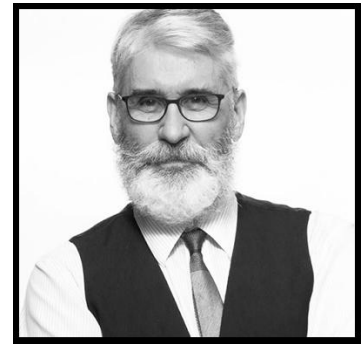


Author Bio - Peter Serko

A self-described late bloomer, Peter has a knack for reinventing himself. He's been a counselor, stay-at-home dad, nurseryman, IT professional, playwright, solo performer, photographer, filmmaker, and author. He was inspired to write his middle-grade historical fiction novel, *Hattie's War*, after acquiring the diaries of his late great-grandmother. Curiosity sparked further research, uncovering his family's surprising ties to the American Civil War. His great-great-great-grandfather Hannibal Howell died at The Battle of Gettysburg, leaving behind a wife and five children. His youngest child, Hattie, is Peter's great-great-grandmother. Hattie was born five months after her father joined the Union Army. Hattie never knew her father... their story was begging to be told.



A father of three adult children and a stay-at-home dad for thirteen years in his 30s, Peter was in a unique position to understand the struggles and sacrifices made by his female ancestors in a time when women had few choices outside the home. *Hattie's War* is a coming-of-age tale that pays homage to their struggles, as well as their hopes and dreams. Hattie's journey of discovery illuminates the harsh reality of the Civil War and the lives of grieving families left in its wake.

Peter always seeks ways to educate and inform in his creative pursuits. *Hattie's War* is no exception; the story brims with details that expand the reader's understanding of the time and the war. The novel includes a richly illustrated non-fiction section with background on many noteworthy points mentioned throughout the story.

Hattie's War is Peter's second major writing endeavor. His solo performance play, *My Brother Kissed Mark Zuckerberg*, about his late brother David, was his first. David was an AIDS activist who died in the early years of the epidemic in 1992. The play garnered rave reviews and led Peter to once again embrace a new role as an educator-activist, bringing the remarkable story of activism's role in the AIDS crisis to middle and high school students.

When he's not writing intriguing fiction for young readers, Peter is a free-wheeling cook, artisanal bread baker, and master gardener, always on the lookout for his next big challenge. He lives in the Pacific Northwest with his wife of 44 years, Sue. *Hattie's War* is his debut novel.