

Sept. 2026 Newsletter

"All the months are crude experiments, out of which the perfect September is made." — Virginia Woolf

Welcome to South Bay Writers September News

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Hot News



Sept 12 San Jose Book Festival

Eastridge Center, San Jose, CA, 10-5pm. SBW is sponsoring an author's table for members, see details below. Join us at the table.

Our usual monthly meeting is rescheduled to September 19 instead at 1pm

New Member Column



Carol Gerwitz is spearheading a column to spotlight our NEW members and help us to get to know one another better. If you joined South Bay Writers recently, we would love to feature you in an upcoming issue.

Email: membernews@southbaywriters.co

Image by [gerald](#) from [Pixabay](#).

Sept 19: Susan Sherman and Elizabeth McKenzie Share Insights into Their Writing Process by Shari Clare



Like the changing colors of autumn leaves, the September meeting of the South Bay Writers is also filled with changes to our usual format. If you

were expecting to see a single presenter on the morning of the second Saturday, take heed!

To accommodate the San Jose Book Festival, a special event that we're excited to sponsor, our club will instead meet on the **third Saturday (September 19) in the afternoon (1 p.m.)**, and we will welcome not just one, but two remarkable authors, Susan Sherman and Elizabeth McKenzie.

Susan and Elizabeth are long-time members of the Rough Drafts, a critique group composed of accomplished writers from throughout the Santa Cruz area. They will discuss the importance of this group to their writing process and provide insights into how being part of a critique group can enhance your work, as well as other aspects of your life. You won't want to miss out on hearing about the unique paths these talented authors have taken on their writing journeys.

Click here for the detailed preview of [Susan Sherman and Elizabeth McKenzie](#)

- **When:** Saturday, Sept 19 2026 at 1pm (12:45pm check-in)
- **Where:** Saratoga Senior Center, 19655 Allendale Ave, Saratoga CA
- **Admission:** Members \$10, Non-members \$15

President's Message



Welcome to September, the month where we switch from lazy warm summer days to the busy fall. Whether you're cleaning up your garden or editing your manuscript, you're going to find inspiration at South Bay Writers for moving forward with your writing projects this month.

Attend the first annual San Jose Book Festival, listen to two great speakers at our September 19 meeting, join one of our critique groups, or attend an upcoming write-in after our monthly meetings.

Best Regards,

Una T. Daly (president & interim editor)

Notes from the Board

- **SBW FALL MEMBERS WRITING CONTEST**

Submit a 100-to-150-word description of your favorite dish, family tradition, or a fiasco! It may be a holiday tradition, an exotic meal in a foreign country, a dish you hated but were made to eat as a child, or a yummy childhood treat like the penny candy from the corner market. First place prize: \$50. Top four runners-up will receive a Barnes & Noble's Gift card. **Contest Deadline: Oct 15, 2026**

- **FALL MEETING SPEAKERS**

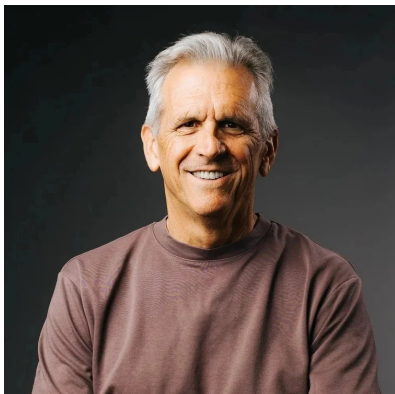
- Sept 19 - Susan Sherman, Elizabeth MacKenzie (1pm)
- Oct 10 - Publisher -Jennifer Soloway (10:30)
- Nov 14 - Author-Francisco Jimenez (10:30)

- **MEMBERSHIPS RENEWAL EXTENSION**

California Writers Club (CWC) has extended member renewals for two weeks until **September 14**. Email **Membership@southbaywriters.com** and pay online if you plan to take advantage of the extension period.

August Recap: Writing Dialogue for Impact with Bruce Overby

by Bill Baldwin



We welcomed Bruce Overby to our August meeting to share his insights on the use of dialogue in fiction.

Dialogue is not simply the quoted words of several people; it is a *unit*, the entire description of what is being said—or *not* said! It can include comments on tone of voice, the attitude of the speaker, hand gestures, body language; anything that conveys the actual *experience* of the words.

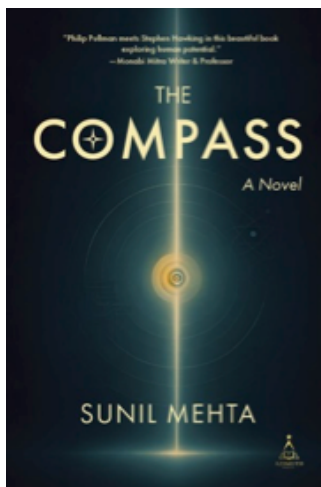
[Read Full Story](#)

Member News



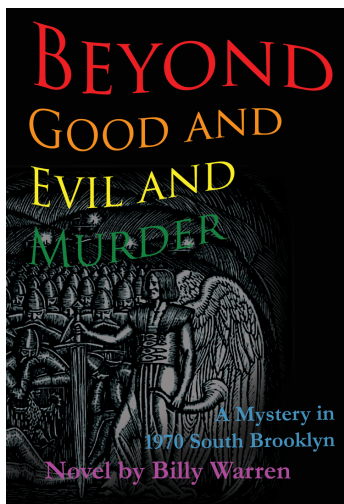
Prem Lukose

Shares that her short story, “Sambar & Sarala,” was awarded Seventh Place in the 26th Annual Writer’s Digest Short Story Competition. Her name and the short story title is published in Writer’s Digest magazine’s September/October 2026 issue and the story is featured in the South Bay Writers 2026 Anthology.



