



## **Stephen Tokar**

### **FHS 1985**

An introduction to the floral business was established in our small town of Fairport Harbor under the watchful and patient eye of Angelo Costello. A passion for flowers and design was created. Assisting and nurturing my interest, I established a small business creating hand cut silk flowers. My first order came from Fairport Harding High School teacher and advisor, Toby Dunlap, when he ordered long stemmed silk roses for the ladies of the graduating class of 1980. It was at that time that my company of Silk Sensations was established. At that time - I shared space with my father who operated Tokar's Tropical Fish. My parents Margaret and Stephen Tokar, lifelong residents of Fairport Harbor, were my biggest supporters and advanced my interest every step of the way.

After studying architecture at The University of Cincinnati, and establishing a well-versed interest in campus involvement, world politics, like witnessing first-hand the fall of The Berlin Wall became an interest. Mentors like Sandy Rose, Cheryl Hill, Judy Lintala and my own Hungarian background introduced to me a life of travel and the interest of pursuing other cultures outside of life in Fairport Harbor. Having lived in Budapest, Hungary for those 2 years captivated my heart and stole my soul always knowing that one day I would return.

Tokar Event Design was established on July 14th, 1994 and closed exactly 25 years to that date. These 25 years gave me the opportunity to excel within a life and community beyond my imagination. Having had the opportunity to work with within political powers and presidents, sports figures and movie stars and financiers and fashionistas, my capabilities and contributions were received with great acclaim. Simple beginnings, a humble heart, and a touch from the hand of God gave me the opportunity for a rich and very grateful opportunity to serve others.