

## Kim Pearson's Memoir-Writing Workshops

*Making History: How to remember, record, interpret and share the events of your life*

Author Kim Pearson teaches workshop participants a comprehensive, easy to use, and fun method of exploring the times of their lives against a backdrop of historical events. **She leads them on a wild gallop from the 1930s through the 80s, exploring how they made a difference, what they contributed, what they witnessed, and how they can share their stories with others.** They learn how to access buried memories through interactive techniques, sharing exercises, and non-critical discussion. They hear great stories from others and recount their own.

In this thoroughly enjoyable workshop, participants get lots of freebies. Kim hands out copies of timelines, sample topic questions, and even notebooks. They can use the notebook to record memory vignettes in class, or wait until they get home to use the beautiful souvenir.

**Kim averages 25 participants per class—and more than half buy the book right away.**

These sorts of numbers aren't coincidental; they happen because Kim offers something real and tangible, something people can actually use. Participants and booksellers alike are effusive in their praise of Kim and her workshop.

Found out why Tegan Tigani, Event Coordinator for Queen Anne Books in Seattle, says *"Thank you so much for holding your "Making History" workshop at Queen Anne Books...the staff had such wonderful things to tell me about it—great attendance and compliments all around for your flexibility, amiability, and teaching style."* Tegan was so happy with the workshop that she's passing along Kim's information to neighboring teaching facilities.

### *Making History*—The Book

*Making History* is a vital tool for anyone who wants to finally write his memoir, for anyone who wants to record her family's journey through time—basically, for anyone! Pearson arranged the book in easily accessible categories:

- Economics and Politics
- The Social Fabric—such as race, gender, and morality
- War and the International Scene
- Technology and Science
- Crime and Disaster
- Arts and Entertainment
- Lifestyle Activities—including food, fashion, toys, games, and sports

- The Weird and Trivial—such as scandals, gossip, comics, slang, pets, and the paranormal

Kim Pearson, who has a degree in history from University of Washington, has taught from this book for six years. Read the following excerpts from Pearson's book, *Making History: How to remember, record, interpret and share the events of your life* to see for yourself why this is such a valuable book to have on your shelves:

- **Learn How to Remember.** "Many of us think we will write our memoirs—someday. Maybe if we do some-thing fabulous, outrageous, something that alters the course of history. Maybe if we become famous. Or maybe just when we have the time, whenever that will be. But few of us ever get around to it. And the truth is that if you don't preserve your stories—what you did, what you thought, what you felt—your stories will die when you do. No one else can tell them like you can. No one else has your eyes, your heart, or your mind." (page 11)
- **Learn How to Record.** "The 'Write to Remember Rules' make writing your memories fun, not work. When you sit down to write, don't worry about the outcome. Do not judge yourself. Your past lives inside you, and there is no way you can get it wrong. Just begin. You do have stories to tell!" (page 43)
- **Learn How to Interpret.** "Some stories, the really great ones, will include all four story elements: connecting, teaching, inspiring and healing. But every story will have at least one. Look for them and you will see. Identifying these elements will increase the depth and richness of your story, and remind you why you are here." (page 49)
- **Learn How to Share.** "Sharing your stories with each other leads to powerful insights. You probably will recognize yourself in another's story, as they will recognize themselves in yours. You will be taught, and you will teach. Your story might help another to grow, or their stories might change you. You will laugh together, and you might even cry. You will see that the actions, thoughts, and feelings of everyone *matter*." (page 52)

*"Kim has a gift for drawing out the 'untold story' from a person. She teases out the passion inside a person's head through her non-threatening style. She creates a safe space in her writing classes for people to tap into their own gifts. I saw the delight and pride in their eyes when they said, 'I wrote that!'" –Sylva LeDuc, M.Ed*

## Workshop Descriptions

Kim Pearson offers three different memoir-writing workshops, which vary in length and amount of information covered. Choose the one that best fits your organization.

\*Cost is negotiable and dependent upon venue. Half-day and two-day workshops must have a minimum of six people and a maximum of twenty-five people enrolled. Venues also have the option to pay an honorarium directly to Kim Pearson in lieu of charging participants. Honorarium should be consistent with class length and size.

### Mini Workshop and Book Signing

In this one-hour, mini workshop, Kim covers one decade (the lively 1970s) and one category (Economics & Politics). Participants receive

- Entertaining romp through the economics and politics of the 1970s
- Basic introduction to “Write to Remember Rules”
- Handout of writing suggestions
- Free notebook for writing memory vignettes
- Time to write and share

Participants have the option to buy *Making History* and have it signed by the author.

### Half-Day Workshop

This half-day workshop (approximately 4 hours) covers three decades (your choice of 1930/1940/1950 or 1960/1970/1980) and four categories. Participants learn and receive

- An author-signed copy of *Making History*
- In-depth coverage of four categories covered in the book
- Detailed instruction in “Write to Remember Rules”
- Handouts and class discussion of interpretation and sharing methods
- Handouts and class discussion of writing suggestions
- Free notebook for writing memory vignettes
- Time to write, share, and listen to stories

### Two-Day Workshop

This two-day workshop covers three decades (your choice of 1930/1940/1950 or 1960/1970/1980) and all eight categories in the book, *Making History*. The workshop lasts approximately 12 hours, divided by two days. Participants learn and receive

- An author-signed copy of *Making History*
- In-depth coverage of all eight categories covered in the book
- Detailed instruction in “Write to Remember Rules”
- Handouts and class discussion of interpretation and sharing methods
- Handouts and class discussion of writing suggestions
- Free notebook for writing memory vignettes
- Time to write, share, and listen to stories

