she will review in Submittable all the submissions and make sure that all have been marked appropriately and ultimately archive the submissions.

As you begin responding to submissions, **create a spreadsheet** to collect contributor contact information (see Appendix E). This will prove useful later in the process when you send out page proofs and mail contributor copies.

## Acquire Rights

*Sinister Wisdom* acquires first North American serial rights for all work that we publish. By acquiring first North American serial rights, authors guarantee that publication in *Sinister Wisdom* will be the first publication in North America. That is, the work has not appeared previously in another journal, in a book, online, or in other forms of publication. In rare instances, *Sinister Wisdom* will reprint work that has been previously published. Guest editors should discuss this situation with the editor and publisher.



Many questions about rights are answered here: <https://www.pw.org/content/copyright>

Upon publication, all rights revert to the author.

## Prepare the Manuscript

Generally, a single issue of *Sinister Wisdom* is approximately 38,000 words, including all written material. This varies, however, depending on how many images you want to include. Visual images are an important part of the journal. A full-page image reduces the word count by approximately 420 words and a half-page image reduces the word count by approximately 210 words. See the notes below for image preparation and transmission.

**There is a general organization and flow to each issue of *Sinister Wisdom*. These are the sections of *Sinister Wisdom*:**

1. “Notes for a Magazine” (a letter to readers from the editor/publisher); two pages; 480–525 words on average; maximum 600
2. “Notes for a Special Issue” (a letter to readers from the guest editor or editorial group); generally two pages; 480–525 words on average; maximum 600
3. Body of the journal; 92–208 pages; 25,000–35,000 words
4. Book reviews (guest editors can solicit book reviews on books related to their theme); maximum twenty-five pages; maximum 7,500 words
5. Contributor notes (each contributor submits a biographical statement of 50–125 words written in the third person); five–eight pages
6. Advertisements (provided by the editor/publisher); two–three pages

When you have assembled the written material for your issue of *Sinister Wisdom*, you need to compile it into a **SINGLE** microsoft word document, except for all the art/images, which should be kept separate and **NOT** embedded in word.

## Guidelines for Contributor Bios

Contributor bios should be placed directly after the contributor’s piece in the issue. Contributor bios should appear in third person and address the author’s work and professional achievements related to their art. Information that orients the author within the world (such as where to find additional work, where they live, what they seek to demonstrate through their work) is appropriate to include. Additionally, rather than trying to address all previous work a contributor has published, a strong contributor bio will likely focus on a few of their most recent works/achievements.

Encourage contributors to stay away from information that does not provide additional context on the author’s work (although we all love our pets, this information does not help the reader to better understand the author and their piece!).

Contributor bios should be 75–125 words. For newer authors, bios will likely not be seventy-five words. In this case, a bio of around thirty words is fine and appropriate.

### Examples of strong contributor bios:

*From Sinister Wisdom 49, Spring/Summer 1993*

**Magdalena Zschokke**, an ex-sailor turned student, recipient of the 1991 Astrea fiction award, is working on her dissertation about lesbian literature at UC Santa Cruz.

*From Sinister Wisdom 122, Fall 2021*

**Ryan Rattliff** (she/her) is a Black and queer emerging storyteller fluent in poetry, prose, and playwriting. Her work centers the familiarity of intimacy, grief, and healing in the human experience. She resides in Middle Tennessee, where she is working on her first poetry collection. Her writing appears in *Room Magazine*, *Bodega Magazine* and *Contemporary Verse 2's* special issue *Black Alive & Looking Back At You*. Her work can be found on Instagram @\_darlingryan.

## Prepare the Art Program

### Art Specifications:

Inside the journal, you can **only** include black and white images. For proper printing and resolution, the image files **MUST** be 300 dpi and black and white. They can be .tiff, .jpg, or other graphic files.

Please compile the Art Program for your issue according to the following specifications:

1. Label each image separately. Please use a name that is descriptive and easy to find.
2. For art that is a part of a written piece in the journal, the call out should be inserted approximately where you want the art to appear with the following three elements:

<filename here>

Caption: xxxx

Photo Credit: yyy

Art that is part of written articles does NOT appear in the Table of Contents.

3. For art that is standalone, include a separate page where you want the art to appear with the artist's name and the title of the piece at the top, in the same format that you do for articles. Below that, include the same information as above. Art formatted like this should be included in the Table of Contents.
4. Create a folder with all of the art images for your issue. Make sure that the image files comply with the guidelines above. **Please note that you must secure rights to reproduce all images** (more on this in the Image Reproduction Rights section). Discuss this with the editor/publisher if you have any questions.

