

Gene graduated from *Ellenville High School* in June 1930 and continued his higher education at Cornell University and Wharton School of Business. Upon completing his education, Gene married his childhood sweetheart, Pearl Cohen, on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 1937, and joined his father in business at *M. Glusker and Sons*. Gene and Pearl had two children, Joan and Stephen, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Inspired by his mother and father, Gene become involved with community activities. He enrolled in the Democratic Party and become active in local politics. He was elected to, and served, three terms as a Village Trustee. In 1955, Gene was successful in a mayoral bid and became the first Jewish mayor elected in Ellenville. His farsightedness is highlighted by his appointment of the first woman Trustee in Ellenville to fill his remaining term.

As he led the community into the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Gene was determined to be the best mayor Ellenville ever had. In fact, many of the programs he started are still continued today: the village manager system, water meters, municipal sewers, zoning laws, a new Village Hall, flood control reconstruction, low cost and senior citizen housing, to name a few.

After serving fourteen years as mayor (1955-1969), Gene continued to be active in community affairs, including serving as the first president of the board of directors of the new Mental Health Clinic. In 1972, the *Ellenville Noonday Club* recognized Gene as *Citizen of the Year* for his many community service activities.

Later in life, reflecting upon his public achievements, Gene wrote: "Once I got involved in politics, even though it was only at the level of mayor, I was involved with the spirit of setting an example of what good and honest government could accomplish for the citizens of our community."

For his vision and achievements during his lifetime, his community, family, and friends honor Gene today, by the dedication in his name of this beautiful new building to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing for his beloved senior citizens. 

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