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 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).

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 much-loved, 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)
Tattoo artist Mercedes Garcia shares about feather symbolism in indigenous culture. Design your own ‘sacred feather’.

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 Kate 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

11 am, Marist College-Fontaine Hall, HH Room
Between the Heart and the Sun: Call & Response with Dr. Lea Graham
Dr. Lea Graham explains 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.

3 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.

8 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.

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.

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.

Thursday, October 19

12 pm, Millbrook Library
Literary Luncheon Book Club: Joy Harjo’s How We Became Human
Join Dr. Lea Graham, Associate Professor of English at Marist.

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

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.

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

Programs continue on page 6.
### NEA Big Read October - November 2017

**How We Became Human by Joy Harjo**

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<td>4-4:45 pm, Boardman* (Grades 3-8) Joseph Bruchac’s Poetry Reading by the Fireplace with the Hudson Valley Writers Workshop</td>
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<td>5 pm, DCC SUNY Book Discussion, Dr. James Cotter</td>
<td>6:30 pm, LaGrange Library* Last Line Poems 7 pm, Hyde Park Film: Little Big Man</td>
<td>1:30 pm, Boardman Meet the Author: Joy Harjo 7 pm, Beekman Literary Salon: Readings, Wine and Dessert 7 pm, Cunneen-Hackett Theatre Drum Circle and Poetry Reading</td>
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<td>2 pm, Hyde Park Native American Theme Open Mic 2:30 pm, Boardman Haudenosaunee 101: Sisters in Spirit</td>
<td>6 pm, Adrian (bilingual) La Plaza Workshop: Jewelry Making 7 pm, Culinary Institute of America, Conrad N. Hilton Library Theatre* Meet Sean Sherman of The Sioux Chef</td>
<td>6:30 pm, Haudenosaunee Native American Myths: Storyteller Vickie Rasbin</td>
<td>3:30-5 pm, Adrian* (Grades K-5) Corn Husk Dolls 7 pm, Grotto Book Discussion: Harjo 7 pm, LaGrange* (Gr 4-5) Youth Book Discussion: Eagle Song 7-7:30 pm, Boardman Movie Night: Smoke Signals</td>
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<td>10 am-12 pm (drop in) Friends of PPLD Book Store (Grades K-8) Inquisitor Artifact Trunk See, touch, and learn!</td>
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<td>2:30 pm, Adrian* Poetry Writing Workshop with Phillip X. Levine</td>
<td>7 pm, Hyde Park Appreciating the Poetry of Harjo with Constance Skedgel</td>
<td>Nathan Liang in Place Icon Art</td>
<td>7 pm, Stuartsburg Dramatic Reading of Harjo Poetry Adrian Cano Thompson in Place Icon Art</td>
<td>7 pm, Students Meet Author Joseph Bruchac 10:30 am, Hagen 4 pm, Boardman 6:30 pm, Overlook 7 pm, Adrian Evening of Poetry - Joy Harjo</td>
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<td>2:30 pm, Boardman The Big Write: A Student Poetry Project, a public reading hosted by Poets Celia Bland &amp; Gretchen Primack</td>
<td>10 am, LaGrange* (PreK-2) Storytime &amp; Craft 12 pm, LaGrange* (K-5) Loom Weaving 3:30-4:45 pm, Adrian* (Twin) Native American Dreamcatchers</td>
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<td>Detailed on Facebook &amp; poklib.org  * Program requires registration  $ Fee involved</td>
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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 Roseo WeahCha 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 Public Library for the Humanities’ Public Scholars program.

Monday, October 23
6 pm, PPLD-Adriance (bilingual)
La Plaza Workshop: Jewelry Making
Tania 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

Tuesday, October 24
6:30 pm, Howland Library
Native American Myths: Vickie Raabin
Join performer/storyteller Vickie Raabin on a journey of discovery through Native American myths. Program will conclude with the making of a simple corn husk doll.
6:30 pm, Beekman Library*
Big Read Book Discussion: Joy Harjo’s How We Became Human
7 pm, Grinnell Library District
Big Read Book Club Discussion: Joy Harjo’s How We Became Human
3:30-5 pm, PPLD-Adriance*
Corn Husk Dolls & Popcorn (Grades K-5)
Join Rough Keepers 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.

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 McGlennon. Register @ poklib.org. A poetry open mic will follow.

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, 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 to identify 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 (Chronopraphy poetry editor) will lead a poetry workshop focused on the difficult task of revising 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 <pprod@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 (Grades 3-4)

4 pm, PPLD-Boardman*
Author Visit: Bruchac (Gr K-8)
Meet author Joseph Bruchac as he presents his story reading, music, poetry, and Abenaki culture.

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!

Saturday, November 4
3:30 pm, PPLD-Adriance
Poetry Writing Workshop with Joy Harjo

Monday, November 5
2:30 pm, PPLD-Boardman
The Big Write: A Student Poetry Project
Poets Celina 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 kepsake: 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
8 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.
I’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

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

Cumneen-Hackett Arts Center Theater
12 Vassar Street, Poughkeepsie
845-486-4571, cumneen-hackett.org

DCC SUNY
53 Pendell Road, 122 Bowne Hall, Poughkeepsie
845-431-8000, sundutchess.edu

Fall Kill Partnership Garden
Garden behind Family Partnership Building
845-264-8177, 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
Vasar Farm Barns, 51 Vassar Farm Lane
Poughkeepsie, Register at poklib.org

Poughkeepsie Public Library District
845-485-3445 x 3702, poughkeepsie.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 845-876-5096

Vassar College
Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center
124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie
845-437-7745, Register at poklib.org

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
Cumneen-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