### Cover Art Specifications:

We need a full color image for the front of the journal. Look at past issues for examples. Discuss your selection with the editor/publisher before making any commitments to artists.



When you have secured all the artwork, we will need a color image file of at least 300 dpi. **We would prefer 600 dpi.** The file format can be a .tiff, .jpg, or other graphic file.

**We also need a credit for the inside of the front cover in the following format:**

Artist Name, *Title*.

Media type, size of original

**For example:**

Cara Armstrong, *Spiral Jetty*

Mixed media on 140 lb cold press, 6" x 6"

In addition, please include an artist biography and artist statement.

- a. Artist bio: 75–125 words written in the third person (see “Guidelines for Contributor Bios” above for more information)
- b. Artist statement: 125–250 words about the art piece

All of this information should be on the first page of the word document.

### **Image Reproduction Rights:**

When choosing images to include in the issue, it is important to find out as early in the process as possible if you will need to obtain rights for use of an image. This includes finding out how long it will take to obtain permission. To begin this process, first pay close attention to the copyright information available about any images you are interested in using.

Some images may qualify for fair use under copyright law. Others may already be considered a part of the public domain, meaning you will not need to obtain copyright permission. It is important to determine whether any images you wish to include fall under copyright law and to then secure permission to reproduce them. In some cases, it can take six months or more to acquire permission. Have an explicit email exchange with the creator of the image, granting permission to *Sinister Wisdom* to print the image. Sometimes it may be relevant to also have an explicit email exchange with all those who appear in the image. In some cases, you may need signed permission contract or paid invoice for the images you are using (if the image falls under copyright law). If you have questions about a specific image or the process of obtaining permission to reproduce an image, contact *Sinister Wisdom*’s editor/publisher.

### **Compile All Files for the Editor/Publisher**

Within your file, ensure that the font type and size are the same for all the text. We prefer a file that is 12-point Times New Roman or another common and easy to read font. Each article should begin on a new page using the page break function in microsoft word.

At the beginning of each article, type the author's name flush left, then double space and type the full title on a single line. Double space again. Then after an indent of 0.5 inches, start the first paragraph of text. Continue to indent all paragraphs by 0.5 inches.

Within an article and throughout the manuscript, you should single space all text; **no double spacing between sentences or paragraphs.**

You **MUST** send a **SINGLE** microsoft word file to the editor/publisher for final consideration of your issue.

Prior to transmitting the file, you need to edit the full manuscript for style and consistency (a brief guide to this can be found in Appendix B). Please reference the brief guidelines below for specifics.

After you have edited your issue to your satisfaction, please be sure to **proofread** it (at least one more time) for punctuation, typos, accidental omissions, etc.

## **Deliver Files**

When you send your full file to the editor/publisher, she will review it to ensure that it fits in our format. There may be some negotiations at that point about length and editing.

Often there are too many files to transmit the final material via email. **We recommend sharing a folder on dropbox or google. The folder should include:**

1. The complete microsoft word document with full interior text of the journal
2. All art files labeled clearly
3. Cover art file

After you have done your editorial work and have submitted your complete file to the editor/publisher, it usually takes about twelve months to publish the journal and mail it to subscribers. The timeline below describes the process. The editor/publisher will email you a specific timeline for your issue once you submit the completed manuscript.

## **Copyediting**

When that file is approved, the editor/publisher will send the file to the copyeditor who will copyedit the full manuscript for compliance with the Chicago Manual of Style. If there are special issues or notes that the copyeditor should know about your manuscript, type them in a separate document. **Do not make those notes or comments in the text of the manuscript itself.**

You will receive a redlined manuscript copy with notes from the copyeditor. You will need to review and accept or reject all changes to this file. Sometimes, you may need to consult with the author of a piece at this point. Generally, however, the guest editor handles the copyediting feedback.

After the final copyedited file is complete, the issue will go to the designer.

## **Page Proofs**

A typesetter will create page proofs with the design of the journal. You will receive these page proofs as a single PDF file to divide and share with all the authors/artists/contributors to your issue. Please ensure that everyone reviews the page proofs so that they are happy with how the final issue will look. A sample Contributor Page Proof Email is included in Appendix C.

You should compile all of the changes to the designed pages into a word document in the following format:

- Page number, paragraph number, line number
- Change “xxx” to “yyy” to read exactly what you want it to be in the final printing.

Submit this microsoft word document to the editor/publisher for final changes to be made.

The final page proofs will be shared with a proofreader, who will read for smaller-level errors (typos, grammatical errors, incorrect spelling, etc) and errors in formatting.

