

## obituary



### **Tessa Joy Davis**

**January 25, 1997 – January 7, 2015**

**Libby McCord and Else Sinsigalli**

Tessa Joy Davis, a senior at Los Gatos High School, passed away on January 7. Tessa was the epitome of what we proudly call “a mountain kid.” She appreciated the beauty she was surrounded by, and found joy in all things organic. She was always ready to learn and try new things: sewing, Japanese, guitar. Although Tessa’s life was short, she covered more ground than most people do in ninety years. An avid thespian, Tessa played many starring roles in Theatre in the Mountains shows. She also enjoyed being in shows at Children’s Musical Theatre of San Jose and Bus Barn Stage Company of Los Altos. Tessa was a valued team member on the LGHS Wildcats water-polo team and received the inspiration award this year

(recently renamed the Joy award in her honor). She had many musical talents. She played guitar, piano, and had a beautiful singing voice.

Perhaps what best defined Tessa was her unbridled love and acceptance. She had friends in every corner of her life, from sports to theater, and Building Blocks to classrooms. Even age did not define her connections, as she befriended adults and children alike. Those of us lucky enough to spend time with Tessa were inspired by her positive and joyful spirit while being entertained by her silly sense of humor.

Tessa had the best qualities of her parents, Mike and Letitia. She had confidence and humility. She thrived on adventure yet also followed the rules. She was the life of a gathering and a source of stability. Tessa was perfectly Tessa.

To say Tessa fought cancer would be to say that Tessa spent her life fighting a battle. Rather, Tessa lived despite cancer. Every day was looking forward to what was to come. She saw her life as what would be, whether considering what college she would attend



**Tessa starred in many Theatre in the Mountains shows. She lit up the stage as Lumiere in the 2011 production of Beauty and the Beast.**



**Tessa’s family provided unwavering support as she moved forward through cancer.**

or the cookbook she would write. Because of the dedication of her mother, father, and family, Tessa moved forward through cancer, accepted the challenges with her beautiful grace, and continued to see life and its small wonders.

Before her diagnosis, her favorite book was the moving story *A Fault In Our Stars*, a tale of a teen falling in love and battling cancer. This past June, thanks to the Make-a-Wish Foundation, she was flown to New York City to see the film premiere. While there, she and her friends Maddie and Montana had the opportunity to meet the author, John Greene.

Tessa is survived by her parents Mike and Letitia, her older siblings, Kelly and Evan, and her paternal grandfather Jim Davis, as well as a mountain of people who love her and consider her their own.

“You gave me a forever within the numbered days, and I am grateful.” We are grateful to have been touched by your joy and light, Tessa.