

Sept 2019 AAG Newsletter

**Appalachian Authors Guild**  
P. O. Box 803  
Abingdon, VA 24212  
A 501c3 organization

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

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

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<http://appalachianauthors.wordpress.com>

## 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.

**General Meeting**  
**Sept. 10, 2019**  
**Shoney's Restaurant**  
**480 Cummings St.**  
**Abingdon, VA**  
**Speaker**  
**Jesse Graves**



Jesse Graves grew up in Sharps Chapel, Tennessee, about 40 miles north of Knoxville, in a community his ancestors settled in the 1780s. He is an Associate Professor of English and Poet-in-Residence at East Tennessee State University, where he won the 2012 New Faculty Award from the College of Arts & Sciences.

. His first poetry collection, *Tennessee Landscape with Blighted Pine*, won the 2011 Weatherford Award in Poetry from Berea College and the Appalachian Studies Association, as well as a Book of the Year Award from the Appalachian Writers' Association. He was given the 2013 Thomas and Lillie D. Chaffin Award for Appalachian Writing. . His second collection of poems, *Basin Ghosts*, also won the 2014 Weatherford Award in Poetry, making him the first poet to win the award more than one time. His poems have appeared in such journals as *Prairie Schooner*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *Connecticut Review*, and in the Poem of the Week feature for *Missouri Review*.

He is editor of several volumes of poetry and scholarship, including three volumes of *The Southern Poetry Anthology* (*Contemporary Appalachia*, *Tennessee*, and *North Carolina*), *Jeff Daniel Marion: Poet on the Holston*, and the forthcoming *Complete Poems of James Agee* (University of Tennessee Press, 2017)

Graves was awarded the 2014 Philip H. Freund Prize for Creative Writing from Cornell University, and the 2015 James Still Award from the Fellowship of Southern Writers.



## From Vicki



### All for AAG and AAG for all!

Members, please send Vicki your brief bio and picture for the AAG website. She would also like pictures of your books and links where potential readers may find them.

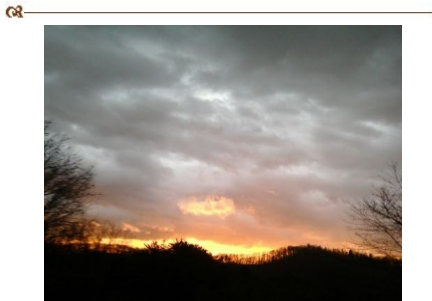
Contact Vicki via text/voicemail at [vfletcher56@gmail.com](mailto:vfletcher56@gmail.com) or text/voicemail to 276-492-8314.

### Next Board/Workshop

All members are welcome to attend the AAG Board Meetings as well as General Meetings. Member input is very valuable in scheduling guild activities.

The next scheduled board meeting will be Oct. 8, 2019.

Several members have attended and received valuable pointers at the informative workshop presentations after the board meetings.



Abingdon sunset  
Courtesy Eileen Bailey

Hello AAG,

This year is just flying by. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 10th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at Abingdon Shoney's. Our speaker is Dr. Jesse Graves from ETSU. I hope you can plan to be there. Please be sure to email or text me if you plan to attend so I can confirm with the restaurant. 276-492-8314 or [vfletcher56@gmail.com](mailto:vfletcher56@gmail.com)

Our final workshop will be on Tuesday, October 8th from 1-3 pm at the Small Business Incubator. Jim Glanville will be doing the presentation.

We will be joining with the Arts Depot for a book sale event, *Fall for a Good Book*, on Saturday, October 12th from 10 am to 2 pm. The cost to sell books is \$10. There are 15 tables available but if you would be willing to share, we can have more than 15 members there. You can send your \$10 to AAG PO Box 803 Abingdon, VA 24212 with a note saying you need 1 full table or ½ table. The \$10 is per author, not table. The money is the donation to the Arts Depot for hosting this event. You will also be able to pay online, but it will cost \$12 (the extra is to take the Paypal service fee into consideration). I will have that on the website by Sept. 1st.

