



James Wanser

November 19, 1950 - October 15, 2019

James (Jim) Joseph Wanser, 68, of Port Jefferson Station, New York, succumbed to illness on October 15, 2019 surrounded by his family.

Jim is survived by his daughter Jessica, his son in law Fernando, his grandsons Gabriel and Logan, his sisters Pat and Peg, his many nieces and nephews, his great nieces and nephews, his loving extended family, and his many treasured loved ones and friends.

Jim was a life long singer and performer, and was known in some circles as "Black Lung Wanser", and was in a variety of bands in his lifetime, such as Halogen, Terry and the Pirates, Richard Rabatin's Whiskey Rebellion, and Rewind. Jim also performed in many productions of Woodstockmania at his local theater, Theater Three.

Aside from his passion of singing and music, Jim was an avid sports fan and was often engaged in watching the Mets, Jets, and Knicks, whenever he could. Jim also had a huge love of reading, had a large library of books, and enjoyed doing the daily crossword.

Jim was easily the most proud of being a "Pop-Pop" and loved his grandsons tremendously.

Jim joins his wife and love of his life, Denise, who were together for 43 years before she passed away in 2013. Jim will be incredibly missed by his family and loved ones.

Events

OCT **Visitation** 04:00PM - 06:00PM

18

Robertaccio Funeral Home, Inc.
85 Medford Avenue, Patchogue, NY, US, 11772

OCT **Closing Prayers** 06:00PM

18

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Comments



“ I am deeply saddened to hear about Jimmy's passing. We had played together in several bands over the years starting from the mid 60's to just a few years ago. A real friend...full of life, laughter and compassion for others. I will always remember the fun times we had. Jimmy had such a passion and talent for music...with such an exceptionally powerful voice. Now he's doing his biggest gig...in Heaven. My deepest sympathy to all his family

Sincerely,
John Galasso



John Galasso - November 01 at 07:58 AM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of James Wanser.



November 01 at 07:54 AM



“ It was my wonderful good fortune to be Jim's best friend in California, from when he moved out here in 1974 and continuing after he and Denise and Jessica moved back to NY. Jim was a great vocalist, and he also had one of the most out-there senses of humor in the history of "out-there" (incl. several 100% memorized albums of Fireside Theater, where he could impersonate ALL of the characters, flawlessly). Jim and I were roommates for a couple years in a fine house in one of San Jose's best neighborhood with our dear friend Rev. Michael Cooper, the hippy/yogi/informally ordained minister (ie, graduate degree in theology from UC Berkeley, no less!) who lit up the lives of everyone he came across, and whom Jessica fondly remembers from when she was little. How the 3 of us ever qualified to get approved to rent that place remains a great mystery, (and/or a Minor Miracle proving that God does have a sense of humor!) When Denise came out to CA to reunite with Jim, it was that household that she joined, and which holds some of my fondest/oddest memories of the implausibly prolonged "youth" that Jim & I shared.

My favorite recent memories of Jim all centered around music: (a) attending his gigs over the years, esp Woodstockmania, (b) hosting him at my place in La Honda (yes, that La Honda, of Ken Kesey & Merry Prankster fame) for two of our annual music festivals, (c) treating him to a 5-day jaunt to New Orleans a couple years ago for the French Quarter Music Festival, and (d) spending a long weekend in Tarrytown, Conn to see a gig by the legendary Richard Thompson.

My brother Don was roommates with Jim for a couple years in the late 70s, and Jim and I used to marvel over the fact that I never did have to bail either one of them out of jail. Which can only be (a) further proof of God having a laugh at our expense/relief, or (b) a dire indication of lack of initiative by the Sunnyvale CA Dept of Public Safety. At this late, date . . . I'm good either way.

So now Jim is now reunited with Denise, harmonizing with those angels who can carry a tune, and catching up on Old Times/Inadequate Alibis with Rev. Mike. Don and I send our deepest sympathies to Jessica and Fernando and all of Jim's family. It was a joy to know you, Grandpa Wanso, and an honor to be your friend!

Sincerely,
Paul Klunder

Paul Klunder - October 18 at 05:21 PM



“ It was my wonderful good fortune to know Jim since 1974, and to be his best friend in California and thereafter, when he, Denise, and Jessica moved back to NY. He and I shared a great love for music and I always loved attending his gigs! Jim was a great vocalist, and he had one of the most out-there senses of humor (incl. a 100% memorized repertory of countless Fireside Theater albums (as in, the entire albums, with spot on impersonations of every character's voice!)

