The NEA Biz Read

Oct 6 - Nov 10, 2017

POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. It is designed to broaden our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book.



Joy Harjo

Here is a paradox. Each Big Read is unique, and each Big Read is the same. The chosen literature dictates a new author, a new literary form, a new historical context, yet year after year we set out to read carefully, to listen well, and to engage honestly, as we strive to broaden our understanding of ourselves, our community, and our world. Thank you for joining the journey!

Our featured author this year is Joy Harjo. She was born in Oklahoma, and is a member of the Muscogee/Creek Nation. Joy is the 2017 recipient of the prestigious Ruth Lilly Prize in Poetry, which honors a living U.S. poet for outstanding lifetime achievement.

Our community-wide read will focus on her anthology *How We Became Human*, published in 2002. In the book's introduction, which is a must-read, Joy describes how poetry found her, an emotionally fragile struggling artist and mother of two young children. "Poetry approached me in that chaos of raw inverted power and leaned over and tapped me on the shoulder, said, 'You need to learn how to listen, you need grace, you

need to learn how to speak. You're coming with me.' I did not walk off into the sunset with poetry, or hit the town with a blaze of gunfire with poetry guarding my back. Rather, the journey toward poetry worked exactly as the process of writing a poem. It started from the inside out, then turned back in to complete a movement."

Joy's writing captures everyday occurrence and deep spiritual truth, specific Native experience and

on't worry about what a poem means. Do you ask what a song means before you listen? Just listen. Joy Harjo

universal existence, searing pain and healing love. Themes of nature, place, tradition, politics, justice, and the history of indigenous peoples populate her work. In addition to writing poetry, Harjo is a teacher, saxophonist, and vocalist with several acclaimed albums to her credit. We expect that she will bring her saxophone along when she comes to Poughkeepsie to speak to High School students (October 20) and the public (October 21).



Joseph Bruchac

This year's Little Read book selections have ignited a firestorm of excitement in our local elementary and middle schools. The reason is, quite simply, author Joseph Bruchac.

Joseph Bruchac is the muchloved, award-winning author of over 120 books for children and adults. He is a professional storyteller with an international reputation. Most of his books reflect his Abenaki ancestry and his intense interest in Native American history and culture.

Bruchac lives and writes in the same house where he was raised in the Adirondack foothills. He collaborates with his sister Marge and adult sons James and Jesse on a variety of projects designed to preserve Abenaki culture, language, and traditional skills, including performing traditional and contemporary Abenaki music.

In an interview with Scholastic, Joseph said, "I started to write when I was in the second grade. I wrote poems to my teacher. One day, when she read one to the class, some of the bigger boys got jealous. They beat me up after school. That was my first experience with hostile literary critics. But I kept on writing."

Joseph Bruchac will visit local schools on November 2 and 3, and perform at the Boardman Road Branch Library at 4 pm on November 2.

Friday, October 6



7 pm, PPLD-Boardman

Kick-Off: Native American Music and Poetry - Joan Henry in Concert with Guest Poets

The stunningly versatile Joan Henry, accompanied by her band, guides the audience

on a journey from traditional to contemporary Native American culture while highlighting Joy Harjo's poetry. Guests poet/professor Molly McGlennen and poet/historian Evan Pritchard add insight throughout.

Monday, October 9

12-1:30 pm, Fall Kill Partnership Garden

Poetry in the Garden on Indigenous Peoples' Day

An outdoor poetry reading event featuring poet Cassandra Clarke and members of the Fall Kill Partnership Garden.

Tuesday, October 10

3:30-5 pm, PPLD-Adriance*

Feather Painting Workshop (Teens & tweens)

Taino artist Mercedes Garcia shares about feather symbolism in indigenous culture. Design your own 'sacred feather.'

6:30 pm, Poughkeepsie Farm Project, Vassar Barns*

Harvest Moon Food Event

Explore the culture of NY Native Americans as the harvest season draws to a close. Farmer Sarah Elisabeth demonstrates traditional methods of long-term produce storage. Natural foods chef Katie Key leads the group in preparing a fall Succotash.

Wednesday, October 11

4-4:45 pm, PPLD-Boardman*

Joseph Bruchac's Poetry (Gr 3-8)

Learn about award-winning native poet Joseph Bruchac. Read some of his poems and then write your own in his style.

6 pm, Millbrook Library

Readings by the Fireplace with the **Hudson Valley Writers' Workshop**

Poems and prose informed by Native American themes.