Sunil Mehta

His debut novel, *The Compass*, blends historical fact with imaginative storytelling as four students journey into the past to encounter Albert Einstein, Robert Noyce, and Steve Jobs. A major part of the novel tells the history of Silicon Valley in fictional form, tracing the innovations that created our digital world. The book is a bestseller in young Adult Science and Technology Historical Fiction categories and has received many 5-star reviews. <https://www.amazon.com/Compass-Novel-Sunil-Mehta/dp/B0H99VFDYQ/>.



Billy Warren

Coming October 1st, he will release his latest historical fiction, *Beyond Good and Evil and Murder*. South Bay Writers is thanked in the Acknowledgments.

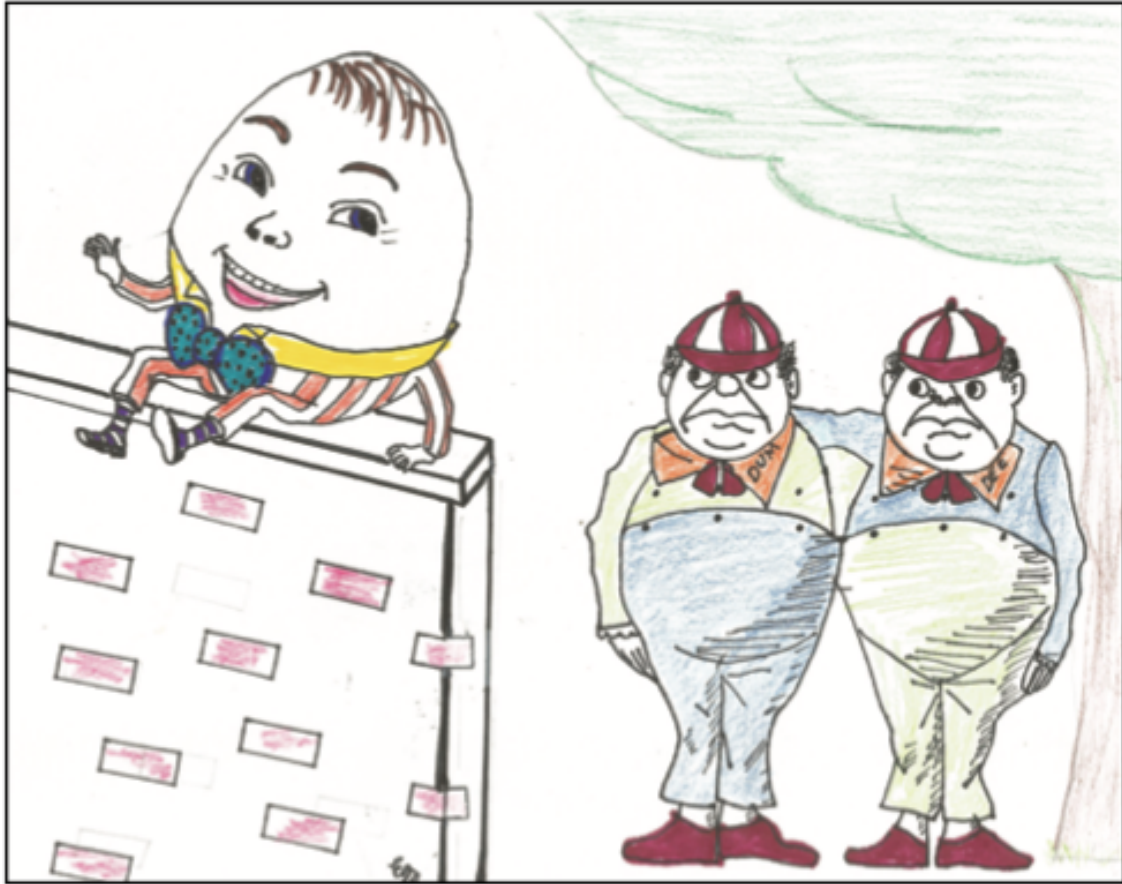
eBooks are on sale now at \$4.99, and the print version of his debut novel, *Fathers and Sons and Other Village Idiots* is on sale at billywarren.com. Sales will end in mid-September.

Upcoming contests and events

- **San Jose Book Festival – Sept 12, 2026, 10am-5pm**, Two hour shifts available at the South Bay Writers' table. Reserve your time slots by contacting Shari at vp@southbaywriters.com
- **Writers Weekly 24-hour Fall Writing Contest** Register for the **Fall 2026** 24-Hour Short Story Contest. Start time is **Saturday, September 26th, 2026** at 12:00 p.m. (noon) central time. Held quarterly and limited to 500 entrants. You must register (\$5 FEE) before the topic is posted.
- **Sequestrum** Desire + Science Fiction and Fantasy Submissions Open! **Desire welcomes** writing driven by longing, ambition, hunger, and need—the forces that complicate our lives, propel us forward, and lead us toward triumph, ruin, or something stranger. **Science Fiction & Fantasy** invites work that reimagines what is possible, from distant futures and alternate worlds to mythic landscapes, speculative histories, and magic hidden inside the everyday.
- **Poets & Writers Writing Contests, Grants & Awards** maintains an extensive database of upcoming contests, grants and awards.

Off the Shelf

by Edie Matthews



"Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee! Who did your mother name you after?"
"Dad."

Monthly Meeting Location



Saratoga Senior Center

19655 Allendale Ave, Saratoga

The isolated imagination is easily corrupted by theory, but the writer inside his community seldom has such a problem.

Flannery O'Connor



South Bay
WRITERS

Silicon Valley's Premier Writing Group



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