



# California Writers Club

Mt. Diablo Branch  
Chartered in 1987



Andrew Sean Greer

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## FEDORAS & TRENCH COATS AT SEPTEMBER 2007 MEETING



SCREENWRITERS BRYAN TOLIN & B. J. WEST

*COLLABORATIVE WRITING:*

*THE JOURNEY FROM SHORT STORY TO SCREENPLAY TO FILM*

In December 1999, local writer B.J. West decided that he needed a kick in the literary pants. As an exercise intended to stimulate productivity, he invited some of his writer friends to join him in collectively creating a character they could all share. They came up with Nick Chambers, a noir style private detective in the hardboiled tradition, but with a post-modern twist. The end result of this writing adventure was the book, *Fog City Nocturne*, an anthology of detective fiction that is familiar but original.

On September 8, editor and writer B.J. West, and his contributing writer Bryan Tolin, will present the CWC-Mount Diablo Branch with a lively discuss of the process of crafting a character, Nick, and what happened when he took on a life of his own.

Presentation topics will include a discussion of the collaborative writing process and discussion of the process from written story to screen play.

Author, screenwriter and film producer, B.J. West is a local, Bay Area digital artist and writer. He is most noted for his contributions to the best selling PC game of all time, *The Sims* and its myriad sequels. B.J. is the author of *The Writer's Tarot*, a deck of cards used to brainstorm stories and characters. Most recently, B.J. West, and contributing author Bryan Tolin, have produced and released a film titled *The Smiling Man* based on a short story of the same name from *Fog City Nocturne*. The film, set in post WWII San Francisco, will be released this year.