## Testimonials

"Kim did an outstanding job, not only in inspiring us to stretch ourselves and produce excellent writing, but also in the way she related to us. She demonstrated a real sense of compassion, sensitivity, and respect." –Helen Goerhing

"I am a counselor who works with one of your students. I see him each week and he has told me all about your class, 'Making History.' I wish you could see the way he lights up when he tells me about the topics you have them write about, and the things he writes. I just wanted to take the time to tell you what a joy your program brings. I truly believe that we can write our way into and out of everything. It is so centering and even the most ordinary story is, as you well know, quite extraordinary. I think the work you do is important and meaningful."  
–J. Schneider

"Kim's classes opened a new world for me to enjoy, and her encouragement offered me the freedom to try." –Joan Z.

"This class awakened a creativity that had been buried under time." –Gerry W.

"Kim is a great teacher who helped me expand my abilities." –Guyla S.

"I was extremely impressed by this program and by the talented and effective teacher. Her manner and humor was great." –Al G.

"I thoroughly enjoyed Kim's class. It was a spiritual experience for me to realize that I AM a writer! I loved the warm-ups we did before diving into the exercises, which were a blast. Moving through the fear of writing was so valuable. Getting to the other side of that was a delightful experience for my confidence as a writer. Kim is an excellent teacher—patient and empathetic—and made the experience so much fun!" –Nancy Hellstrom

Thank you! I wanted to write about my grandmother's life and now, I want to write about mine as well. I loved being with a different generation and hearing how different our lives were. –  
Tina Hernandez

I can't wait to get started! -- Janet Wilson

I'm not sure why, but when I came into the classroom and briefly looked through the materials, it made me want to cry. I was flooded with all kinds of memories. Wonderful! – Lori Brown

Thank you – very inspirational and practical exercises for me – good luck to you! – Sunny Young

Very well done, good presentation which kept us moving right along – very encouraging for us and comfortable to be a part of. – Dianne MacDonald

This class was my first exposure to writing outside my home writing. I truly enjoyed the time and the ideas especially the WHY to write. Thanks. – Inge Rothig

I love your enthusiasm and warmth – Kate Vikstrom

Thank you – I enjoyed this workshop so much – Angie Atwell

“Trust yourself”, “Your story is worth writing” – great encouragement! – Linda Ziebell

Thank you for the inspiration. – Becka Morgan

Loved it! Would you believe I liked Nixon? – Carol Weber

I was surprised to realize that I could have written something under each category you talked about. –

I'll be using ideas for interviewing my mother and asking for her stories. – Sharon Rodman

My wife and I are part of an oral history project with Silver Falls State Park and Silverton County Historical Society. Your book will help me to prompt our storytellers. – Herb Lay

Come back! Thanks, this was well organized and vivid. – Lois Rosen

This was a super experience. – Sue Morrison

Thank you. You got me enthused, and encouraged me to get started. – Carol Hoagland

Very touching and empowering. I hope I can take more of these classes with you. A venue for sharing stories is inspiring. – Teresa Read

Thank you for rekindling my interest in different ways and techniques. – Marlene Fullwiller

I very much appreciated your fun workshop. Since I am putting together my family's genealogy, it reminded me that I need to write my own bio, not just those who came before me!

Thank you for a stimulating, encouraging, helpful presentation. I want to share my memories and encourage my husband to share his. This will help me get started. – Linda Thomas

Clear presentation, warm personality. – Patrick Herlihy

Great fun and inspirational. Particularly moved by the idea that our stories can be told so someone else can experience a healing. – Ralph Coulson

My children have been urging me to write down the family history – and you've given me the approach and inspiration to get started. – Bernadette Huston

This method would also provide springboard for adoptees who may/may not have birth family history, but need to establish their identity. – Jo Bouler

Thank you – my mother in law is 80 and we have talked about writing her story, now mine also – and this will give me a format to start. – Darlene Ertzberger

Interesting – I'm inspired to begin writing. – Chris Sagen

I am a creative writing teacher with a PhD in English. I'd like to do workshops like yours, it was wonderful. – Mary McIntosh

Your book will be a great help to the memoir I am writing. – Jayne Sprinkle

Wonderful – it went by much too fast. – Gail Burns

Very inspiring. – Cheri Ryan

Outstanding book and teaching format. Gives shape and direction to writing I've already done. – Esther Barclay

Thanks for verifying the importance of what I have been doing. – Suzi Freeman

Very fun! I want more! – Jackie Fisher

Wonderful focus. Thank you for being candid and courageous about our collective histories. I want the class to be longer. – Jourdan Keith

Very enjoyable, useful, worthwhile class. Thank you! – Naomi Baltuck

This was a good start. I wish the class was longer. – Kathy Dickerson

Great inspirational, motivational, and entertaining speaker. – Sharon Creeden

Wonderful, I'll come to a longer class next time. – Julie Fretain

This book will be a valuable resource. What a pleasure! – Ellie Crandall

I thoroughly enjoyed this class. I want to experience more. – Tim Alaish

Great class. I loved the "gallops" and your writing tips are very helpful. I'm usually not much of a writer but with the tips I'm going to try. – Deb Melse

I'm a 7<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher and I find your topic valuable, challenging, and exciting. I'm looking forward to reading your book and using some of your ideas in my classroom. – Diane Thompson

It was terrific to listen to you and get re-inspired by your presentation. Many thanks. – Janet Crewsden

Thank you, thank you. – Sue Meyers