Thursday, October 12

Book Discussion: Joy Harjo's How We Became Human

10:30 am, PPLD-Adriance

Join Big Read Coordinator Jewel Ratzlaff for a lively discussion and light refreshments.

7 pm, PPLD-Boardman

Scholar-led Discussion: Joy Harjo's

How We Became Human

Join Dr. Lea Graham, Associate Professor of English at Marist.

Friday, October 13

11 am, Marist College-Fontaine Hall, HH Room

Between the Heart and the Sun: Call & Response with Dr. Lea Graham

Dr. Lea Graham explores Joy Harjo's use of call and response in *How We Became Human*. Together, we will discuss the effects of this technique on the reader and consider how it corresponds to the musical/dance traditions of indigenous peoples and those of blues, jazz, and gospel music. Presenter is Dr. Graham, Associate Professor of English at Marist College.

4 pm, Hyde Park Free Library*

Craft Workshop & Book Talk (Gr. 2-5)

This program includes a book talk on Joseph Bruchac's Eagle Song followed by a craft session making talking sticks.

6 pm, LaGrange Association Library*

Craft Night: Last Line Poems

Bring a copy of Joy Harjo's How We Became Human to discuss, then the group will create poetry using the collaborative 'last line' system.

7 pm, Hyde Park Free Library

Big Read Film Series: Little Big Man (1970)

Saturday, October 14

1:30 pm, PPLD-Boardman

Documentary: Reel Injun

This 2010 documentary examines Hollywood's portrayal of Native Americans and how this directly influenced public perception and stereotyping. 1 hour, 25 minutes.



8 pm, Bardavon 1869 Opera House \$

Hudson Valley Philharmonic with R. Carlos Nakai

Once again the Philharmonic collaborates with the NEA Big Read for an exciting concert with Native American flautist R. Carlos Nakai. Join Maestro Randall Fleisher for a pre-concert talk at 7 pm.

Tickets available only through the Bardavon Box Office.

Sunday, October 15



2:30 pm, PPLD-Boardman

Harjo's Poetry in Context: Dr. Molly McGlennen

Dr. McGlennen teaches Native American Studies at Vassar College and is an enthusiast of Harjo's work. McGlennen has authored several

books of poetry and many scholarly articles. She inspires and challenges listeners to greater understanding of the diversity of Native Peoples' culture, history, and contemporary experience.

Tuesday, October 17

3-4:30 pm, PPLD-Adriance*

Spine Poetry (Teen)

Pull some books off the shelves and create your poetry using only the book spines.

7 pm, Staatsburg Library

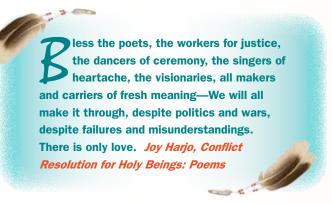
Book Discussion: Joy Harjo's How We Became Human

Wednesday, October 18

2 pm, Howland Library

Big Read Book Discussion with Dr. James Cotter

Dr. Cotter, Professor of English at Mount Saint Mary College, leads a stimulating book discussion of Joy Harjo's How We Became Human. Light refreshments will be served.



3:15 pm, Table Talk Diner

Spack Readers' Book Discussion: Joseph Bruchac's Code Talker

Enjoy some light afternoon fare as you join the book discussion. Leader will also present some of Joy Harjo's poems for discussion.

5-7 pm, SUNY DCC-Bowne Hall

Celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day with the RPM (Rap, Poetry, Music) and Improv Clubs

This student-led performance is free and open to the public. Enjoy the talented stars of tomorrow onstage.

Thursday, October 19

12 pm, Millbrook Library

Literary Luncheon Book Club: Joy Harjo's How We Became Human

1 pm, Collegeview Tower*

Fulton Avenue Book Club: Joy Harjo's How We Became Human



4-4:45 pm, PPLD-Adriance*

Colored Corn Mosaic Art (Gr K-5)

Create your own beautiful corn mosaic as you explore the history and culture of the indigenous people who developed the art form.

6:30 pm, Howland Library

Nature Poetry with Tony Pena

Join Beacon Poet Laureate, Tony Pena, for an evening of nature-inspired poetry. Mr. Pena will read his original works. Light refreshments will be served.

6:30 pm, Hyde Park Free Library*

Book Discussion: Joseph Bruchac (Gr 6 and up)

Everyone shares what they learned from Joseph Bruchac's novel The Warriors.

