

The fix won't be quick

Book Review

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER FOR THE CHRONICLE

It never is. There's no magic wand to change the things that've been on your mind lately: social issues, inequality, poverty, politics, apathy, violence. Those ills didn't arrive quick and they won't leave quick but, says Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, they can be repaired. In his new book "Writings on the Wall" (with Raymond Obstfeld), he explains...

When people ask Abdul-Jabbar what he might've become, had he not played NBA basketball, his answer often surprises them: he would've been a history teacher. History fascinates him — especially in the way it reflects racism, religious intolerance, and gender issues. In history, as in current events, the truth is sometimes bent.

Take, for instance, politics, which is on everyone's mind. We rail and complain about issues and promises broken and we like to think it's all out of our hands. The truth is that we are the problem: we grow complacent about things we don't want, acting "like children when it comes to politics" and hoping the government will "take care of us," rather than taking steps to fix the system ourselves.

White people may deny that racism exists, says Abdul-Jabbar, while Black people know that it does. Racism didn't stop with the election of the nation's first Black president. It doesn't end with melting-pot cultural appropriation. It actually comes in two forms, he says, and education is the first step in dealing with it, not eliminating it, because racism is always going to be around.

On religion, we should never lose sight of the fact that this "country was founded by religious outcasts running for their lives from persecution for their beliefs." When it comes to equality for women, we must embrace the true meaning of "feminist" and adhere to what we tell pollsters when it comes to gender. We need to look at the media and how to maximize its potential, and we must take better care of our seniors.

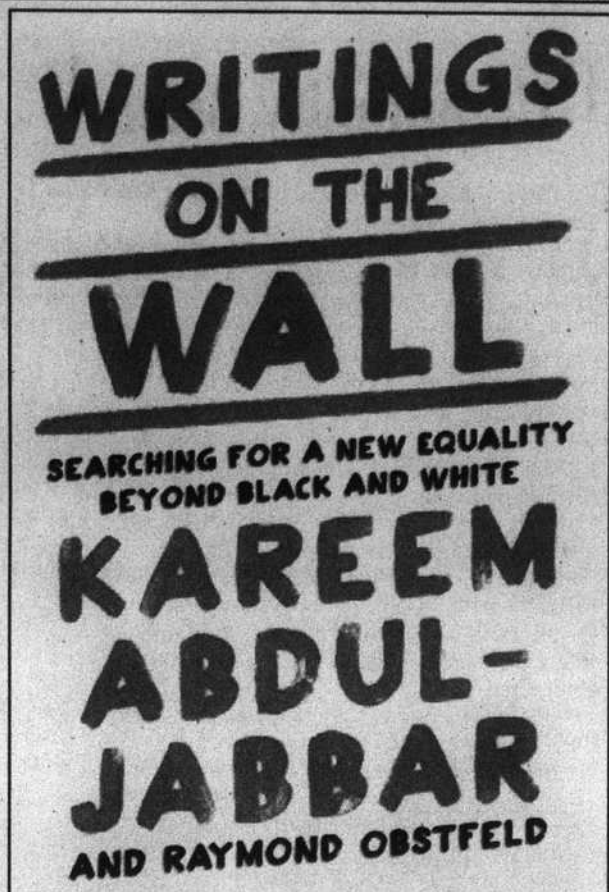
"We cannot afford to just wring out hands and depend on the kindness of strangers," Abdul-Jabbar says. "We have to bring about change on our own."

Remember when your grade school teacher told you to put on your thinking cap? You'll need it again as you're reading "Writings on the Wall."

Authors Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and

Raymond Obstfeld don't just examine issues that are on the minds of every American. They turn them over and blow them apart, looking for solutions that can be accomplished and chiding us gently for not already working. That makes for a thought-demanding, intellectually heavy book but it's also a worthy call to action; you may be delighted to see that Abdul-Jabbar doesn't miss a chance to add a touch of the personal here, which includes unexpected humor.

Readers with the right mindset will find this book to be informative and entertaining but be prepared to take your time get the most from it. There aren't a lot of pages inside "Writings on the Wall," but what's here is deep and wide and nowhere near quick.



Writings on the Wall: Searching for a New Equality Beyond Black and White by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld
c.2016, Liberty Street Books
\$27.95 / \$33.95 Canada
256 pages

The Bookworm is Terri Schlichenmeyer. Terri has been reading since she was 3 years old and she never goes anywhere without a book.

