

Gerald A. Gruen Sr.

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Port Washington resident Gerald A. Gruen Sr., a former mayor and successful real estate broker, a poet and environmentalist who was a recycling pioneer and tireless defender of the Lake Michigan ecosystem, died Friday, Feb. 5, at Columbia St. Mary's Ozaukee Hospital in Mequon.

Mr. Gruen's active lifestyle and keen mind belied his age of 88. He became ill in January and died of undetermined causes, his wife Shirley said.

Mr. Gruen is survived by his wife Shirley of Port Washington; three children, Gerald A. (Jean) Gruen Jr. of Port Washington, Lorelei (Kirk) Hosler of Byron, Ill., and Lorna (Bill) Nagler of Minneapolis; and three grandchildren, Deirdre, Brett and Ty Hosler.

He is further survived by his brother Lyle and sister Evelyn (Harold) Anderson, both of Madison.

Mr. Gruen was preceded in death by his sister Gertrude Blado, brothers-in-law William F. Schanen Jr. and Robert Schanen and sister-in-law Marie Schanen.

Private graveside services were held Wednesday, Feb. 10, at St. Mary's Cemetery in Port Washington. Mr. Gruen's children read William Cullen Bryant's "Thanatopsis," a poem of their father's choosing whose title is translated to mean "Meditation Upon Death."

In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested memorials to Riveredge Nature Center in the Town of Saukville or the Niederkorn Library in Port Washington.

Poole Funeral Home, Port Washington, handled the arrangements.

A complete obituary appears in this week's printed edition of Ozaukee Press.