## **Approximate Timeline from Manuscript Submission to Publication**

### *Month 1*

1. Guest editor submits final copy to editor/publisher for final feedback.
2. Editor/publisher reviews manuscript.
3. Editor/publisher reviews and provides feedback.

### *Month 2–3*

1. The editor/publisher will submit your manuscript to the copyeditor.
2. You should receive the copyedited manuscript within four–five weeks. You have two weeks to verify the copyedited manuscript with contributors, approve the changes, and then return the final manuscript to the editor/publisher.

### *Month 4*

1. The editor/publisher will send the manuscript to the designer.

### *Month 5–6*

1. The editor/publisher will send you page proofs as a PDF of the final designed issue from the designer.
2. The guest editor will divide the PDFs and email page proofs to all contributors (see Appendix C for sample).
3. Contributors have a two-week window to reply with recommended changes.
4. The guest editor will compile all final edits for the editor/publisher (see Appendix D for sample).

### *Month 7*

1. The editor/publisher will convey all final edits and corrections to the designer.

### *Month 8*

1. The editor/publisher will transmit the final file to printer.

### *Month 9–10*

1. The editor/publisher will coordinate the mailing of the issue through the mail house.
2. The guest editor will gather all mailing addresses from contributors in an Excel spreadsheet and transmit to the editor/publisher (see Appendix E for sample spreadsheet).

### *Month 11–12*

1. Contributors will receive their copies through the mail house mailing.
2. Extra copies ordered at a discount are available through the editor/publisher.
3. Zoom launch event will happen

## **Zoom Release Party**

The Zoom Release Party is an opportunity to showcase the hard work that has gone into creating the issue. *Sinister Wisdom*'s zoom events are generally sixty minutes. Launch events generally are built around five–eight readers who are invited to each read for three–five minutes. Readings should be organized to make listeners want to read the whole story themselves. The guest editor invites these readers from amongst the issue's contributors.

At the event, the editor/publisher does an introduction about the issue and guest editors, then often has a conversation with the guest editor about the process of compiling the issue, and at the end there is a dancing song. See Appendix F for a sample Zoom Release Party script.

Practices for the readings are held once a week prior to the event. Information about the upcoming zoom event is also sent to all contributors, encouraging them to share the link on social media.

## **Promoting the Issue**

There are many ways to promote an issue of *Sinister Wisdom*. Often, editors will organize local events. In-person release parties at feminist or independent bookstores are a great way to publicize a special issue. Look into book fairs where you can get a table to display and sell copies. Additionally, women's and gender studies programs at local colleges or universities may be interested in hosting a speaker to discuss the topics your issue covers. Conferences and workshops can also be an opportunity to promote an issue. Previously, *Sinister Wisdom* editors had the opportunity to attend the SE Wise Women Herbal Conference and read from the latest issues.

In the past, editors have also asked contributors to reach out to local bookstores that might be interested in having readings or to local lesbian organizations that might be interested in having a reading from the issue.

Promotion, particularly connecting with other lesbians and other readers, can be one of the most gratifying elements of editing an issue of *Sinister Wisdom*.

## Appendix A

### Sample Call for Submissions (Asian Lesbians Special Issue)

**Asian Lesbians!** Do you feel invisible to other queer women or Asian lesbians? Isolated? Happy? Charismatic? Shy? Defiant? Modest? Soft-spoken? Boisterous? Empowered? Helpless? Bold? Bald? Not Asian enough? Disconnected? Tom-boyish? Androgynous? Academically Sapphic? Retired?

*Sinister Wisdom* invites and welcomes poetry, fiction, nonfiction, art, and genre-bending works from all Asian Lesbians: American-born Asians, South Asians, Southeast Asians, East Asians, etc. We welcome work from Asians Lesbians in the States and all over the world written predominately in English.

If you are lesbian and Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Nepalese, Afghan, Mongolian, Taiwanese, Korean, Hong Kongese, Macanese, Cambodian, Thai, Laotian, Singaporean, Malaysian, Pilipino, Indonesian, Burmese, Timorese, etc., please submit to us.

If your Sapphic work deals with Asian desire, fetishism, straightness camouflaging, homophobia, genocide, fasting, seclusion, negation, invisibility, confusion, arranged marriages, bisexuality, Daoism, Christianity, Taoism, Islam, Buddhism, Confucianism, agnosticism, atheism, negative stereotypes such as apathetic, outsourcing, “Geisha Girl,” or “perpetual foreigners,” please submit to us.

If your work is Asian, Sapphic, healthy and happy, please submit to us.

