

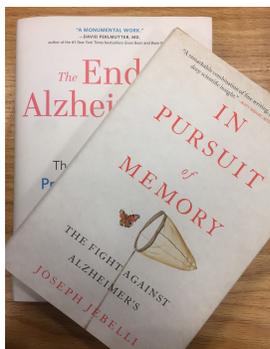


John Dewey High School Pre-Med and Health Academy

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Two Hot Books Take On Alzheimer's



By DANIEL FALKIN

The National Institute on Aging defines Alzheimer's as "an irreversible and progressive brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills" and it is "the most common cause of dementia among older adults." To learn more about this disease and the severity of its symptoms, there are two current books worth checking out.

One book is called *In Pursuit of Memory: The Fight Against Alzheimer's* by Joseph Jellali, a neuroscientist. This book is about an elderly woman who is suffering from Alzheimer's. She describes life with Alzheimer's as constantly trying to recover her memories and find the right words as she tries to speak.

There is also a part in the book about a grandfather that was so strongly affected by Alzheimer's that he forgot how his own grandson looked.

The other book is called *The End of Alzheimer's: The First Program to Prevent and Reverse Cognitive Decline* by Dale E. Bredesen, MD, the founding president and CEO of the Buck Institute for Research on Aging. This book is about how to find a cure to end Alzheimer's. The author claims that if scientists were able to find a cure for cancer, then they should be able to find a cure for Alzheimer's as well.

Gates Wants to Help Crack the Code on Alzheimer's

By DANIEL FALKIN

Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft, recently invested \$50 million into the Dementia Discovery Fund. Gates donated to this fund to help find a cure for Alzheimer's. According to Gates, his family suffered from this disease and he believes that if there are more people involved in this research, a cure can be found quicker.

I asked Ms. Alton, a chemistry teacher in John Dewey High school, what she thought about Gates investing money into Alzheimer's research. She believes Gates is a good role model. "It is very good that people still focus on the elderly, since the majority focus on the young nowadays," said Ms. Alton. "This is a disease that affects a large majority of elders and the fact that effort for finding a cure is still being put in is a very good sign."

It is safe to say that Alzheimer's has not been disregarded and scientists are working on finding a cure, especially with the support of such donations as this one from Gates.

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