**Dr. Savu Will Reat at February Stories**

Dr. Mihaela Savu, cardiologist with Cardiology Associates in Jonesboro, will serve as reader for the February Stories in the Forest program at 3 on Saturday, Feb. 5, at St. Bernards Fun Forest at The Mall at Turtle Creek.

She will read *I’m Gonna Like Me: Letting Off a Little Self-Esteem* by Jamie Lee Curtis & Laura Cornell and *The Night Before Valentine’s Day* by Natasha Wing.

Though Curtis may be better known as an actress, (starring in movies such as *A Fish Called Wanda, True Lies, Trading Places,* *Halloween* and more) she has had a great deal of success writing children’s books, having had eight books published in the last two decades. The versatile entertainer had her first children’s book – *When I Was Little: A Four-Year-Old’s Memoir of Her Youth* – published in 1993 to warm reviews.

She did not set out to be a children’s author. But the experiences of her children led her to the field, and she takes her inspiration from daily living. Curtis, her husband, Christopher Guest, and their two children, Annie and Thomas, live in California.

*I’m Gonna Like Me* is a celebration of liking yourself, the author says. Using fun rhyming verses and fresh lively artwork by well-known illustrator Laura Cornell, it stresses the importance of liking yourself every day. Through alternating points of view – a boy’s and a girl’s – it shows children that regardless of whether you get the answer wrong at school or are the last person picked for a team, the most important thing is liking who we are. It was published by Joanna Cotler Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

*The Night Before Valentine’s Day* is patterned after the beloved *Night Before Christmas* … but it’s focus obviously is on the sweetest holiday of the year. It talks about children making cards with their own special touches, addressing envelopes to their friends and dreaming about the fun that awaits. The children take their cards to their classroom and help decorate for a festive party, eventually getting to the part of the day when they share cards and refreshments. And just when they think things are winding down, there is a knock at the classroom door … and they receive a surprise guest.

Wing, is a Connecticut native who now lives in California and had a background in advertising before she was drawn to children’s writing children’s books. She was inspired by the magic that happens when reading a book … and she wanted to see if she could create magical moments for children herself. She sold her first manuscript in 1992 and has been writing children’s books ever since.

Books to her credit include a number of “night-before” stories published by Grosset and Dunlap – *The Night Before Kindergarten, The Night Before Mother’s Day, The Night Before Halloween, The Night Before First Grade, The Night Before the 100th Day of School, The Night Before New Year’s, The Night Before Thanksgiving, The Night Before Easter, The Night Before St. Patrick’s Day, The Night Before the Tooth Fairy, The Night Before Summer Camp, The Night Before the Night Before Christmas* and coming soon *The Night Before Preschool*.

Some of her other books include *How to Raise a Dinosaur, An Eye for Color, Go To Bed, Monster* and more.

In addition to giving parents some quality time with their children and exposing children to some favorite books of local residents, Stories in the Forest has an educational focus, with printed materials available for parents. The program is an outgrowth of the St. Bernards Women’s Advisory Council’s tremendously successful Kidz Fun Fair.

The Women’s Advisory Council is a group of about 120 area women who have joined together in an advisory role to give input on important healthcare issues impacting women and children. They encourage educational as well as service outreach efforts designed to make Jonesboro a better place to live, work and raise families.