If your work is Asian, Sapphic, erotic, scholarly, secular, graphic, phantastical, haiku-ic, asexual, sassy, nuptial, eye-opening, monochromatic, please submit to us.

If your work deals with Asian Sapphic suicide, public flogging for having lesbian sex in a car, mung bean cakes, compassion, defecation and rape, nail salons, criminalized Asian lesbianism, avocado sushi rolls, dry-cleaning, cancer, impotence, astrology, lentil, naan, chickpeas, and everything else, please submit your work to us.

If you (mis)identify yourself as bamboo ceiling lesbians, not-a-model-minority due to your excessive or non-excessive lesbianism, facial whitening, please submit to us.

If you think you are not submissive or obedient, but you are Sapphic and Asian, please submit your work to us. If you think you are blissfully complacent and shy, please submit your work to us anyway.

If your work addresses Asian culture, music, food, travel, and Sapphic mail-in brides, please submit to us.

If you know someone who is Asian & lesbian, please encourage them to submit their work to us.



If you are Asian & lesbian, and your work does not deal with any of the above topics, desires, foie gras, martial arts, please submit to us regardless.

If you are Asian & lesbian, please submit poetry, visual art, comics, photographs, anime and films (screenshots only), interviews, academic anecdotes or notes, fiction, nonfiction, and genre-bending works to *Sinister Wisdom* through Submittable.

Images should be .jpg or .tif files only, and be of print resolution, sized at least 300 ppi (pixels per inch).

**The deadline for submissions is September 30, 2019. The anticipated publication date for this issue is in 2020.**

**Guest Editor:** Vi Khi Nao. Born in Long Khanh, Vietnam, Vi is the author of *Sheep Machine* (Black Sun Lit, 2018) and *Umbilical Hospital* (Press 1913, 2017), and of the short stories collection, *A Brief Alphabet of Torture*, which won FC2's Ronald Sukenick Innovative Fiction Prize in 2016, the novel, *Fish in Exile* (Coffee House Press, 2016), and the poetry collection, *The Old Philosopher*, which won the Nightboat Books Prize for Poetry in 2014 and is a finalist for a 2017 Lambda Literary Award. Her work includes poetry, fiction, film and cross-genre collaboration. Her stories, poems, and drawings have appeared in *NOON*, *Ploughshares*, *Black Warrior Review* and *BOMB*, among others. She holds an MFA in fiction from Brown University.

## Appendix B

### Quick CMS Guide for Style and Consistency

1. Avoid contractions. Use *do not* instead of *don't*.
2. Use American English punctuation.
  - a. Ex: Periods and commas go *inside* quotation marks. On the other hand, colons, semicolons, question marks, and exclamation points go *after* quotation marks.
  - b. Additional help: CMS **chapter six**.
3. Use a comma immediately before the coordinating conjunction in a series
  - a. Ex: as in *lesbians, lesbian-feminists, and women*.
  - b. Additional help: CMS **chapter six**.
4. Ellipsis points are three spaced periods “. . .” that can be very useful if not overdone.
  - a. Space after the last character before the ellipsis, type a period, space, period, space, period, and then space before the first character after the ellipsis.
  - b. *Please do not use the closed ellipsis in the Word Special Characters section because it does not comply with CMS.*
  - c. Additional help: CMS **chapter 11**.
5. Single space between sentences *and* between paragraphs.
  - a. A reminder: please, no *extra* spaces.
6. Use the present tense when referencing a quote or statement.
  - a. Ex: Eileen Myles asserts; Mary Hartman complains; and Ophelia maintains (that Hamlet was an asshole).
7. Hyphenate compound nouns and modifiers.
  - a. Ex: cyborg-tech; American-feminist Judy Punch.
  - b. Additional help: If you have any doubts or questions about hyphenation, you can't go wrong with CMS **chapter six** for a comparison of the uses of hyphens and dashes, and **chapter seven** for further guidance and many excellent examples.
8. Spell out all whole numbers from one through one hundred: one, two, three, ninety-nine, etc.
  - a. Use an en dash, not a hyphen, to connect numbers (dates, pages).
  - b. The pathway in microsoft word would be the following tabs: Insert, Symbol, More Symbols, and Special Characters.
  - c. Additional help: CMS **chapter six** and **chapter nine**.
9. Do not use an apostrophe with plural years
  - a. Ex: 1990s not 1990's.
  - b. Additional help: CMS **chapter nine**.
10. Be consistent in style.
  - a. Ex: If you use 1980s, stay with 1980s; don't switch to spelling out nineteen-eighties.
11. Spell out numbers (including dates) at the beginning of a sentence.
  - a. Ex: Nineteen-hundred fifty-four was a bad year for American communists; Sixteen dykes played ball last night.