Friday, October 20

Students Meet Author Joy Harjo

9 am, John Jay High School 12:30 pm, Poughkeepsie High School

7 pm, Hyde Park Free Library

Big Read Film Series: Smoke Signals (1998)

Saturday, October 21



1:30 pm, PPLD-Boardman

Meet the Author: Joy Harjo

Joy Harjo brings to life her poetry and music in an unforgettable performance. Meet the dynamic woman who continues to inspire artists of all ages. Q & A will follow.

7 pm, Beekman Library*

Literary Salon: Readings, Wine, and Dessert

The library hosts the annual Literary Salon in collaboration with the Hudson Valley Writers' Workshop and the Creative Writing Group at Greenhaven Correctional Institution. The public is invited to read aloud their own work on themes of poetry, spirituality, humanity, and music as poetry. Event is for adults. Readings must be submitted for review by October 5 to kreilly@beekmanlibrary.org. Wine and light desserts will be served.



7-9 pm. Cunneen-Hackett Theater

Drum Circle and Poetry Reading

This free family event includes a drum circle with poetry readings, followed by a reception with light refreshments.

Programs continue on page 6.

* Program requires registration. Location and registration information on page 8.

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Sunday, October 22

2 pm, Hyde Park Free Library (Suggested donation: \$5)

Special Big Read Open Mic: Spotlight on Native American Themes

2:30 pm, PPLD-Boardman

Haudenosaunee 101/Sisters in Spirit

Elder Frieda Jacques shares lessons from her Haudenosaunee culture, especially the governing system which established a balance of responsibilities between women and men. Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner shares her research on how Haudenosaunee women sparked the revolutionary vision of early EuroAmerican feminists in New York State. This program, which is free and open to the public, is made possible through the support of the New York Council for the Humanities' Public Scholars program.

Monday, October 23

6 pm, PPLD-Adriance (bilingual)

La Plaza Workshop: Jewelry Making

Taino artist Mercedes Garcia shares from her cultural heritage and leads the group in a jewelry making project.

7 pm, CIA, Conrad N. Hilton Library Theatre*

Meet Sean Sherman of The Sioux Chef

A unique culinary lecture and cooking demonstration that highlights the ingredients and food preparation techniques of America's First Peoples. Native Chef Sean Sherman showcases indigenous cuisine on the release of his new cookbook, *The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen*. Cookbooks available for purchase and signing. *Registration required at poklib.org*.

Tuesday, October 24

6:30 pm, Howland Library

Native American Myths: Vickie Raabin

Join performer/storyteller Vickie Raabin for a journey of discovery through Native American myths. Program will conclude with the making of a simple corn husk doll.

Wednesday, October 25



3:30-5 pm, PPLD-Adriance*

Corn Husk Dolls & Popcorn (Grades K-5) Join Poughkeepsie Farm Project for an afternoon of storytelling, traditional crafts, and cooking! Local elder Vickie Raabin teaches the

art of corn husk dolls. Natural foods chef Katie Key explains how to cook locally-grown popcorn.

7 pm, Grinnell Library District

Big Read Book Club Discussion: Joy Harjo's How We Became Human

7 pm, LaGrange Association Library*

Youth Discussion: Bruchac's Eagle Song (Gr. 4-5)

7:15 pm, PPLD-Boardman

Movie Night: Smoke Signals (1998)

Thursday, October 26



5:30 pm, Vassar College, Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center*

Gallery Talk/Panel/Readings

Poets and curators come together for an explanation of the ways artist Robert

Rauschenberg used Native American texts in a 3-dimensional object that can itself be considered a visual poem. *Opal Gospel*, ten silkscreen prints on acrylic, is in the permanent collection of the Art Center and will be on view. Museum curatorial staff collaborates with poet/editor Alex Raz and Vassar faculty member Dr. Molly McGlennen. *Register @ poklib.org.* A poetry open mic will follow.

6:30 pm, Howland Library

Fighting for the Same Land – Wappinger Indians and Tenant Rebels of the 1760s

Join Dr. James Merrell, author and Professor of History at Vassar College, for an intriguing talk about how three competing forces fought for the same lands here in the Hudson Valley: landlords, Wappinger Indians, and rioting tenant farmers.

To read the poetry of Joy Harjo is to hear the voice of the earth, to see the landscape of time and timelessness, and, most important, to get a glimpse of people who struggle to understand, to know themselves, and to survive.

