

Bela S. Szabo, 100, passed away peacefully on May 11, 2026, at Brookdale Assisted Living in Wilton, CT.

Bela came to the United States in 1957 from Hungary, after the uprising had just occurred. Thanks to a distant relative who guaranteed his welfare, Bela was admitted into the United States, after spending eight months in a Yugoslavian resettlement camp. Armed with two English words: “yes” and “no”, Bela made his way to Stamford, CT.

In 1960, he married Irene Fojdics, moved to Norwalk, raised a family and became an active member in St. Ladislaus parish, Knights of Columbus and in Connecticut's growing Hungarian community.

Bela worked for 29 years at Graphic Color Plate, a firm in Stamford specializing in advertising graphics for many popular magazines. After his retirement, Bela became an instructor for the Home Study Course of the Famous Artists School of Westport, CT.

Bela's involvement in the arts began with his studies at the University College in Hungary. While in Hungary, he taught art at the high school level. Though Bela's career took another direction when coming to the United States, he never lost his passion for painting. Through the years, Bela painted in various mediums but after retirement he focused exclusively on watercolor.

Bela's works are known for their realism and attention to details. He enjoyed working in watercolor for it allowed him to create depth in his pictures. Bela has shared his talents as a teacher for more than 50 years. He was the artist in residence for Lifetime Learners Institute at Norwalk Community College, where he taught watercolor classes for 25 years. His works have been exhibited in numerous shows and have won many awards. He was a member of both the Rowayton and Darien Art Centers.

Bela will be lovingly remembered by his 2 daughters: Susanne Szabo of Sheffield, UK and Cynthia Szabo Yousef and her husband Jihad Yousef of Norwalk, CT.

A memorial service celebrating Bela's life will be held at 10:00 am on Monday, June 1st at St Matthews Church, 216 Scribner Ave, Norwalk, CT.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Norwalk Art Space
www.thenorwalkartspace.org