Housing summit is April 20

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The city's annual observance of Fair Housing Month began Thursday, April 6, when Mayor Allen Joines reads a proclamation at noon at the Allegacy Federal Credit Union, 1691 Westbrook Plaza Drive, Winston-Salem.

The city's annual Fair and Affordable Housing Summit for housing professionals will be held Thursday, April 20, at 11:30 a.m. at the Benton Convention Center, 301 W. Fifth St. During the summit, the New Horizons Fair Housing Committee will give its annual Breaking Barriers Fair Housing Award to City with Dwellings, a partnership of congregations, colleges, civic groups, and individuals that provides services to the homeless and is working to end homelessness in Winston-Salem.

This year's summit is led by the Human Relations

Department and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as title sponsors Fairway Independent Mortgage Company and PNC Bank. Platinum sponsors are the Winston-Salem Community Development Department and Piedmont Federal Savings Bank; gold sponsors are the Forsyth County Housing Department, the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem, and Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County. Silver sponsors are Financial Pathways/Center for Homeownership, the Winston-Salem Regional Association of Realtors, and Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods.

Fair Housing Month promotes the federal Fair Housing Act and its laws against housing discrimination. 2017 marks the 49th anniversary of the signing of the Fair Housing Act by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968.

Winston-Salem has a fair housing ordinance that mirrors the Fair Housing Act. The Winston-Salem Human Relations Commission and Human Relations Department are responsible for enforcing fair housing laws locally to ensure fair and equal housing access and treatment for all people regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, family status or religion.

Also during Fair Housing Month:
*Nexus, a quarterly public affairs television program produced by Human Relations on WSTV Digital Media, will focus on Fair Housing Month.

*"A Matter of Place," a documentary on housing discrimination, will be shown during April on WSTV Digital Media.

For more information about Fair Housing Month and the Human Relations Department, call CityLink 311.



Bethesda All Star dancers get in the groove at kick-off event on March 16.

Submitted photos

Bethesda Center prepares for dance competition

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Bethesda Center All Stars, formerly known as Take the Lead Winston-Salem, officially kicked off this year's dancer competition.

Now in its seventh year, the fun-spirited, dancing fundraiser has help to raise more than \$500,000 for Bethesda Center for the Homeless. It is considered one of Winston-Salem's most popular and important community events.

This year's event is scheduled for Thursday, April 27 at Lawrence Joel Coliseum. Event information, tickets and dancer voting are all available at www.bhallstars.org.

Event tickets begin at \$15. Dance pairs raise money by recruiting friends, family and others in the community to purchase \$10 votes — three votes equal the cost to the Bethesda Center to provide a person with one day and night's shelter and supplies. Fans cast their votes at bhallstars.org and at the event.

The dancer kick-off event was held on March 16. Participating dancers and supporters were on hand to practice some early moves on the dance floor and begin the good-natured competition for votes. Bethesda Center for the Homeless Executive Director Derwin Montgomery, who will reprise his role as a dancer, addressed the group.

This is Bethesda Center's 30th anniversary serving the homeless in the community.

Participants in the Bethesda All Stars Dancing Fundraiser include:



Bethesda All Star dancing pair Todd and Melanie Barbee get close at the kick-off event on March 16.

- Mayor Allen Joines & Suzy McCalley
- Leslie Baker & Tim Jewett
- Melanie & Todd Barbee
- Dr. Nate French & Camille French
- Derwin Montgomery
- Yuleidy Baldor
- Erin Blakely & Jacob Felder
- Yong Yi
- Rev. Andy Lambert & Rev. Steve Keaton
- Mayor Deborah Stoltz-Thompson

THE SEVENTH LAST WORDS
OF Christ

FRIDAY
APRIL 14, 2017
7 PM

60TH ANNUAL SERVICE

NEW BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

EVERGREEN CEMETERY (MEMORIAL CITIZEN'S WALL)

www.wschronicle.com

FIRST WORD

SECOND WORD

THIRD WORD

FOURTH WORD

FIFTH WORD

SIXTH WORD

SEVENTH WORD

Christ is Risen!
Easter Sunrise Service

April 16, 2017
7 AM

60th ANNUAL SERVICE

EVERGREEN CEMETERY (MEMORIAL CITIZEN'S WALL)

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