

## **Reviews and Raves for Making History:**

**From "Kittitas Kinfolk", Newsletter of the Kittitas County Genealogical Society  
July 2005**

This book is an inspiration! The author teaches classes and leads workshops on writing personal history, and her belief is that everyone has a story to tell.

"The point of this book is that your life matters," she writes. "Write about what you did, what you saw, what you thought, what you felt." We may think our life experiences are too ordinary to be of interest, but the author reminds us that someday we will be someone's ancestor and that person will want to know about us. As we would enjoy reading our great-grandparent's account of his or her life, so will our descendants want to read about us.

This book is a helpful guide for both beginners and more experienced writers. It is packed with advice and encouragement. There are numerous examples of vignettes or short stories written by the author or her students (anonymously) on an incident or an emotion they experienced. There are many pages of timelines, incidents of past years, to help prod your memory.

With this book as a guide, you too can write history.

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**From Book Review Club. com, by Jennie S. Bev, Managing Editor, May 2005**

Extremely recommended!

Anybody has a story to tell and Making History is for everyone who believes in it. As a professional storyteller who teaches writing and history, author Kim Pearson is the right person to show you how to tell your story in an engaging and historically-correct way.

Divided into three parts, this book focuses on the reasons why writing your personal history is an inspiring endeavor, how to discover your place in history and how to create powerful vignettes effortlessly. For this purpose, Pearson generously included important milestones in economics, politics, social fabric, wars, technology, science, arts, entertainments, crime and trivia to be used as the backdrop of your story.

While most books about writing a memoir or personal history pivots around internal dialogues to unveil "inner stories," Making History shows how this can be done by

looking both inward and outwardly. Any writer, both seasoned and amateurs, will find this book extremely valuable –much more than a simple how-to book.

As a reference, this book is as good as a comprehensive and concise history book about events around us that has shaped our society (and ourselves) the way we are today. Making History makes us all feel connected to the whole civilization regardless of how small our parts might be.

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**From Past Times, Issaquah Historical Society, February 2005**

On February 5, Kim Pearson treated participants to a whirlwind version of one of her memoir-writing workshops, sharing techniques and methods that she lays out in her new book, *Making History: How to Remember, Record, Interpret and Share the Events of Your Life*. In just ten minutes of writing, participants recorded memories that some of us had never thought of as important or significant.

This is the hallmark of Pearson's method. Her philosophy is that we all have memories of value, not only to ourselves and our family, but also as a record of historic events. History is more than the names and dates of occurrences; it is also the impact each event has on individual people. With that in mind, recording one's memoirs becomes an act of broad significance.

Pearson's method makes writing memories easier by breaking them down into manageable chunks. Pearson groups events into eight categories (economics and politics, crime and disaster, and lifestyle activities are three examples), and then provides a timeline for each decade from the 1930s to the 1980s that corresponds to each category. The timelines and other prompts in the book inspire memories that may be long-forgotten, or previously dismissed as insignificant. If you want to record your memories, but the idea of sitting down to do it is daunting, then Pearson's book is for you.

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**From Statesman Journal, Salem Oregon. Northwest Roundup, by Dan Hays. Sept, 2005**

This book will help aspiring writers learn to recall details and get organized.

Here is a useful book. One of the phenomena caused by the explosion in self-published books is the frequent appearance of memoirs -- autobiographies or books about the

author's family. These sometimes are intended just for the family, but more often their authors hope to find a wider audience for their story.

Unfortunately, very few of the people who write and publish these books know how to organize them or write well. "Making History" is a book designed to let such aspiring writers get organized. It also has advice on how to recall details and how to know what you are going to write before you start the process.

Everyone who is contemplating writing a memoir about themselves and/or their families should read this book. "Making History" is practical and fascinating. It even includes timelines of major events in history and culture over the past 40 years.

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### **From Seattle Storyteller's Guild, In the Wind, Fall 2005, by Pat Peterson**

As storytellers, many of us want to develop personal stories. Some of us have a considerable number of years and experiences to draw upon. Comes the dilemma--"I can't remember." Kim Pearson has provided us with a wealth of story starters and techniques for mining the nuggets of story ideas just waiting to be brought to light. Detailed historic timelines from 1930 through 1989 lead us back to discover our place in history. It's not accomplished with mere dates and numbers. Politics, lifestyle, social aspects are but a few of the categories that trigger memories of 'back then'. Extensive topic suggestions geared to what WE experienced during these times help to bring forth the memories.

The book grew out of Kim's classes on exploring the times of your life against the backdrop of historic events. Stories from students are found throughout giving first hand examples of what is possible to remember and share.

This is not a book to be read straight through from beginning to end. This is a volume to keep by the bedside---to pick up and browse. What a resource for personal story ideas.

Kim teaches workshops based on "Making History". During one presented at the Seattle Genealogical Society, I remembered aspects of my first job--long forgotten. Will it develop into a story? Maybe--but if not, the memory took me back in time and allowed me to look around---and remember.

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**From Katie Arnold, reader:**

I just this morning, got into your book - I LOVE IT! I love history set up the way you have done - it makes it so easy to find particular bits and pieces ... I know your book is going to get all dog eared and worn. Thank you very very much.

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**From Elaine Blom, co-author of Wake Up ... Live the Life You Love**

Making History strikes a major chord ... encouraging the revelation of the personal threads that bind us all together. Take the time to share who you are. This book shows you how.