

July 2017 AAG Newsletter

**Appalachian Authors Guild**  
P. O. Box 803  
Abingdon, VA 24212

<http://www.appalachianauthors.com/>

<http://www.virginiawritersclub.org/>

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<http://appalachianauthors.wordpress.com>

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#### AAG Mission Statement

The mission of the Appalachian Authors Guild, a Chapter of the Virginia Writers Club, is to support and promote literary art throughout the Appalachian region, to encourage writers and authors to both preserve and build upon the literary history and heritage of the Appalachian region and to provide opportunities for readers to experience the joy of meeting our people, visiting our beautiful region and understanding the wealth of our culture through literary art.

**Appalachian Authors Guild**  
**General Meeting**  
**July 11, 2017**  
**11:30am-1:30pm**  
**Shoney's Restaurant**  
**Bristol, VA**  
**Off I-81, Lee Hwy, Exit 5**

**Speaker**



**Lauvonda Lynn Young**

**Due to the unexpected trip of Dylan Pratt, Lynn Young has stepped in to be our speaker for the July meeting. I know you will enjoy her talk with us. Be sure to let me know by Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend.**



## From President Vicki



### All for AAG and AAG for all!

Dues can be sent any time. They are \$25. They can be sent to AAG PO Box 803 Abingdon, VA 24212.

As you are sending your dues, please also send me your brief bio and picture for our new website. I would also like pictures of your books and links for where people can find them. Please contact me via text/voicemail at [vfletcher56@gmail.com](mailto:vfletcher56@gmail.com) or text/voicemail to 276-492-8314.

I just want to remind everyone to email me at [vfletcher56@gmail.com](mailto:vfletcher56@gmail.com) or text me at 276-492-8314 if you are planning to attend by Friday, July 7th.

Also, please consider taking part in the Highlands Festival. Send your preferred days to Jack and your \$30 per day to AAG PO Box 803 Abingdon, VA 24212.

If you would like to make a donation of \$10 or more, you will receive an anthology, *Mountain Mist: Creations from the Appalachian Authors Guild*. Cover picture below. Members may also purchase additional copies for events through me. Email me for order details.

### 2017 AAG Meetings

We welcome anyone who would like to attend the board meetings at Abingdon Library, 1pm to 3pm, 2nd Tuesday in each month prior to the general meeting.

ALL General Meetings will be from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

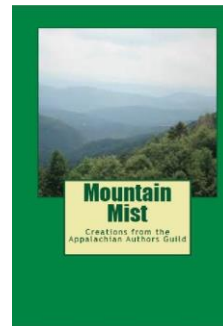
March 14, Abingdon Shoney's, Speaker, Dr. Jesse Graves from ETSU

May 9 at Southwest Community College in Richlands. Speaker, Justin Trout.

July 11, Bristol Shoney's, Speaker, Dylan Pratt, marketing. This is Scott Pratt's son.

September 12, Lebanon Bonanza. Speaker, Rita Quillen.

November 14, Abingdon Shoney's. Installation of officers for 2018. Speaker, Leigh Ann Hoover.



### Notes of Interest

We have items available in Cafe Press to earn funds for our treasury. please check out our shop at <http://www.cafepress.com/aagstuff>

Deadline coming up: August 1. The Virginia Writer's Club Golden Nib contest is underway. The contest is held first at the local chapter level and then first place winners compete at the state level. Categories are fiction, non-fiction (both 3500 maximum words,) and poetry (maximum 50 lines.) Requirements for the AAG contest are the same as the state contest; you can find the regulations on the Club site: <http://www.virginiawritersclub.org/>. Please submit entries by August 1 to Linda Dobkins at <mailto:lhdobkins@gmail.com>. (Please note the eligibility requirements and the need for both paper and email copies.)

## Spotlight On Promotion



### Happy Birthday, USA

Jo Allison (pen name of Linda Dobkins) has published the fourth book in her Julia Nye Mystery Series, set in 1911 St. Louis. In *Bread and Roses*, Julia Nye tries to balance her marriage and her career in the face of a new Chief of Detectives who is looking for an excuse to fire the only woman in the police department—and the only one who is likely to solve the murder of her friend, a women’s union activist. A fuller description of the book, along with the three other books in the series, is available on the Old Underwood Publishing Company website, [oldunderwoodpublish.com](http://oldunderwoodpublish.com). *Bread and Roses* is a follow-up to *Heaven Will Protect the Working Girl*, judged Best Self-Published Novel in 2016 by the James River Writers for Virginia novelists.

Cyrus Alderwood, nom de plume of AAG VP JC Schweingrouber, will have a new release in July, *Tales From the Sunset Pub*, a multi-genre book that includes comedy and drama. It will be available on Amazon for both paperback and Kindle.

<http://www.supportappalachia.org/>



### Back on the Green



July 28-August 6, 2017

Appalachian Authors Guild  
Booth

Email  
[jackrussellrose1@gmail.com](mailto:jackrussellrose1@gmail.com)

## For the Writer and Reader

### Inconsequential

I am working on a mystery novel. I have never written a mystery so I was thinking about mysteries that I have read and their writers. Naturally one of those writers was Agatha Christie. What made her stories great? Her stories were in interesting places with interesting characters. Some of those characters remind us of someone we might know. Finally, there was always an interesting premise with the story. Then there was how she presented the mystery in the story.

I have heard people complain that Agatha Christie would spring clues and facts out of nowhere when it came time for the big reveal, but that is not strictly true. If you go back after reading the solving of the mystery you will find that usually everything was presented to you. In my opinion one of her great skills was in making the important seem inconsequential. The magician uses misdirection to take your eyes off what is happening behind the curtain. Dame Agatha had a genius for making things seem unimportant.

Don't believe me? Read the reveal and go back and look for those clues they mention. They are usually right there. Sometimes you wonder how you missed them the first time when you go back and look for them.

Literary misdirection is not just in mysteries it gets used in other genres also but the mystery is where it truly shines.

Tom Fugate

JC Schweingrouber, Appalachian Authors Guild member, and others have formed a nonprofit group, The Foundation For Appalachian Advancement. They feature on their website an "Artist of the Month." If interested, ontact JC Schweingrouber <http://www.supportappalachia.org/>