

South Bay
WRITERS

Silicon Valley's Premier Writing Group

Oct 2026 Newsletter

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers"
from **Anne of Green Gables** by L.M. Montgomery.

Welcome to South Bay Writers October News

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Hot News

Fall Writing Contest: Deadline October 15



Topic: What food conjures up memories? Mom's mango pie, Grandma's Christmas cake, Dad's BBQ. It could be an item you loved or hated.

Length: 100-200 words

Prizes: Top Prize \$50 gift certificate, 2nd and 3rd place awards

Email to: PR@southbaywriters.com

Halloween Costume Contest on Oct 10



It would be a **GRAVE** mistake to miss the October 10th meeting! For a **WICKED** good time, dress to impress and win a **PRIZE**.

Winners in five categories: **Scariest, Beautiful, Literary, Funniest, and Original!**

Image by [Yama Zsuzsanna Márkus](#) from [Pixabay](#)

October 10 Meeting:

Navigate Publishing with Literary Agent Jennifer Soloway March

How many times have we heard that the publishing world is changing? While self-publishing can be a terrific option, our October Speaker, Jennifer March Soloway, will talk about the traditional publishing process. As a co-founder and agent at Starling Literary + Media, she has an inside view of the end-to-end process used by many traditional publishers today (though there's no guarantee that it won't change tomorrow).



Join us to hear Jennifer March Soloway, an agent and publisher who has lived through the many changes in the publishing world. Her forthright set of insights could help you decide whether traditional publishing might be a good fit for your work. [Read More Here](#).

- **When:** Saturday, October 10, 10:30 a.m. (10:15 Check-in)
- **Where:** Saratoga Senior Center, 19655 Allendale Ave, Saratoga. CA
- **Admission:** \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers. Go to [Become a Member](#) to learn how to join our group.

President's Message



Welcome to October's temperamental start. Heat is driving my California fuschias and Chinese lanterns to compete with eye-catching reds while the lavender blue and pink sage blooms are waning in my garden. South Bay Writers also has a busy month with opportunities for learning, celebrating, and writing ahead.

Lita Kurth, our May speaker, is offering an online **Memoir In Flashes Class** through **Creative School** beginning **Tuesday, October 6**. Contact Lita if you are in need of a discount.

The third week of October is **California Writer's Week** celebrated statewide since 2003 when our legislature officially added it to the state calendar. Special writing events are associated with this week and we'll share more about those at our upcoming meeting.

Our branch ***Anthology, Reflections of Silicon Valley***, will be available in November, pre-sales begin in October. This exciting collection of poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction features the writings of over 30 members of our branch and is our first publication since 2018. Thank you to Kelly Harrison, our managing editor, and the many members who contributed and helped with the reviewing, editing, and more.

Finally, South Bay Writers had a very successful showing at the first annual 2026 **San Jose Book Festival** with our members selling books and providing leadership for the festival. We look forward to next year's already announced festival at Eastridge Center mall in September 2027.

Una T. Daly,

SBW Board President & Interim Editor



View from the Board

- A new **South Bay Writers website** will launch this month. This new website will allow us the flexibility to easily add new features to the website.
- A new Critique Groups page is expected to be added in early November allowing members to see what critique groups are available and how to apply to join one. Thank you to member Shambhavi Roy who has volunteered to coordinate our critique groups.
- **FALL SPEAKER MEETINGS/EVENTS**
 - **Oct 10** (Saturday) - Publisher -Jennifer Soloway (10:30 am)
 - **Nov 14** (Saturday) - Author-Francisco Jimenez (10:30 am)
 - **Dec 6** (Sunday) *South Bay Writers Holiday Party*, 5-8pm

Meet New Members

“The Accidental Writer: G. Craig Edgerton”

By Carol Gerwitz

In 2017 at the suggestion of a counselor that he try writing and despite being extremely hesitant, Craig began writing for the first time. He wrote

about why he joined the Marine Corps, “And I haven’t stopped since,” says Craige.

Craige found South Bay Writers through a neighbor at The Villages and SBW member Larry Deitz. He is writing his second book and is looking forward to joining a critique group.

September 19 Meeting Recap



Susan Sherman and Elizabeth McKenzie

Any time our club hosts members of the Rough Drafts critique group, we know we are in for an informative and entertaining event.

Our September meeting was no exception, courtesy of two members of that group, the acclaimed authors Susan Sherman and Elizabeth McKenzie. Their fascinating discussion described both their writing process and the benefits of being in a critique group.

[Read Full Story by Shari Clare](#)

Member News



Carla King on Self-Publishing

Carla King gave an excellent presentation to the SBW Self Publishing Group on the steps and the right order to take for successful self-publishing. She has generously provided a recording of her talk so we all can benefit from her knowledge and experience. More information available at her website: carlaking.com

Watch: [Your Unstoppable 2027 Book Publishing Plan](#)



Bill Baldwin Panelist at SJ Book Fest

Bill was delighted and honored to contribute, at the recent San Jose Book Festival 2026, to a panel discussion on "Unconventional, Bold, and Morally Gray Characters: Why We Love to Write and Read Them,".



