

'My Sister's Keeper' author arrives for two-stop tour

Proceeds from NCC visit to help siblings of cancer-stricken kids

By **Kate R. Houlihan**
STAFF WRITER

Best-selling author Jodi Picoult will round out the adult portion of the Naperville Reads program when she makes two stops in the area today.

Picoult will speak at a luncheon sponsored by Anderson's Bookshops at noon in Woodridge. Then at 7 p.m., she will speak at North Central College's Pfeiffer Hall.

Mary Yockey of Anderson's said 150 tickets have been sold for the luncheon, and more than 600 have been sold for the NCC appearance.

Yockey said tickets will be available at the door for the evening program if any remain. Tickets to the luncheon are no longer being sold.

Picoult released her 13th novel, "The Tenth Circle," on March 7.

However, her visit to Naperville will focus on her book "My Sister's Keeper." It tells the story of 13-year-old Anna, who was conceived to provide a genetic match to help save her sister Kate in her fight with cancer.

The proceeds from the \$3 donation for each ticket to the evening event will go to Rolling Meadows-based SuperSibs, a nonprofit organization that helps the brothers and sisters of children with cancer overcome the challenges they face.

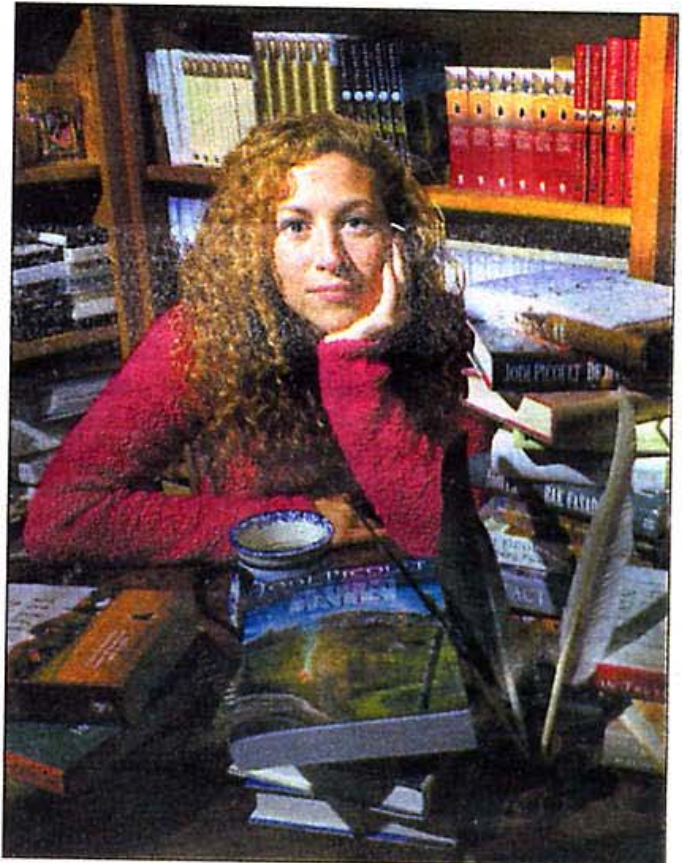
"Our services help navigate them through that roller coaster part of their lives," said Melanie Goldish, SuperSibs executive director. "When a child is diagnosed with cancer, everyone in the family needs healing."

Goldish, who will say a few introductory remarks at North Central, said the group was excited when it learned it would benefit from Picoult's visit.

"We just about jumped out of our skin," Goldish said. "We love the book. It is stunning. At the same time, to have the community embrace SuperSibs

FYI

For information about SuperSibs, visit www.supersibs.org or call (847) 705-7427.



Jim Cole / The Associated Press

Jodi Picoult, one of this year's Naperville Reads authors, will appear today in a luncheon in Woodridge and then tonight at a discussion at North Central College's Pfeiffer Hall in Naperville.

with this support will allow us to serve more."

More than 4,300 kids are served in the United States and Canada, including 21 from Naperville, Goldish said.

While Goldish said the story line in "My Sister's Keeper" is an example of the "extreme of the extreme" when it comes to what siblings of children with cancer endure, she said there are also more tangible elements of the story that exist.

"The kids we serve experience elements of what was in that fiction story every day," Goldish said, citing stories she's heard of high-schoolers quitting extracurricular activities to help out at home as an example.

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