

IN MEMORIAM

We honor the lives of our alumni who passed away too soon.



JON LANDAU '78



STEPHEN CORD '79



MICHAEL FRUMOVITZ '87



BRIAN RUSSELL '93



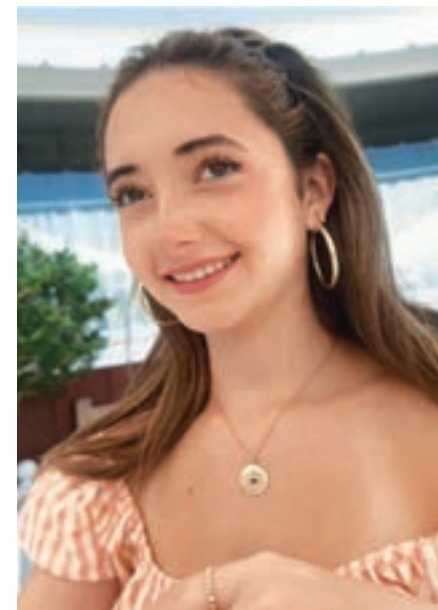
SCOTT KENYON '02



LOUIE NADEAU '16



At the first home football game, the cheer team wore sweatshirts emblazoned with Sami Liber's artwork, marking her place with flowers while Coach Hasani Sinclair delivered a tribute.



REMEMBERING SAMI LIBER '26

May 27, 2008 – August 8, 2024

By Rod Liber

The first thing you might want to know about Sami is she had plans, lots of plans. In the coming school year, she was excited about editing the school yearbook and had already started a cool new design. She was also excited about varsity cheer and brushed off the scrapes and bruises from summer practice. She had her eye on Tulane University, where she hoped to advance her skills in art and graphics and join a sorority. After college, she thought about a job in design and about getting married, having two or three kids — the names were already picked out — and they would all live in a modern farmhouse, with chickens! The only thing slightly out of place in that picture would have been the Ferrari F8 Spider in the garage.

Samantha Rose Liber was born on May 27, 22 months after her sister Ava.

Something everyone noticed about Sami during her early years was her infectious laugh and smile. She thought everything was funny. Sami loved to play with Ava and they soon became a team, dancing to the latest pop hits, watching kids' shows, or setting up lemonade stands in the driveway. They walked together down Bowling Green Way to attend Brentwood Lower School.

Sami thrived at Brentwood, especially enjoying all the extras like Pancake Day, the amazing Ms. Nevin's curated performances, Halloween, and of course, El Capitán. "I can still picture her on stage, playing a bird as a kindergartner in *Baby Elephant* — sweet, gentle, and so little," said Ms. Nevin. "In what seemed like a flash, she was playing the muse Erato in *Achilles Heel*, more grown up, graceful and confident but still carrying that same sweetness and gentleness."

Sami's artistic side presented early, and she could often be found working with watercolors and pastels. "Sami was already a talented and confident artist on day one, but still wanted to improve her skills by asking questions and talking about visual details," said art teacher Shane Sahadi. "She had an artist's eye and was inspiring to the class." She inspired beyond art as well. Lower School teacher Tiffanie Gilder recalled that Sami spearheaded a kindness campaign in 4th grade that inspired others to commit random acts of kindness. "Sami had a beaming smile and a gentle disposition that brightened my classroom every single day," she said. Middle School teacher Betsy Katz Sandler remembered fondly when Sami would visit after school. "She liked to catch up on the day and share her experiences," she said. "She inspired her classmates and teachers to make each day meaningful and special." Math teacher Keith Sarkisian noted her "infectious spirit" in 9th grade geometry. "While my heart aches, I still smile when I think of her in that class," he said.

Sami had her passions, and music was her jam. Even on the shortest car rides, she always had a playlist ready. Lana Del Rey topped her charts and it was a fun coincidence that she ran into her — and got the requisite selfie — at Belwood Bakery. Love for travel was another defining aspect of Sami's life. She made each family trip more memorable by poring over the internet to find picturesque destinations and the best local dining. Two summers ago, she topped off a trip to Italy with a jump into Lake Como. In 2023, she saw Paris and Cannes and danced on the tables at La Guérite.

Sami's last summer was filled with new friendships and new beginnings. She created oil and charcoal art with her Brentwood summer class and was practicing on Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator so she could make the yearbook the best it had ever been. Before school started, she pleaded for a short vacation and chose Jackson Hole as the perfect destination to have some outdoor adventures and maybe scout out the farmhouse she would one day live in.

Although Sami's promising life was cut too short, she will forever be in the hearts and minds of her family and the Brentwood community, who knew her for nearly all of her 16 years.

To learn more about Sami, please visit www.samiliber.com.



Sami Liber '26 with her family on summer vacation at the Louvre Museum in Paris