12. *Italicize titles of books, movies, plays, works of art*, but enclose titles of poems, short stories, and articles in double quotation marks. For example:
- The Trouble with Angels* (movie)
  - Handmade Love* (book)
  - "The Night I Met Bill Casey" (short story)
  - "Red Prayer for a Nun" (poem)
  - "The Body Politic: female sexuality and women artists since 1970" in *Framing Feminism: Art and the Woman's Movement 1970–1985*. ed. Rozsika Parker and Giselda Pollack. London: Pandora Press, 1987. (article in a book).
13. Include bibliographic data for book reviews in the following format: *Full title* by Author (Publisher's City: Publisher, Year of publication). *A Simple Revolution* by Judy Grahn (San Francisco, CA: Aunt Lute Books, 2012).
14. Titles should be in plain text and title face capitalization (shown below)

#### **Title Case Capitalization**

- In general, the following capitalization rules apply across styles:
  - Capitalize the first word in the title
  - Capitalize the last word in the title
  - Capitalize the important words in the title
- Special formatted poems**, So the special formatted poems need to appear in the text file (**not** as an image file) and must include a note in brackets indicating "see PDF for special formatting." The editor/publisher will then mark up from there.

## Appendix C

### Sample Contributor Page Proof Email

Dear Contributor to *Sinister Wisdom* 122,

I am very excited about this issue of *Sinister Wisdom*. *Sinister Wisdom* 122 is the October 15th issue of 2021; the formal publication date is October 15, 2021. *Sinister Wisdom* 122 culminates a very special year of publishing for *Sinister Wisdom*, and I am thrilled that you will be a part of it.

You will find page proofs as a PDF of your piece is attached along with the contributor's file.

Please review:

1. Your contribution, labeled with your full name
2. The contributor's file
3. The table of contents

Please check all for accuracy and email me with final corrections according to the notes below.

The final copy of the journal has been proofread for consistency and style. You may note small changes to your text from that final proofreading. We try to keep the author's style and still have consistency throughout the journal. You can send me any MINOR changes that you wish to your piece. Please note that substantive rewrites are not appropriate at this point in the publishing process. If you have substantial changes to your piece, we can remove it from this issue and publish at some point in the future. The most efficient way to handle corrections is via email. EMAIL a list of your corrections in the body of an email to the issue editors.

**Please respond by 5 p.m. EST on June 4th to ensure that your final corrections and changes are made.**

Please add your mailing address on the google doc to receive your contributor copy and your one-year subscription to *Sinister Wisdom*:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SU6RxIfoieDUE7mI8ls4m5a-eArW4MrHm9nhctJ469w/edit?usp=sharing>

If you are currently a subscriber to the journal, we will extend your subscription by one year.

Thank you so much for your contribution to the journal. This is going to be a great issue! *Sinister Wisdom* 122 will mail in mid-September 2021. October 15, 2021 is the official publication date. I will send an email with further information on distribution and purchasing additional copies in June.

In the meantime, please like the *Sinister Wisdom* page on facebook and share it with your friends. Please follow

us on twitter and instagram as well. Here are the links to each one:

**facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/SinisterWisdom>

**twitter:** [https://twitter.com/Sinister\\_Wisdom](https://twitter.com/Sinister_Wisdom)

**instagram:** [https://www.instagram.com/sinister\\_wisdom/](https://www.instagram.com/sinister_wisdom/)

Do not hesitate to let me know if you have any issues or concerns.

In Sisterhood,  
Editors Names

## Appendix D

### Sample Contributor Copy Email

Dear Contributors to *Sinister Wisdom* 124,

Thank you so much for sharing your work in *Sinister Wisdom*! We are very excited about sharing this issue. It is a fantastic combination of wonderful work. Early next week *Sinister Wisdom* 124: *Deeply Held Beliefs* is off to the printer! We expect to have copies mailed in early April; single issues will mail to all subscribers and contributors from our east coast mail house.

Contributors will each receive a copy of the issue provided you put your mailing address in the google document.

#### Additional Contributor Copies

As a contributor to *Sinister Wisdom*, you receive a year subscription to the journal, beginning with the current issue *Sinister Wisdom* 124: *Deeply Held Beliefs* and extending through *Sinister Wisdom* 127. If you were already a subscriber, your subscription will be extended by one year (four issues). Thank you so much for lending your time and talent to *Sinister Wisdom*. The journal mails "media mail," so it may take up to three weeks to reach you after it mails in early April. If you don't have a copy by May 28, 2022, please email me, and I will mail you another copy.