Poetry Foundation

6:30 pm, Beekman Library*

Big Read Book Discussion:
Joy Harjo's How We Became Human

6:30 pm, PPLD-Boardman*

Not Your Mama's Book Group Discussion: Sherman Alexie's novel The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

Friday, October 27

7 pm, Hyde Park Free Library

Big Read Film Series: Pow Wow Highway (1989)

Sundance Award Winner

Saturday, October 28

10 am-12 pm, (drop in), Friends of PPLD Book Store

Iroquois Artifact Trunk (Grades K-8)

Learn about the history and culture of the Iroquois Indians using authentic artifacts provided by the Dutchess County Historical Society's *Artifact Trunks for Education* initiative. Some items you will learn about include an Iroquois headdress, a turtle rattle, a wampum belt, and a coyote pelt.

Sunday, October 29

2:30 pm, PPLD-Adriance*

Poetry Writing Workshop with Phillip X. Levine

Levine (*Chronogram* poetry editor) will lead a poetry workshop focused on the difficult task of revisiting poems you never completed. Participants will be asked to email three poems (of moderate length) to Phillip two weeks prior to the workshop. Poets are encouraged to pick exactly those poems that they have never gotten quite *right*. During the workshop each participant's work will be shared for feedback. Enrollment is limited to 10 participants. Work should be mailed to Phillip X. Levine *prod@mindspring.com*.

Monday, October 30

7 pm, Hyde Park Free Library*

Appreciating the Poetry of Joy Harjo

Writer and teacher Constance Skedgell leads a workshop on Harjo's poetry.

Wednesday, November 1

7 pm, Staatsburg Library

Dramatic Reading of Select Poetry by Joy Harjo

Thursday, November 2



10:30 am, Hagan Elementary

Students Meet Author Joseph Bruchac (Gr 3-4)

4 pm, PPLD-Boardman★

Author Visit: Bruchac (Gr K-8)

Meet author Joseph Bruchac as he presents his storytelling, music, poetry, and Abenaki culture.

6:30 pm, Overlook Elementary School

Students and Families Meet Author Joseph Bruchac (Gr 2-5)

7 pm, PPLD-Adriance

An Evening of Poetry Celebrating the Work of Joy Harjo

Friday, November 3



All Day, NYC*\$

Friends of PPLD Bus Trip: National Museum of the American Indian, and More!

Ride the bus to lower Manhattan for a private tour of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, then on to Bryant Park's

Winter Market with free time for lunch and browsing. Next is a tour of the New York Public Library. *Payment due to the Friends at the Friends' Book Store or online at poklib.org.*

Students Meet Author Joseph Bruchac

9 am, Haviland Middle School (Grade 6)

11 am, St. Peter's School

2 pm, Ralph R. Smith Elementary (Grades 2-5)

7 pm, Hyde Park Free Library

Big Read Film Series:

Geronimo: An American Legend (1994)

Sunday, November 5

2:30 pm, PPLD-Boardman

The Big Write: A Student Poetry Project

Poets Celia Bland and Gretchen Primack host this public reading of the work of local high school students interspersed with their own published poetry. Two students from each participating high school will be selected to read.

Tuesday, November 7

10 am, LaGrange Association Library*

StoryTime & Craft (PreK-2)

Enjoy the art and poetry of Joseph Bruchac's book *The Earth Beneath Sky Bear's Feet*, and have fun with a related craft.

12 pm, LaGrange Association Library*

Loom Weaving (Gr K-5)

We'll make a cardboard loom, and then learn how to use it to create a keepsake.

3:30-4:45 pm, PPLD-Adriance*

Native American Dreamcatchers (Teen)

Learn the cultural significance of dreamcatchers in Native American culture and then weave one for yourself.

Friday, November 10

4 pm, LaGrange Association Library*

Big Read Crafternoon: Rainsticks (PreK-3)

Don't miss a chance to hear the rain inside the library! Then complete the craft and make it 'rain' at home.

6 pm, LaGrange Association Library*

Craft Night: Paint a Poem

Bring a copy of Harjo's *How We Became Human*; we will discuss the poems that resonate most and use those as inspiration for a small painting.

7 pm, PPLD-Boardman

Closing Program

We'll reflect on our five-week Big Read adventure, enjoy an exhibit of work produced by participating students, and maybe hear a poem or song as well. The 2018 Big Read Book Selection will be revealed, and free books will be distributed to those in attendance.