The final meeting for this year will be on Tuesday, November 12th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at Abingdon Shoney's. We will announce officers for 2020. If you would like to take part in a Grab bag, bring a gift (\$5) to share. We will draw numbers. Number 1 will choose a bag first and open it. Number 2 will have the choice to take Number 1's gift or go choose one. This will continue until everyone has a gift. The gifts should be writing related but can be naughty or nice, your choice. I think this will be lots of fun to end our year with. Hope everyone can join us for this.

Thank you so much for being part of AAG this year. I believe we have had a successful year. I am hoping for even more good things in 2020. What a great year for a Vision!!! Please let me know what you would like to see our group accomplish next year. Hope all of you are doing well, writing much, and enjoying life.

Until next time,  
Victoria Fletcher  
AAG 2019 president



We have a store at Cafe Press to help us raise money for our AAG store and support us.

[AAGStuff](#) at Cafe Press

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Members who would like to have their new works announced in Tidings should send the info and cover thumbnail, if desired, to the editor's email address ([Mscribe@aol.com](mailto:Mscribe@aol.com)).

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If you haven't already read President Vicki's information about the booksigning at Abingdon's Art Depot on October 12. Fifteen tables are available, but if a table, or more than one, is shared, more than fifteen authors will be able to participate. She will have all information on the AAG website by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

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"Time is the cruelest teacher; first she gives the test, then teaches the lesson."

"Time is more valuable than money. You can get more money, but you cannot get more time."

Jim Rohn quotes (American Speaker and Author. He is famous for motivational audio programs for Business and Life.

Harvey MacKay quotes

"Don't count every hour in the day, make every hour in the day count."

## Six Tips on Writing from John Steinbeck

On the value of unconscious association, or why the best advice is no advice.

BY MARIA POPOVA

<https://www.brainpickings.org/2012/03/12/john-steinbeck-six-tips-on-writing/>

Pulitzer Prize winner and Nobel laureate John Steinbeck (February 27, 1902–December 20, 1968) with six tips on writing, originally set down in a 1962 letter to the actor and writer Robert Wallsten included in *Steinbeck: A Life in Letters* (public library)

Steinbeck counsels:

1. Abandon the idea that you are ever going to finish. Lose track of the 400 pages and write just one page for each day, it helps. Then when it gets finished, you are always surprised.

2. Write freely and as rapidly as possible and throw the whole thing on paper. Never correct or rewrite until the whole thing is down. Rewrite in process is usually found to be an excuse for not going on. It also interferes with flow and rhythm which can only come from a kind of unconscious association with the material.

3. Forget your generalized audience. In the first place, the nameless, faceless audience will scare you to death and in the second place, unlike the theater, it doesn't exist. In writing, your audience is one single reader. I have found that sometimes it helps to pick out one person—a real person you know, or an imagined person and write to that one.

4. If a scene or a section gets the better of you and you still think you want it—bypass it and go on. When you have finished the whole you can come back to it and then you may find that the reason it gave trouble is because it didn't belong there.

5. Beware of a scene that becomes too dear to you, dearer than the rest. It will usually be found that it is out of drawing.

6. If you are using dialogue—say it aloud as you write it. Only then will it have the sound of speech.

But perhaps most paradoxically yet poetically, twelve years prior — in 1963, immediately after receiving the Nobel Prize in Literature “for his realistic and imaginative writings, combining as they do sympathetic humour and keen social perception” — Steinbeck issued a thoughtful disclaimer to all such advice:

If there is a magic in story writing, and I am convinced there is, no one has ever been able to reduce it to a recipe that can be passed from one person to another. The formula seems to lie solely in the aching urge of the writer to convey something he feels important to the reader. If the writer has that urge, he may sometimes, but by no means always, find the way to do it. You must perceive the excellence that makes a good story good or the errors that make a bad story. For a bad story is only an ineffective story.”