



## James J. Salafia Jr.

September 18, 1950 - January 5, 2023

James J. Salafia Jr., of St Augustine, Florida and Warren, Maine, passed away on January 5, 2023 after a brief illness, his loving wife Anne at his side. He was a great husband, brother, and uncle, and a valued friend to many from Maine to St. Croix.

Jim led a life of hard work, adventure and lots of fun, usually in close proximity to the sea. He was a carpenter, boatbuilder, musician, editor, restaurateur, jazz aficionado and blue water sailor. He could trim a sail, spin a yarn, caulk a seam, raise a glass and lift your spirits. He was a thrifty Yank who was generous with the things that really matter.

Jim was born on September 18, 1950 in Providence, Rhode Island to parents James and Rita Salafia. After graduating from Holy Cross College in 1972, he led a knockabout life in Maine for several years with a pal and two guitars, and worked for a time back in the family business – Clarke Flower Shop. Maine suited Jim and he would return all his life, eventually owning homes on the mid-coast so he could enjoy the beauty and friends he had made there.

In 1978, by then a captain, he shipped out as Mate on the 144-foot schooner Regina Maris, bound for the West Indies.

Later, Jim and his then-wife Sharmain renovated a derelict historic building in

Frederiksted, St. Croix – with help from Jim’s brothers – and opened a restaurant and jazz club. Renowned for hosting top jazz talent, the Blue Moon provided splendid entertainment for locals and visitors alike.

Jim crewed on endless blue water boat deliveries to the States and back, from as far down island as St. Lucia to as far north as downeast Maine. He loved working the international regattas at the St. Croix Yacht Club, and he indulged his love of music with trips to the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.

Taking French class in 1998, Jim met the love of his life Anne Baldrige, a freelance writer and owner of the retail shoe store “Kicks” in Christiansted. They married in 2001 in St. Francisville, Louisiana near Anne’s childhood home of Baton Rouge. Their life together was filled with warm winters on St. Croix and cool summers in Warren, Maine. They began their days early, reading their respective books over cups of black coffee.

No matter their whereabouts, Jim and Anne hosted a steady stream of friends and family, amid laughter and fine feasts, when they weren’t off on their own adventures. They traveled to Europe whenever possible and dreamed of a home in France.

They relocated their “southern operation” to St. Augustine in 2019 where an array of Crucian transplants welcomed them, and the fun continued. Jim used his builder’s skill to transform each house into a beautiful home, and his hand-crafted furniture added elegance and warmth. There was inevitably a wooden boat being revived and refitted somewhere on the property. Life was just grand.

Jim is survived by his wife Anne, his brothers Michael and Robert, nephews and nieces: Michael Salafia, Jr., James Vincent Salafia, Taylor Baldrige, Skylar Baldrige, Mallory Baldrige, Colin Baldrige, Samatha Baldrige,

Noah Baldrige, Kristina Baldrige, Sebastian Lawson, Maya Salafia, Amelia Baldrige, and in-laws Karen Salvatore, Pamela Salafia, Wilson and Betty Baldrige, and Robert and Nancy Baldrige, and will be missed by more friends than you can count on St. Croix and in Maine and Florida.

Cheers, mate! Goodbye dear friend, thanks for sharing your life with us. We will think of you always, and we will get you to the salt water.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, in St. Augustine at St. Johns Family Funeral Home. Celebrations of Jim's life will follow in Maine and on St. Croix in the future. The service will be live streamed at <https://iframe.dacast.com/live/2a7a09ae1c0559a83ef537e05e6a14a6/2aae7d5f-98fd-a9e6-32a7-b774547cf42c>.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

FEB 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Johns Family Funeral Home

385 SR 207

St. Augustine, FL 32084

(904) 824-1625

<https://www.stjohnsfamilyfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall

SP

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Sadja & Jon Pals - February 04, 2023 at 01:19 PM

KT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kathryn Turansky - February 04, 2023 at 11:57 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James J. Salafia Jr..



February 03, 2023 at 11:29 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of James J. Salafia Jr..* ”



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February 03, 2023 at 08:06 AM



“ *68 files added to the album Life Tributes* ”



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**St. Johns Family Funeral Home** - February 01, 2023 at 12:46 PM