

2023 Long Bio for website:

Janice E. Kirk is an award-winning poet, author, and illustrator of six books, including: *Drawing Close, Encountering Joy, an Artist's Psalms and Prayers for the Earth* (Resource Publications, 2022); *Milton the Mouse* (Resource Publications, 2019); *The Road to Beaver Park, Painting, Perception, and Pilgrimage* (Resource Publications, 2016); *The Christmas Redwood, A Forest Parable* (Wipf & Stock, 2016); *Cherish the Earth: the Environment and Scripture*, by Janice E. Kirk and Donald R. Kirk (Wipf & Stock Pub., 2016); and botanical illustrator of *Wild Edible Plants of Western North America*, by Donald R. Kirk (Naturegraph: 1970, 1975). Janice writes from a painter's perspective, a naturalist vision, and a pilgrim's heart to share the extraordinary beauty and lessons of the natural world. She hopes readers will enjoy nature's wonders every day.

A lifetime of summer camping trips took Janice and her biologist/naturalist husband, Donald, around the western U.S. as far north as Denali National Park in Alaska, and as far south as Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument on the Arizona/Mexico border. In the 1960s they collected information on wild edible plants for Don's book, *Wild Edible Plants of Western North America* (Naturegraph: 1970, 1975), which Janice illustrated with 300 botanical sketches. In 1976-77 a year-long Sabbatical camping trip in the Greater Southwest provided time for study, sketching, painting, and photographing plant communities. The family lived close to the elements, absorbing nature's wonders. They gained a new perspective on the way life systems are put together, a vision of Planet Earth as a dynamic whole. Painting and sketching every day taught Janice to *see*, a radical activity, one that changed her life focus. It triggered a spiritual renewal, a return to Christian faith, and sparked advocacy for earth stewardship. In the 1980s-90s, six summers found them on Teaching Staff at Holden Village (ELCA) on Lake Chelan in the Central Washington Cascade Mountains.

Teacher of art, language arts, and music, Janice holds a B.Mus.Ed. from University of Oregon (Eugene) and a M.Mus. in Vocal Perf/Pedagogy from University of Colorado (Boulder). She taught music, art, and language arts in the public schools (Oregon, California), and served as Art Coordinator and Project Writer for the Language, Art & Music Project in Shasta Co. Schools, CA (1974-77). She recently retired as Adjunct Voice Instructor at Simpson University (Redding, California). After many years in California, Jan moved to Winona, Minnesota, in the beautiful Mississippi River Valley to be closer to her children and grandchildren. Currently she is a member of Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Winona, as well as Women Writing the West, National Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Western Writers of America, and The Natural Areas Association. On good days, you can still find her at the park, sketchbook in hand.

BOOKS IN PRINT

Drawing Close, Encountering Joy, an Artist's Psalms and Prayers for the Earth (Resource Publications, 2022), Poetry. Enter the joy and peace of the natural world. Through the eyes of an artist, discover nature's abiding witness to the "wondrous Mystery wrapped in beauty". . . "Read slowly in a quiet place and be fed." Written and illustrated by Janice E. Kirk. 109 pp.

Milton the Mouse (Resource Publications, Wipf & Stock, 2019). What do you do with a stowaway mouse from a camping trip? First, you have to catch him . . . "Not your average mouse book, this one has Beethoven and John Milton in on the fun." ". . . A romp from beginning to end." Children's Middle Grade fiction. Written and illustrated by Janice E. Kirk. 55 pp.

The Road to Beaver Park, Painting, Perception, and Pilgrimage (Resource Publications, Wipf & Stock Pub., Inc.: 2016) Learn to paint—learn to see—change your life. A family's year-long outdoor odyssey of exploration and discovery in the Greater Southwest. "You will see nature with new eyes . . . " Written and illustrated by Janice E. Kirk. 160 pp.

The Christmas Redwood, A Forest Parable (Wipf & Stock, 2016). A Nativity story for all ages. "Hold fast and be faithful, be true and take heart." Gift book. Written and illustrated with b/w line drawings by Janice E. Kirk. 50 pp.

Cherish the Earth: the Environment and Scripture (Wipf & Stock Pub., 2016). Answers the question: Is earth stewardship biblical? Yes. "The best book I have found for beginners in Christian earth stewardship." Written and illustrated by Janice E. Kirk and Donald R. Kirk. 180 pp.

Wild Edible Plants of Western North America (Naturegraph: 1970, 1975), with 300 pen and ink botanical drawings. Second edition features 64 color photos. Throw it in your backpack when you take a hike. "If it's not in Kirk, it's probably not edible." Written by Donald R. Kirk, illustrated by Janice E. Kirk. 326 pp.

ARTICLES

Finding the Artist Within Me, (Winona Daily News, Winona, MN: 1/11/2019). Finding a sense of place in the American West. Written by Janice E. Kirk.

Out Sketching, (East Valley Times, Palo Cedro, CA: 2013-2014). Thirteen articles with illustrations. Sketching trips in the Warner Mtns., CA. Written and illustrated by Janice E. Kirk.

Eat 'Em Wild, (Down River Magazine, 1956-76). Thirty-nine articles, featured column. Written by Donald R. Kirk, illustrated with pen/ink botanical sketches by Janice E. Kirk.

The Way of Shalom, (Light & Life Magazine: May/June 2004). Our “Shalom” camp revealed the harmony of relationships in a God-ordered world. Lead article, front cover and illustrations by Janice E. Kirk. Back cover by Donald R. Kirk.

Book Review: *Creation*, McGrath, Alister. (Prism Magazine, Sept/Oct 2005, ESA). Reviewed by Janice E. Kirk.

The Year of the Angel, (Teachers of Vision, Fall 2008). Childhood memories of a special teacher who opened the world of art and nature. Written and illustrated by Janice E. Kirk.

BLOGS

Check the website for current blogs: <https://www.janiceekirk.com/>

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