We expect to have **extra copies** of the issues (in limited quantities) that we make available to contributors for \$7/each for orders of one–nine copies and for \$6/each for orders of 10+ copies plus postage. If you would like to order additional copies, please let me know how many copies you would like and where they should be mailed. Once you let me know how many copies you want, I will send you a paypal invoice. Copies will mail when they arrive to the office and when the invoice is paid. You can also arrange to send a check or money order when I send the invoice.

We appreciate your support in spreading the word about your publication and about *Sinister Wisdom*.

**Zoom Launch Reading on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 7 p.m.**

Stay tuned for more information about it.

**Like *Sinister Wisdom* on facebook and follow us on instagram and twitter!**

*Sinister Wisdom* is on facebook! We post updates there about new issues and are always happy to receive feedback on facebook. "Like" us on facebook by viewing our page here: <http://www.facebook.com/SinisterWisdom>



You can follow us on instagram here: [https://www.instagram.com/sinister\\_wisdom/](https://www.instagram.com/sinister_wisdom/) and on twitter here: [https://twitter.com/sinister\\_wisdom](https://twitter.com/sinister_wisdom)

### **Give Gift Subscriptions to *Sinister Wisdom***

Finally, please consider giving a subscription to *Sinister Wisdom* to friends and family. We will send out a gift subscription notice on your behalf. If you'd like to do a gift subscription, you can initiate it through the *Sinister Wisdom* website here: <http://www.sinisterwisdom.org/subscribe.html>

Just make a note that it is a gift subscription. Or, you can send a check with instructions to *Sinister Wisdom*, 2333 McIntosh Rd, Dover, FL 33527.

I am very excited for each of you to receive your copy of the journal, and I look forward to your feedback about this issue of *Sinister Wisdom*.

In Sisterhood,

Julie

## Appendix E

### Sample Contributor Contact Info Spreadsheet

First Name	Last Name	Street Address or PO Box	City	State	Zip Code	Country	Email Address
Sinister	Wisdom	2333 McIntosh Road	Dover	FL	33527	USA	info@sinisterwisdom.org

## Appendix F

### Sample Zoom Release Party Script

#### Agenda

Tuesday, 12 April 2022

7 p.m. ET

*Sinister Wisdom 124: Deeply Held Beliefs* Launch

6:40 p.m. Julie, Max gather

Co-Host: Julie

Tech assistance: Max

Spotlight speakers: Max

Put links in the comments: Sierra

#### List of show & tell items needed

SW 124

Boxed Set

Poster

Bookmark

Test the audio / songs

6:50 p.m. Speakers Gather: Merrill Mushroom, Lorraine Fontana, Carolyn Mobley-Bowie, Woody Blue, Beth York, Rose Norman, Jenny Yates, B. Leaf Cronewrite, and Mary Anne Adams.

Sound check etc.

#### **6:59 p.m. Turn on Record Video**

**7:00 p.m.** Beth York: “The Goddess Chant” (play one minute)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dL\\_sz30xTuw&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dL_sz30xTuw&feature=youtu.be)

#### **INSERT into the chat:**

Welcome to the *Sinister Wisdom 124* launch!

You are listening to “The Goddess Chant” written by Phyllis Free and performed by Beth York.

Listen to Phyllis Free’s “The Goddess Chant” from *Finding Home*, a recording by Beth York & the Love-Birds.

Used by permission, Phyllis Free

[https://youtu.be/dL\\_sz30xTuw](https://youtu.be/dL_sz30xTuw)

You can order *Sinister Wisdom 124: Deeply Held Beliefs*

<http://www.sinisterwisdom.org/sw124>

You can subscribe to *Sinister Wisdom* at

<http://www.sinisterwisdom.org/subscribe>

Thank you for joining us! Please feel free to put comments in the chat throughout the evening. You can share where you are as you tune in and say hi to friends in the chat!

7:01 p.m. Welcome – **Julie**

Good evening and welcome to the *Sinister Wisdom* reading **celebrating the launch of *Sinister Wisdom* 124: *Deeply Held Beliefs***. We just heard “The Goddess Chant” written by Phyllis Free and performed by Beth York.

My name is Julie Enszer, and I’m pleased to welcome you to this evening’s reading.

Before we begin, I want to spend a moment for a land acknowledgement. We are all around the United States and around the world and many of us are on occupied, unceded land. I am in what is now Dover, Florida, traditional homelands and territories of the Seminole. We pause to recognize the histories of war and colonization and to imagine and work for a world where we have a fair and equitable distribution of resources.

