

A Bittersweet Love Story

JIM McGUIRL

They were a match made in heaven. Soul mates James (Jim) and Aleisa McGuirl married July 19th, 1984 and life couldn't be better. Jim worked days as a hair stylist, and nights and weekends he played drums with many great musicians over the years.

He was named the Coconut Telegraph's Entertainer of the Month with the JK Project in December 2008, Entertainer of the Year in December 2009, and Entertainer of the Month again, solo, in February 2013.

Jim taught percussion to 10 to 16 year olds at the Montessori School while also working at the 305 Salon in Tavernier.

Aleisa McGuirl has been well respected for her management skills and friendly customer service over the years, most recently at Coral Medical. Together she and Jim were blessed with two wonderful children, James (Jimmy) Jr. and Michelle.

Just a few weeks ago Jim wasn't feeling well and went to see his doctor. After a barrage of tests, the diagnosis was grim. He had cholangiocarcinoma, which is a rare cancer of the bile ducts. It occurs in approximately 2 out of 100,000 people, and it had metastasized and was inoperable. He was terminal.



Aleisa and Jim McGuirl on July 22 at their kids' double wedding.



Jimmy (James Jr.) McGuirl, his bride Elizabeth Collier, Pastor Ralph Pratt, Michelle's new husband Michael Najalis, and Michelle McGuirl.

They sent him home to the family's tiny apartment above a Key Largo plaza with the prognosis that he would live but only 2 more months, with help from hospice, if he was lucky.

The McGuirl's are a very close, loving, and religious family and this hit them hard. They were completely devastated and didn't know where to turn. As Jim's health deteriorated more rapidly than was expected and his voice became but a whisper, he told Aleisa that he had always looked forward to the day that he could give his beautiful daughter Michelle away at her wedding and was sad that now he would not live to see that day.

When the kids heard that, they decided now was as good a time as any to get married as they were both in committed relationships. They told their mom and she helped organize a double wedding.

On July 19th, just a few close friends and family gathered in the McGuirl's tiny apartment. They wheeled a groggy but groomed and happy Jim into the decorated living room,

where Pastor Ralph Pratt performed the double wedding. Jimmy lovingly held his father's hand through the ceremony as he took Elizabeth Collier to be his wife. His sister Michelle wed a tearful Michael Najalis as their baby boy Carter looked on.

The young newlyweds left for another ceremony and reception with a few of their friends at a local park.

Jim had fulfilled his dream, and the hospice nurse said he probably would not live another day. It had been only one month from Jim's diagnosis!

Three days after the wedding on July 22nd, Jim passed away, surrounded by his loving family... and heaven gained one hell of a drummer.

As of this writing, a benefit to help with the medical expenses from Jim's illness was scheduled for Sunday, August 2nd at the Caribbean Club in Key Largo. This publication comes out the day after, so if you missed it there is a fund set up.

Anyone who would like to contribute may still do so at www.gofundme.com/yd4v9e4c



The family...early days.



Steve Najalis holds grandson Carter.



Donald Roeser, also known as Buck Dharma, has written some of the greatest rock lyrics of all time. Everyone knows "I'm burning, I'm burning, I'm burning for you." How about "Baby take my hand... don't fear the reaper. We'll be able to fly... don't fear the reaper. Baby I'm your man..."? Yep, that's another Buck Dharma song, sensationalized by the Saturday Night Live skit featuring Will Farrell as the excitable cow bell performer.



Buck Dharma of Blue Öyster Cult August 16th at Gilbert's

by Rob LeBrun

In the annals of classic rock, once you get past the obvious heavyweights (Led Zeppelin, the Stones, The Who), none had a greater run of albums than Blue Öyster Cult. Here was a band that churned out great rock tunes, workmanlike, for over fifteen years. For perspective, note that

Led Zeppelin could only pull eleven (due to a common affliction: drummer death).

And those first four BÖC albums are back-to-back awesome. On average, a Blue Öyster Cult album will have at least six legitimately great songs.

Don't miss your chance to see a living guitar legend in person, singing some of his greatest hits, and quite frankly, some of the greatest rock hits of all time.

Buck Dharma will be performing at Gilbert's

Resort on August 16th with The Regs. The party starts at 1pm, and there is no cover charge for Gilbert's patrons.



REST IN PEACE

Gustavo of Miami's 3RG Band, who passed away on July 24th, from a heart attack, while onstage at Hog Heaven.

305-451-1133
107900 Overseas Hwy
www.gilbertsresort.com

SPECIAL EVENT!

Sunday August 16th, 1-6pm

THE REGS
A KILLER HARD MODERN ROCK MUSIC BAND

with special guests

BUCK DHARMA
Lead singer and mind-blowing guitarist of **BLUE OYSTER CULT**

and

CARMINE APPICE
Legendary drummer of **VANILLA FUDGE**

Hear "Don't Fear The Reaper" LIVE!

Check this out - in August

NEW Country Night!
Friday, August 7th
Featuring **33 YEARS**
7-11 pm

33 YEARS

Country Night: every **FIRST** Friday of the month, featuring great local and nationally touring Country Bands

Shane Duncan Band
Sunday August 23rd, 1-6pm

Staff Favorite!

"Get Your Drink Up"