

## BOOKS

### Sib Story

**J**ANE MERSKY LEDER doesn't read self-help books when times get tough. She writes them. When her favorite brother committed suicide 13 years ago, she wrote *Dead Serious*, an award-winning book—and now a home video—about suicide. More recently, says the 46-year-old Lake View resident, “as I approached middle age, I felt I had to have my [estranged] sister back in my life. After all, she's the person in this world who's more like me than anybody else.” It was then Leder discovered that little had been written about sibling relationships. So Leder wrote *Brothers and Sisters: How They Shape Our Lives*, to be published this month by St. Martin's Press.

“Friends and neighbors



Family matters:  
Jane Mersky Leder

may move away, former co-workers are often forgotten, marriages break up. But our brothers and sisters remain our brothers and sisters,” she writes. “As constants in our lives, siblings provide a reference

against which to judge and measure ourselves.” In fact, Leder, who grew up around Detroit in a family of four children, has seen it happen in her own life. “I am convinced that my brothers and my sister have shaped every aspect of my life, from

the kind of person I am to the choices I make in career, friendship, and love,” she says.

“My relationship with my sister is the most joyous I have. Who better to help me make some sense out of the chaos we call life?”

—SALLY RUTH BOURRIE