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City of Santa Barbara  
P.O. Box 1990  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93102-1990

[SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

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## 2021 WATERWISE GARDEN CONTEST WINNER



George Hopwood and Joseph Navarro in their winning garden in Hidden Valley.

The WaterWise Garden Recognition Contest celebrates and recognizes beautiful, water efficient residential gardens throughout Santa Barbara County. The 2021 winning garden for the City of Santa Barbara is owned by George Hopwood and Joseph Navarro. Eight years ago, the owners inherited a thirsty lawn and a border of camellia bushes when they purchased their home in Hid-

den Valley. They knew the lawn was not going to stay and used a push mower as a motivator to move forward and create a vibrant space to interact with nature.

George and Joseph took advantage of the water wise gardening and rainwater harvesting classes offered through the City and explored the online water-wise plant database for garden design options and plant choices. The ability to see photos of plants highlighted in Santa Barbara gardens helped them visualize their new yard. To make their garden vision come to life, they worked with Nate Zacarias of AllScape Design and Installation.

Their garden includes a wide variety of native and water wise plants, a dry creek bed that directs the rain water from their downspout into their garden, and drip irrigation that is only used to supplement the plants during the summer season. The textures and colors from the varieties of plants, such as manzanita and Point Sal sage, bring enjoyment to the owners, the neighbors, and the butterflies. No more push mower needed; this garden is low maintenance, water thrifty, and is inviting to people, pollinators and puddles. There is color and life in the garden all year long.

In Santa Barbara, an average of fifty percent of the water used for a home goes toward landscape irrigation. Water wise gardens demonstrate that landscapes can include lush plantings and flowers, attract wildlife, are easily maintained, and save money on water bills. For garden inspiration and to see garden contest entries from all over Santa Barbara County, visit [WaterWiseSB.org/GardenContest](http://WaterWiseSB.org/GardenContest).

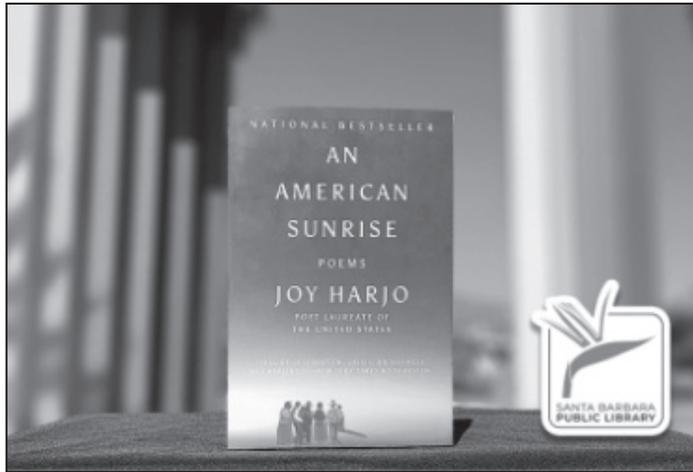
## BEES! WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SEE A SWARM



Our website is a great resource for who to call if you see a swarm of bees.

Are you worried about a bee swarm that seems to be in a dangerous location? Is your water meter box suddenly home to a family of bees? Here's what to do: If the bee swarm is in the public right-of-way,\* please call Vector Control at (805) 564-5596 or send an email to Cenen Aparicio at [RAparicio@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:RAparicio@SantaBarbaraCA.gov). If bees are in your meter box, please call Meter Services at (805) 897-2516. Don't worry, we will not kill the bees; it's City of Santa Barbara policy not to use pesticides on bees or exterminate them. We will send someone out to assess your bee situation, and if the bees need to be moved, a professional beekeeper will do the relocating. If you have a bee swarm on private property, we recommend you call the Mosquito and Vector Management District at (805) 969-5050. They'll have a list of beekeepers who relocate bees. Our website is a great place to find this kind of information; there's even an easy-to-remember web address for our bee-related content: [SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Bees](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Bees). \*The public right-of-way (you might see it abbreviated as ROW), includes city streets, sidewalks, median strips, and street trees and bushes.

# SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC LIBRARY SELECTS SANTA BARBARA READS TITLE: AN AMERICAN SUNRISE BY UNITED STATES POET LAUREATE JOY HARJO



*NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.*

The Library invites the community to read and celebrate Joy Harjo's *An American Sunrise* this fall as a part of this year's annual SB Reads program — NEA Big Read: Santa Barbara Reads. Harjo's book of poems explores Indigenous pasts, presents, and potential futures in the US, and prompts readers to unpack the impact of America's colonial history. This series of events will engage the community with local artists, poets, and writers and will invite readers to examine the world from viewpoints other than their own.

SBPL is one of 61 organizations nationwide selected to receive a 2021-2022 NEA Big Read grant. An initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, the NEA Big Read broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book. This \$20,000 grant will support several events in November, as well as a virtual author talk by Joy Harjo in December.

"We're inspired by the creativity of this year's NEA Big Read grantees, who are finding new ways to bring people together after a challenging year," said Torrie Allen, President & CEO of Arts Midwest. "We are proud to support these organizations and communities as they explore the richness and diversity of American history and culture together through reading."

With the support of the Santa Barbara Public Library Foundation, the Library will give away over 1,000 copies of *An American Sunrise* to members of the community and distribute copies of additional titles by Indigenous authors. As part of the annual Santa Barbara Reads program, this NEA Big Read invites the community to read the same book at the same time to connect with one another and engage in discussions about issues that matter.

"The Library Foundation is thrilled to help fund SB Reads for the fourth year and support an opportunity for community members to read, reflect, and discuss new viewpoints," said Lauren Trujillo, the Foundation Board's Director.

More details about the program will become available in the coming months. Santa Barbara Reads will take place between November 1st and December 15th, 2021. Visit: [SBPLibrary.org](http://SBPLibrary.org)

## SBA CELEBRATES 10 YEARS!



SBA is proud to celebrate the last 10 years of service to our community through our terminal building. There have been countless successes along the way, and we are grateful to all who have contributed. Follow SBA on social media to celebrate! [FlySBA.com](http://FlySBA.com)

### Santa Barbara's 22nd Annual Creek Week is September 18-25!

Creek Week is a celebration of our creeks, watersheds, and the ocean, with many local organizations hosting volunteer events, talks, tours, and much more!

Join us in helping build awareness and stewardship of the natural treasures of Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, and Goleta.

Learn more at [SBCreekWeek.com](http://SBCreekWeek.com)  
or [Facebook.com/SBCreekWeek](https://Facebook.com/SBCreekWeek).

