

Sarah Elizabeth Williams Hansel

October 13, 1989 -
October 16, 2020

Sarah passed away at the age of 31 on October 16, 2020, surrounded by the comfort and love of her husband, sister, and parents.

She loved art, nature, literature, animals, and all of her many friends and family members who had the opportunity to share their lives with her. Sarah was born and raised in Sacramento and attended C.K. McClatchy High School, where she grew close with many of her dearest lifelong friends. She later graduated from UC Davis with a bachelor's degree in English and Women's Studies. She went on to work as a graphic designer & art director at the Sacramento News & Review, and spent her free time gardening, illustrating, and volunteering with the Sacramento SPCA.

Sarah is survived by her husband and partner of 10 years, John Blake, her twin sister, Kristin Hansel, her parents, Kate Williams & Peter Hansel, her step-parents, Tom Gohring & Debbie Vorous, her step-siblings, Tristan Gohring, Ashley Gohring, Caroline Gohring, Alanna Vorous, & Jeanette Vorous, her two beloved dogs, Vontae & Jenny, as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Sarah will forever be remembered for her loving, gentle, and compassionate spirit, and the warmth she shared with everyone she encountered.

A celebration of Sarah's life will be held at a private ceremony in early November.

To help honor Sarah's memory, please consider making a donation to the Sacramento SPCA or Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

Sarah Hansel was an award-winning designer and art director at Sacramento and Reno News & Review for five years.



Sarah's sense of humor, creativity and loving personality will live on in our memories. She will be greatly missed.

- Jeff vonKaenel & Deborah Redmond

Sarah, we will remember your beautiful smile and shining spirit always, RIP sweet girl.

- Rosemarie Messina

Big talent sometimes comes in unexpected packages. Sarah was quiet, but her designs were bold. She made ideas come to life—whether it was turning a politician into a certain wooden boy liar or creating a comic book to explain the rights of undocumented residents. Sarah was an amazing creative collaborator and problem solver. She would always at least try my crazy ideas—which led to the creation of Movie Star Horse. Sarah also did my beautiful 5-year SN&R plaque—a gift I will cherish forever. I was so proud of her for graduating from the Pubs department to doing SN&R covers, which is where she belonged. She left us all too soon, but she left us with memorable art and an even more memorable personality, one that was

funny, thoughtful and deep. I'll always remember her smile and her cool blue eyes. Also the time she mumbled her way through a live band karaoke version of "California Love" during an SN&R holiday party—I don't think she really wanted to be up there, but she did it, with a smile.

- Michelle Carl

Sarah was kind, funny and genuine. She had a gentle presence and met others' stress with calm reassurance. Sarah was shy on the surface, but regularly showed her empathy and her wit. Her warmth made her easy to open up to. And I still laugh thinking about the time she joined her husband John and I onstage to sing "California Love" at a company holiday party. Sarah was a joy to work with and to know. She is treasured.

- Kate Gonzales

Sarah was our unassuming rock star. Cool under pressure and effortlessly versatile, she made hard work look like magic and magic look easy. The last time I got to work with her was in January on The Comics Issue. I had the idea,

but Sarah made it happen. She got us the green light, created a submissions campaign, corralled all the entries, assembled a judging panel and designed an irreverent and affectionate spread.

I always looked forward to pitching her story ideas because it meant watching her dream. She had these big blue eyes that gave away her intelligence, her wit, her compassion for the misfits and marginalized subjects at the center of our stories. Sarah never forgot that these were real human beings or that they were deserving of our awe and interest.

Her soul made her an artist. It made the rest of us damn lucky to know her.

- Raheem Hosseini

Sarah's exceedingly creative talents were a joy to behold. I was amazed at her ability to take our left-field ideas and turn them into beautifully designed pages that not only made sense but could draw you in and give you a better understanding of the timely topics at hand. Whether it was immigration rights, the environment, music or education, her ability to translate abstract concepts into thoughtful art helped us all understand the important things going on in our communities and in doing so helped make our corner of the world a better place.

- Anne Stokes

A warm smile
A gentle laugh
A welcoming nod

That's how you would greet me everyday walking into work. And that is how I will always remember you.

Gentle, empathetic, smart, witty, you will forever be an inspiration to me. You taught me to enjoy all the little things in life, the simple pleasures, and for that I will always be thankful.

You fought so bravely and always remained positive. Let us remember you this way and inspire us in our own journeys.

Sarah, may you be in peace, surrounded by your husband, your family, your friends and your dogs, in your resting place. You will always have a special place in my heart.

- Elisabeth Bayard-Arthur

Sarah, I miss you. Wherever you are, thank you. Your beauty, kindness, concern, talent, and care was felt every day. A fighter, a badass, an artist. Goodbye for now my friend.

- Serene Lusano

SN&R Staff Remembrances

COVER DESIGNS BY SARAH HANSEL