* Program requires registration. Location and registration information on page 8.

'm attracted to poetry as a form because of its capacity to do incredible amounts of work in relatively small spaces. I'm attracted to the way poetry works like a giant jigsaw puzzle scattered out before you. Whether you are writing a poem or reading someone else's, that puzzle is there, prompting the process of pulling the pieces together. You must work to see where those edges line up and meet, and you may not even know what the final "picture" will be. So, you are using your whole self to figure it out, not just your eyes, because at times you will be in the dark. But when those jagged or smooth edges join, something really exciting happens, and gaps in understanding all of a sudden become closed and we are illuminated. Dr. Molly McGlennen, interview with Kimberly L. Becker

NEA Big Read is a program of:

The National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest

and these generous local sponsors:

Norman and Jeannie Greene Fund • The H.W.Wilson Foundation Salisbury Bank • The Friends of PPLD • Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union New York Council for the Humanities • Mid-Hudson Library System









Coordinated by the Poughkeepsie Public Library District with the cooperation of the following partners:

School Districts

Arlington Central School District **Dutchess County BOCES Salt Point** Catholic Schools Region of Dutchess Hyde Park Central School District Our Lady of Lourdes High School Poughkeepsie City School District Spackenkill Union Free School District Wappingers Central School District

Higher Education

Bard College **Dutchess Community College SUNY** Dutchess County BOCES Adult Learning Inst. Marist College Vassar College

Public Libraries (and Friends)

Beekman Library Friends of Poughkeepsie Public Library District Grinnell Public Library District Howland Public Library Hyde Park Free Library LaGrange Association Library Millbrook Library Staatsburg Library

Arts Organizations

Arts Mid-Hudson Bardavon 1869 Opera House Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center Hudson Valley Philharmonic Mill Street Loft & Spark Media Project

Other Local Organizations

American Association of University Women The Arc of Dutchess County Day Hab Program Center for Lifetime Study Culinary Institute of America **Dutchess County Historical Society** Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce Ebenezer Baptist Church Youth Project Fulton Avenue Book Club Green Haven Correctional Writers' Group Literacy Connections Poughkeepsie Journal Rural and Migrant Ministries Spack Readers' Book Club Town of Poughkeepsie Senior Center

Location & Registration

Bardavon 1869 Opera House

35 Market Street, Poughkeepsie 845-473-2072, bardavon.org

Beekman Library

11 Town Center Blvd, Hopewell Junction 845-724-3414, beekmanlibrary.org

Collegeview Tower

141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie Marcia @ 845-471-1241

Culinary Institute of America

1946 Campus Drive, Hyde Park Conrad N. Hilton Library Theatre 845-452-9600, ciachef.edu, Register at poklib.org

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Theater

12 Vassar Street, Poughkeepsie 845-486-4571, cunneen-hackett.org

DCC SUNY

53 Pendell Road, 122 Bowne Hall, Poughkeepsie 845-431-8000, sunydutchess.edu

Fall Kill Partnership Garden

Garden behind Family Partnership Building 845-264-8117, 29 N. Hamilton St., Poughkeepsie

Friends of PPLD Book Store

141 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie 845-485-3445 x 3422

Grinnell Public Library District

2642 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls 845-297-3428, grinnell-library.org

Howland Public Library

313 Main Street, Beacon 845-831-1134, beaconlibrary.org

Hyde Park Free Library & Annex

2 Main Street, Hyde Park 845-229-7791, hydeparkfreelibrary.org

LaGrange Association Library

488 Freedom Plains Road, Suite 109, Poughkeepsie, 845-452-3141, laglib.org

Marist College

3399 North Road, Fontaine Hall, Poughkeepsie 845-575-3000, marist.edu

Millbrook Library

3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook 845-677-3611, millbrooklibrary.org

Poughkeepsie Farm Project

Vassar Farm Barns, 51 Vassar Farm Lane Poughkeepsie, Register at poklib.org

Poughkeepsie Public Library District

845-485-3445 x 3702, poklib.org

- Adriance Memorial Library 93 Market Street, Poughkeepsie

- Boardman Road Branch Library 141 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie

Staatsburg Library

70 Old Post Road, Staatsburg 845-889-4683, staatsburglibrary.org

Table Talk Diner

2521 South Road, Poughkeepsie Bonnie at 845-876-5696

Vassar College

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center

124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie 845-437-7745, Register at poklib.org