

Website. Press Kit. Long biography with books.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ARTIST

**JANICE E. KIRK** is a published author, illustrator, teacher, and musician. Trained as an artist, a singer, and a writer, she writes about nature, the arts, spirituality, and related topics. She holds a B.Mus. from U. of Oregon (Eugene) and a M.Mus. in Vocal Perf/Pedagogy from U. 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 (1974-77). She recently retired as Adjunct Voice Instructor at Simpson U. (Redding, California). Currently she is a member of Faith Lutheran Church, Winona, Minnesota. After many years in California, Jan moved to Winona in the beautiful Mississippi River Valley to be closer to her children and grandchildren.

**Outdoor Experience:** With their two children Jan and Don traveled, camped, sketched, and photographed throughout the American West. In the 1960s they collected information on wild edible plants for Don's book (see below), for which Janice did 300 botanical sketches. Several summers found them on Teaching Staff at Holden Village (ELCA) on Lake Chelan in the Central Washington Cascade Mountains. Don was Village Naturalist; Jan taught watercolor classes.

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 and marveled at stunning landscapes. Through observation they gained a new perspective on the way life systems are put together, a vision of Planet Earth as a dynamic whole. It triggered a spiritual renewal and sparked advocacy for earth stewardship. For Jan, painting and sketching every day changed everything. Grounded in that experience Jan now shares the joy of painting/drawing and the lessons of nature. She writes about the beauty, the peace, and the tranquility found in the spiritual blessings of the outdoors and how that brought her back to Christian faith.

## GOOD READING

*Milton the Mouse* (Resource Publications, Wipf & Stock, 2019), Children's Middle Grade fiction, 55 pages, illustrated by author. 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."

*The Road to Beaver Park, Painting, Perception, and Pilgrimage*, by Janice E. Kirk (Resource Publications, Wipf & Stock Pub., Inc.: 2015) Learn to paint—learn to see—change your life. A family's year-long outdoor odyssey of exploration and discovery in the Greater Southwest.

*The Christmas Redwood, A Forest Parable*, gift book written and illustrated with b/w line drawings by Janice E. Kirk (Wipf & Stock, 2016), 50 pp. A Nativity story for all ages.

*Cherish the Earth: the Environment and Scripture*, by Janice E. Kirk and Donald R. Kirk (Wipf & Stock Pub., 2016), illustrated by Janice, cover photo by Don, 180 pp. Answers the question: Is earth stewardship biblical?

*Wild Edible Plants of Western North America*, by Donald R. Kirk (Naturegraph: 1970), illustrated by *Janice E. Kirk* with 300 pen and ink botanical drawings. Throw it in your backpack when you take a hike. (Thousands of copies sold and still in print.)

