

## FACES OF BODEGA BAY

### Everybody knows Jim.

The proprietor of the Roadhouse Coffee, Jim Irving opens every morning at 5:30 AM, ready to serve coffee along with wisdom, an opinion and a smile. Riding the tide between non-stop holiday weekends and the doldrums of winter, Jim has more than just a coffee shop. He has a place for people to gather and relax, hear a story or two or visit with a friend.

Jim hears all about us, as we breeze through to grab a coffee and share a few snippets of our life. But what do we know about Jim? We know his three adult daughters, Libby (Elizabeth, married to Trevor Irving, nee Latta), Elena and Emma (married to Cole Nelson), their mother, Rebecca Betz Corrado, and Libby and Trevor's beautiful daughter, Elliot, who all live in the Bodega Bay area. Family is important to Jim and he celebrates finally having his family together in one place. It was a long road to get here.

Born in Portland in 1948 of a father who was a career Navy man, Jim's family moved around a lot, having attended 15 schools in 12 years. His happiest school years were his junior and senior years in Fallbrook, San Diego County California, notable because he spent two years in the same school. Shortly after graduating from high school in 1966, Jim was drafted into the US Army. He served in South Korea with the military police after the 'Pueblo Incident', when the Navy spy ship was attacked and captured by the North Korean forces on January 23, 1968.

A church goer and the child of a military man, Jim initially thought going to war was to help protect our country and constitution. But important events served to deeply crack the veneer on his world view. One was the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1968, while Jim was stationed in Korea; Again, when he watched American soldiers mistreat and even murder the locals they called 'gooks'; And again as he watched black and white soldiers bond over distrust of anyone 'foreign,' while the battle for civil rights raged on back home.



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Discharged from the military in 1969 at age 21, with no resources or recognition of the horrors he had encountered, Jim endured a 7-year period of difficulty. Often homeless, when he could find a job he worked in restaurants and picked apples in Washington at harvest time. Finally he landed with a group devoted to the principles of George Gurdjieff, taking up residence from 1973 to 1982 at Oregon House in Yuba County California, where Jim helped the community build a winery by maintaining the mechanical equipment.

Moving to New York, Jim became involved in theater as an actor and producer. He co-founded The Hampton Theater, company which is still going. He is honored during each production with credits in the program. When Rebecca came into Jim's life in 1987 he left the theater, got married and drove across country, going back 'home' for Jim to California. After nearly eight years of marriage, they divorced and co-parented their daughters together.

Landing a job at the Bodega Marine Lab as a Senior Engineer in 1993, Jim and his daughters moved to a house up on Whaleship Road in Bodega Bay. The girls attended the then 53-student Bodega Bay School (which now has half that many students). After 8 years at the Marine Lab, Jim retired.

In July 2003 he purchased the Roadhouse Coffee shop, which was then located in a commercial building at 2001 Highway One, in front of the Bodega Bay RV Park and next to the Bodega Bay Community Center (2255 Highway One). In 2010, the shop relocated to its current location at the Blue Whale Building (1580 Eastshore Road in Bodega Bay).

Jim is grateful for the support of a small town in raising his three young daughters. When the girls moved to North Carolina to live with Rebecca, he kept the home fires burning and the coffee shop going in Bodega Bay. One by one, over the years, they all came back to Bodega Bay, as did Rebecca, and Jim couldn't be happier.

An ardent supporter of Bodega Bay, Jim has been involved in Bodega Bay in many ways over the years; parent volunteer at the Bodega Bay School, running the beer booth at the Fisherman's Festival while he worked at the Marine Lab, sitting on the Board of the Bodega Bay Community Center, speaking out against the expansion of the quarry in Cheney Gulch, operating the spot light at the annual Cabaret shows at the Grange and donating coffee to many public events.

At age 69, the family close by, a favored person in the community, Jim is seeking a new adventure, walking the Camino de Santiago in Spain. He left on September 12, 2017 and planned to be gone for two months, so he could fully explore and feel the essence of the trip.

A regular appearance in our quarterly newsletter, *The Faces of Bodega Bay* is a photojournalistic record of the people of our town: school kids, surfers, shop owners, fishermen, restaurant workers; the whole gamut of people who live and work in Bodega Bay and make it the wonderful community that it is. These "environmental portraits" portray the subjects in their natural environment, capturing their character and telling their story through their surroundings.

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