

## THE FACES OF BODEGA BAY

### Lira Marie Filippini

Bodega Bay smiled large on the day that Lira chose to reside here. Originally from the Sierra Foothills, that day was in 2011 when Lira discovered the rugged Sonoma Coast “teeming with life” and fresh air. Envisioning a “hermit-like existence” Lira was amazed to discover so many like-minded people.

Brimming with positive energy and a vividly creative mind, Lira quickly became an important component of the local community. She jumped into action with an upbeat, open-minded approach.

She was instrumental in the worthy response to the October 2017 Wildfires. As President of the Bodega Bay Area Chamber of Commerce she founded the beautiful new Sonoma Coast Visitor Center. As co-founder of Waves of Compassion (a Bodega Bay nonprofit), she feeds hungry fishermen and families at our local Food Pantry.

Her sparkling brown eyes and giant smile bring sunshine even on the foggiest day. Her volunteer work on behalf of the community is a priority for Lira, who feels deeply for all living things.

In addition to all this, she co-owns, with her brother, a dietary supplement company, Nutri-Thrive LLC, that specializes in laboratory-tested natural extracts and compounds.

Lira is fundamentally a creative soul, who draws on her innate connection with nature to fuel her prodigious art projects, including large-scale murals, metal sculpture, jewelry design and production, interior decoration and painting ... to list a few.

In 2008 she received a substantial grant from Burning Man to build Lepidodgera, a giant steel-framed butterfly with a 55-foot wingspan, supported on the bed of a Dodge truck.

Two years earlier (2006) she graduated with Honors from UC Santa Cruz with a BA in Sociology. Her studies included coursework in philosophy and epistemology (the study of knowledge and justified belief) which strongly captured her interest.



Lepidodgera

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While Lira comes across as outgoing, she considers herself a home body who enjoys the peaceful beauty of the Sonoma Coast. Walking out of her house through the dunes to the beach brings her spiritual renewal.

She is very close to her parents and hopes someday to be a mother herself, with several children. One imagines she'll be the perfect parent as the first thing on her dream/wish list is a tree house! This makes sense knowing how passionately connected she is with nature in general and plants in particular. A visit to her home reveals potted indoor plants that are so enormous and thriving that they remind one of a previous epoch where giant plants dominated the landscape and all things on earth were real. ●

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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