We have a chocker block hour planned for you with plans to wrap up around 8 p.m. on the east coast, including time for our traditional dance number at the end.

In case you are not familiar with *Sinister Wisdom*, *Sinister Wisdom* is a quarterly journal of lesbian literature and art. Since 2012, in collaboration with the Southern Lesbian Feminist Activist Herstory Project, we have published six volumes dedicated to telling the stories unearthed by the Herstory Project. All *Sinister Wisdom* subscribers have received them, and now we have them available to everyone as a boxed set. So, if you love what you hear tonight, order *Sinister Wisdom* 124—or consider ordering the full boxed set.

Also, for this issue, we made a fantastic poster to celebrate the project and a bookmark. We’d be delighted to share these with you as well. More information is available on our webpage.

Finally, if you are not currently a subscriber, I encourage you to sign up for a subscription today by going to [www.sinisterwisdom.org/subscribe](http://www.sinisterwisdom.org/subscribe). A group of monthly sustainers are vital to *Sinister Wisdom*. If you can give monthly to *Sinister Wisdom*, please sign up as a sustainer at [www.sinisterwisdom.org/sustainers](http://www.sinisterwisdom.org/sustainers). I send out emails every month when your gift comes in with behind-the-scenes details and new information about what we have coming for the journal.

(INSERT:

<http://www.sinisterwisdom.org/subscribe>

and

<http://www.sinisterwisdom.org/sustainers>)

I appreciate the many ways that lesbians lift up and support the work of *Sinister Wisdom*. Thank you!

A few housekeeping notes before I begin the program.

- First, please keep your microphone muted throughout the program. If we detect noise from you, we will mute you ourselves! Remember, there will be an opportunity to unmute and wave and cheer at the end of our program this evening.
- As the program proceeds, if you want to show appreciation for the readers, wave your hands at the

end of each reading – and use the reactions emojis on zoom. You can go ahead and test that out now!

- Feel free to light up the chat on zoom. Readers love checking out the chat when they are done reading and we will download and share the chat transcript.
- If you need technical assistance this evening, you can chat with **Max Backer**, who is on tap for technical assistance.
- We are recording the event this evening and will make it available starting tomorrow or Thursday at <http://www.sinisterwisdom.org/sw124>

INSERT: <http://www.sinisterwisdom.org/sw124>

- Finally, this issue of *Sinister Wisdom* IS in the mail to all subscribers. Our beloved USPS continues to have challenges, but mail seems to be getting through. I have had sightings of the journal out there in the world though, so if your copy has not arrived, it should be arriving SOON! If you do not have your copy by **April 25**, send me an email and I'll send you a replacement. Remember you can purchase individual copies at <http://www.sinisterwisdom.org/sw124>. Please think about friends who might love this issue—and share it with them!

INSERT: <http://www.sinisterwisdom.org/sw124>

Now, on to our program.

*Sinister Wisdom* 124: *Deeply Held Beliefs* is the sixth and final installment of stories collected by the Southern Lesbian Feminist Activist Herstory Project (SLFAHP). Many of these stories show the intersection of spirituality and religion with politics and social justice movements in the South. In the 1960s, the South became a crucible for civil rights activism that developed and fed lesbian-feminist activism of the last decades of the twentieth century. Check out the complete [Oral Herstorians Collection](#).

INSERT: <http://sinisterwisdom.org/oralherstorians>

Please join me in saying hello to SLFAHP members Merrill Mushroom, Lorraine Fontana, Woody Blue, Carolyn Mobley-Bowie, Rose Norman, Jenny Yates, B. Leaf Cronewrite, Mary Anne Adams, and Beth York.

**7:08 p.m.** To begin our program, we welcome a co-conspirator of this issue and an inspiration behind the whole series, Merrill Mushroom.

**Merril Mushroom** grew up in Miami Beach in the 1940s and came out there in the 1950s. She lived in NYC in the 1960s and has lived in rural Tennessee since the 1970s. She has written a variety of prose pieces. Her old-timey bar dyke stories can be found in out of print lesbian publications from the 1980s and 1990s.

Merrill Mushroom will read from “Notes for a Special Issue”

**7:14 p.m.** Our next reader is Lorraine Fontana. **Lorraine Fontana** is a working-class dyke from Queens, NY, a supporter of black empowerment, and an antiwar activist. She first came to Atlanta in 1968 to be a VISTA worker in the war on poverty, later moved there, and with other left-feminist women founded the Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance (ALFA). She later used her legal training at the People’s College of Law at GA Legal Services, the EEOC, and Lambda Legal.