My fondest recent memories with Jim were: (a) coming out to see him in Woodstockmania several times, (b) hosting him twice at my place in La Honda (yes, that La Honda, of Ken Kesey/Merry Pranksters fame!) for a couple long weekends to take in our local annual music festival, (c) treating him to a 5-day jaunt to New Orleans two years ago for the French Quarter Music Fest, and (d) spending a long weekend with him to take in a Richard Thompson concert in a wonderful, restored hall in Tarrytown, Conn.

Jim and I were roommates for a couple years in the 80's in an impossibly nice home in one of San Jose's better neighborhoods, with our dear friend Rev. Michael Cooper, the (informally ordained) hippie/yogi/gymnast who lit up the lives of everyone around him, including Jessica when she was a little girl. How the 3 of us got accepted as tenants for that place remains a great mystery (or as Rev. Michael would say, a miracle proving God does have a sense of humor!) When Denise and Jim re-connected and Denise moved in with him in California, it was that home that she moved into. My brother Don was Jim's roommate for a couple years in the 70s. As

luck would have it, I never did to bail either one of them out of jail -- proof of either (a) another divinely humorous miracle, or (b) a dire lack of diligence by the Sunnyvale CA Police Dept.

My brother and I send our deepest condolences to Jessica and her family. He is now in Heaven, rejoined with Denise, catching up on Old Times with Rev. Mike, and generally causing good-natured havoc with those angels who can keep up with his sense of humor and/or chip in with some well-tuned High Harmonies. It was my honor to know you, Uncle Wanso (later, Grandpa Wanso) and to be your dear friend for all these years.

Sincerely,
Paul Klunder

Paul Klunder - October 18 at 04:13 PM



“ I had the pleasure of sitting next to Jim when he worked at Ctech collections...I was part of the group that went to see his band play in The Country Corner....had some really great times. Rest in Peace my friend....

Elenore Maggio

Elenore Maggio - October 18 at 03:54 PM



“ Wally, Ferd, and Dom—The Halogens. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Wanser.



Wally, Ferd, and Dom—The Halogens. - October 18 at 02:14 PM



“ 81 files added to the album LifeTributes



Robertaccio Funeral Home, Inc. - October 18 at 12:25 PM



“ I worked with him not for very long but he was always a sweet wonderful man to be around and when he would come up to visit us he was always so proud to show pictures of his grandchildren and make sure he said hello to everyone. He was the nicest man and I am so happy that I had the pleasure of knowing him.

Barbara - October 18 at 10:16 AM



“ Love, the Staff at Ctech Collections purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of James Wanser.



Love, the Staff at Ctech Collections - October 17 at 05:59 PM



“ Jim was an all around good guy and it was always great fun when we hung out. Some of our fondest memories are the road trip to Niagara Falls with Jim and Denise as well as the weekends and holidays spent together in Vermont. We love you Jim. You will be sorely missed. Rest well in Heaven with Denise and keep on rockin' ! Our deepest sympathy to Jessie, Fernando, Gabe and Logan as well as all who loved him.

Laura and Charlie



Laura and Charlie Galasso - October 17 at 05:41 PM



“ I am very saddened to hear of Jim's passing. I had the pleasure of working with Jim for many years at Ctech Collections. He always made me laugh with his dry humor. My favorite was playing name that tune or name that singer when songs came on the radio - he always won! He also taught all us girls how to properly shoot a rubber band - he said it was a very important life skill :) May he rest in peace

-Laura Muhlhausen

Laura Muhlhausen - October 17 at 05:17 PM



“ We would get to see Uncle Jim at family gatherings around the holidays or birthdays and it was always a pleasure to sit and talk with him. Uncle Jim was quick with a zinging one liner that brought laughter around the table. He was good company, a cool guy, someone who would make you feel at ease while shooting the breeze. Jim could name a song even if you hummed it out of tune. He told me that his favorite musician was Jack Bruce. So here's to you Jim. I'm playing Cream tonight. We love you. Our deepest sympathies to Jessica and all of Jim's relatives and friends.

Sincerely,

The Howard/Galasso Family



James - October 16 at 10:49 PM



“ I love you Dad. Rest peacefully with Mommy, eat all the cake and milk you can, and enjoy performing to those packed out shows up in heaven. Until we meet again

Jessica Gomes - October 16 at 01:17 PM