

Have You Heard . . . ?

NC Kids Digital Library launches. A first of its kind, a statewide eBook consortium specifically for children launched in January. The NC Public Library Directors Association (NCPLDA), together with OverDrive and the state of North Carolina, has created a new digital resource sharing service for children in pre-K through 4th grade. Over 3,700 eBooks, audio books, videos and read-alongs are now available to younger readers via 85 regional, county and municipal libraries in North Carolina through OverDrive's digital reading platform. These materials are instantly available for every child, at home and everywhere.

All that is needed to get started is a library card. A collection of 3,029 eBooks, 689 audio books and 37 streaming videos is available on nckids.overdrive.com. In addition, all titles can be accessed via the OverDrive app on all major computers and devices, including iOS, Android, Chromebook and Kindle (US only). Three hundred titles are available with simultaneous access, available anytime with no wait lists.

"This content will align with summer reading camps across the state as well as the state's 3rd grade reading initiative, and will provide a significant boost to the many library-school partnerships already in existence," said Ruth Ann Copley, NC Public Library Director and Director of Libraries at Davidson County Public Library System.

NC Kids Digital Library is sponsored by NCPLDA and the North Carolina General Assembly with assistance from the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources. Members of NCPLDA worked with Representative Pat McElraft to secure funding for this project. In July of last year, the 2016 Appropriations Act was signed into law for fiscal year 2016-2017 that included a funding provision for \$200,000 for the State Library to work with NCPLDA to create a statewide consortium for all public library cardholders.

OverDrive is the leading digital reading platform for libraries and schools, dedicated to "a world enlightened by reading" by delivering the industry's largest catalog of eBooks, audio books and other digital media to a growing network of 36,000 libraries and schools in 63 countries worldwide.

Pine Knoll Shores

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

Our *vision* is to provide a quality environment in which all residents and visitors are safe and secure, where individual talents flourish and everyone enjoys the natural resources of our area.

It is the *mission* of the town of Pine Knoll Shores to provide for the safety and well-being of all residents and visitors in an efficient and well-organized manner; develop and implement plans for the continuous improvement of the town, its services and its beach; and encourage the participation of residents in service to the town and community.

Virginia Philosopher, Author to Appear Locally

By Barbara McCreary, Board President, Friends of the Bogue Banks Public Library

Philosophy is not something that takes place only in academic think tanks or university settings, nor is it just something for the ancient Greeks. So what is philosophy? Philosopher and author Marietta McCarty defines philosophy as "the art of clear thinking." Philosophical conversations can take place anywhere (on playgrounds, in prisons, on sailboats, around dining room tables—any place where people happen to be who are committed to paying attention and to



Author and philosopher Marietta McCarty

deepening their relationships and connections with others). Clear thinking enhances the lives of people who intentionally choose a life of simple pleasures, joy and purpose.

McCarty graduated from Hollins University and earned her master's degree in philosophy from the University of Virginia. She taught for 28 years at Piedmont Virginia Community College. In 2014 McCarty was voted as its newsmaker by Virginia Professional Communicators.

McCarty's first book, best-selling *Little Big Minds: Sharing Philosophy with Kids*, was showcased in a 2007 interview with the author on "The Diane Rehm (radio) Show." Visit thedianerehmshow.org and search for Marietta McCarty to listen to this program.

In another of McCarty's books, Nautilus Award-winning *How Philosophy Can Save Your Life: 10 Ideas That Matter Most*, she discusses the ideas of simplicity, communication, perspective, flexibility, empathy, individuality, belonging, serenity, possibility and joy. And *The Philosopher's Table: How to Start Your Philosophy Dinner Club—Monthly Conversation, Music, and Recipes* offers an around-the-world tour, featuring various cultures as you and your guests gather at your table accompanied by applicable food dishes, entertainment, thoughts from differing perspectives and, of course, lively conversation.

In early 2016 McCarty traveled to Cincinnati to be the keynote speaker for the Xavier University Counseling Department's 40th Annual Winter Conference. In January she spoke to a creative writing class at the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women in Fluvanna County, Virginia. In February she combined the beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains with the sweetness of the grape, speaking at a wine-tasting at DuCard Vineyards in Etlan, Virginia. These are but a few of the many appearances McCarty has made to spread her message to eclectic groups of people.

Charlottesville (Va.) native Marietta McCarty will visit our area and present her ideas to local residents in early March. While in the area, she will present "Writing a Book and Publishing It—Sweet and Difficult" at a meeting of the Carteret Writers on Wednesday, March 8, at the Golden Corral in Morehead City. Buffet lunch is available beginning at 11:15 a.m. with Ms. McCarty's talk at noon. You need not purchase a lunch nor be a member of Carteret Writers to attend her talk.

Later that same day she will present at St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church in Salter Path. A Lenten soup supper will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by McCarty's interactive presentation at 6:30, entitled "The Arts of Clear Thinking and Rethinking." Quoting her website, McCarty will "present four commonly-used terms that cry out for better clarity and fresh new meanings: Success, Education, Kindness, and Gratitude."

The following day, on March 9, McCarty will speak at the Bogue Banks Public Library in Pine Knoll Shores. "A Conversation about the Art of Conversation" will begin at 3 p.m. with, appropriately enough, informal conversation. The formal talk begins at 3:30 p.m. with a reception following the talk. What hinders good communication and conversation? What enhances it? What role does conversation play in living a satisfying life?

All three events are free and open to the public. Her books will be available for purchase at each of the events and McCarty will be available for book signing. For more information, visit her web site at mariettamccarty.com.