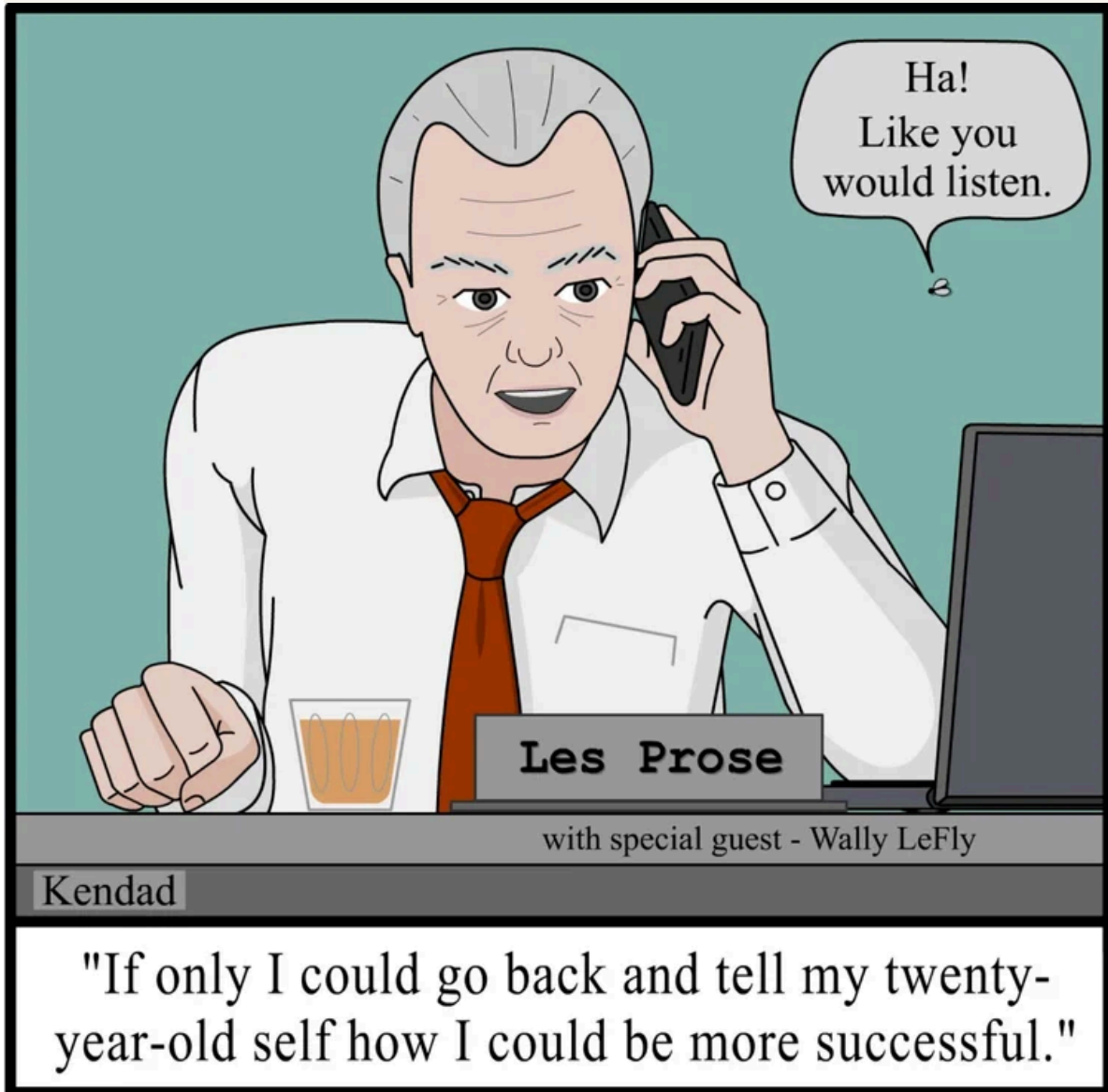
Bruce Overby, our August Speaker

Bruce shared his' new novel *Tristan 4 America* has been chosen as a PW Pick by Publishers Weekly and as a Gold Book Award winner by The Literary Titan. He will be celebrating the launch in conversation with Geri Spieler at the Rinconada Library in Palo Alto on Oct. 22nd at 6:30 p.m. Open to the public, RSVPs are appreciated.

Upcoming contests and events

- 4th annual Indie Author Fest, on **Saturday, October 17, 2026**, at the **Millbrae Library**, from **10:00 AM - 3:30 PM!** A celebration of readers and writers it's a free event open to all bibliophiles, whether you are a dedicated reader, an aspiring writer or someone in search of an enriching literary community.
- Sonoma Writers Conference, Oct 17-19, hosted by Redwood Writers, a branch of the California Writers Club.

- **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. **Deadline Oct 15.**
- **Poets & Writers Writing Contests, Grants & Awards** maintains an extensive database of upcoming contests, grants and awards.



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



www.southbaywriters.com

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