Lorraine Fontana will read from her essay “Christians, Pagans, and Politics: Notes for a Spiritual Timeline from *Atalanta* (the ALFA newsletter).”

**7:20 p.m.** Our next reader is a duo: Woody Blue and Rev. Elder Carolyn Mobley-Bowie. (mob - lee pronounced to rhyme with mob, a large group of people)

**Woody Blue** was transplanted to Gainesville, Florida, in 1992 and grew roots. She is a radical peace activist and lesbian-feminist. Womonwrites inspired her to blossom as a writer and an artist. Lesbian community is her strength. Documenting lesbian herstory is sacred. Love and hope sustain her in her female-centric world.

**Rev. Elder Carolyn Mobley-Bowie** was born as Carolyn Jeanette Mobley in Sanford, Florida. She attended the public schools of Seminole County and later graduated from a Baptist college in Abilene, Texas, and a Baptist Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1981 she was forced out of her career as a Southern Baptist Home Missionary and joined the predominately gay MCC (Metropolitan Community Churches), where she was ordained in 1995 and joined the Council of Elders in 2021. She is known best for her singing, which she has often incorporated into her HIV/AIDS Education and Advocacy work and her Social Justice Activism.

Woody reads from the story she wrote about Rev Mobley-Bowie, and Carolyn reads from her interview.

**7:26 p.m.** Our next reader is Rose Norman.

**Rose Norman** is a retired professor of English and women’s studies who has co-edited all six SLFAHP special issues. As general editor of the SLFAHP, she interviewed over one hundred lesbians and is writing a book about the Pagoda, a lesbian intentional community and cultural center in St. Augustine, FL. She is a native Alabamian. (AlaBAMian)

Rose Norman will read from “Pagoda-temple of Love.”

**7:32 p.m.** Jenny Yates is our next reader.

**Jenny Yates** is a freelance astrologer currently living in Rockville, MD, with her Venezuelan wife. She writes all the time, whether it’s astrological interpretations, personal pieces, or poetry. For the last few years, she has been working on a novel.

Jenny Yates reads “Circle of Isis.”



**7:38 p.m.** Joining us next is B. Leaf Cronewrite.

**B. Leaf Cronewrite** is the crone name of Maryann Hopper. She knows that name-claiming and all kinds of lesbians' stories are valuable. She came out in 1977 in Memphis surrounded by supportive lesbians. Now in Atlanta, she hangs out with creative souls who inspire her to write stories set in the South.

B. Leaf Cronewrite will read from "Wellsprings Festivals."

**7:44 p.m.** Mary Ann Adams joins us next.

**Mary Ann Adams** is fand executive director of ZAMI NOBLA-National Organization of Black Lesbians on Aging, dedicated to building a national base of power for Black lesbians 40+ centering service, advocacy, and community-action research. She has extensive experience leading research around LGBTQ health and health inequities. She is currently a co-investigator on a ground-breaking study assessing the impact of COVID-19 on the needs of aging lesbians.

Mary Ann Adams will read from her interview conducted by Lorraine Fontana published in *Sinister Wisdom* 124.

**7:50 p.m.** Our final reader is Beth York.

**Beth York** is a retired music professor from Converse College, Spartanburg, SC. Ladyslipper Music produced Transformations; she performed the ensemble piece at national and international women's music festivals. Her latest recording, *Finding Home*, contains original songs by Beth, Barbara Ester, and Phyllis Free.

Beth York will read from "Transformations."

**7:56 p.m. Julie:** Thank you to all of our readers and to everyone who participated in putting together this issue of *Sinister Wisdom*. Please make plans to join us for two forthcoming events: a discussion with the director of the film WOMONTOWN on May 10th and then a celebration of this full series on May 24th. Both events are at 7 p.m. Eastern time. We also will be celebrating Cheryl Clarke's 75th birthday on May 16th. More information about all events is at [sinisterwisdom.org/event](http://sinisterwisdom.org/event).

Remember, the video from this evening's event will be available at the *Sinister Wisdom* website tomorrow or Thursday (the link is in the chat).

**INSERT:** <http://www.sinisterwisdom.org/sw124>

More *Sinister Wisdom* events are available at <http://www.sinisterwisdom.org/events>

For our final song, we have "The L Word" by songwriter Carol Kraemer performed by Yer Girlfriend and produced by Ester Records.

As you listen to the music, stand up and dance and we will highlight videos. When the music ends, I will end the zoom call. Thank you all for joining us and now let the dancing begin!

**INTO CHAT:**

To hear “The L Word,” <http://www.sinisterwisdom.org/YerGirlfriend>

Thank you for joining *Sinister Wisdom*!