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# Profiles in Progress: Client Stories

## June Cohen and Susan & Dennis Myrick

June Cohen was born in Roaring Spring, Pa., in the years between the two world wars. Her father died when June was five years old and her mother turned the family home into a boarding house (today called a bed and breakfast) to provide for herself and two young daughters. Life was not easy as all had to work to provide room and board for their guests. But, June recalls it as a time of bucolic existence that typified the times rather than one of hardship.

When World War II erupted after Pearl Harbor, June and many other young women found they were needed to take the jobs of departing service personnel. Pittsburgh claimed many of them for the war-necessary steel industry and June went to work for Jones & Laughlin Steel Company working on government priority shipments for the war effort. She and many other single women with no relatives in Pittsburgh lived at the Evangeline Residence for Young Women sponsored by the Salvation Army at its current Boulevard of the Allies location.

June worked for J&L making what was then a very respectable \$25 per week. As an attractive woman, she quickly learned that she could make \$25 a day modeling for Gulf Oil Company and the major department stores of Kaufmann's, Boggs & Buhl and Frank & Seder. So, it was no surprise one day when walking through the lobby of the Webster Hall Hotel in Oakland that she was spotted by Albert Cohen who immediately declared to a friend that he had just seen his future wife! Albert, or "Ubby" as he was called, was true to his word and they were married in 1948.

June and Ubby made a particularly striking couple as they made their entrance to the Park Schenley, a Pittsburgh landmark for decades, for dinner. June's model good looks were complemented by Ubby's rugged handsomeness and he still carried the same physique as in his former amateur boxing days.

The following years saw the birth of their daughter, Susan, and the founding of Consumers Produce by Ubby and a partner in Pittsburgh's Strip District in the early 1950s. This business became, and still is today, one of the major produce wholesaling businesses in our region.

June and Ubby were referred to The Fragasso Group in 1977 for financial planning and management by their neighbor, another client. The 1980s were especially eventful for the Cohens with the sale of their share of the business to the son of Ubby's deceased



June Cohen and Susan Myrick

co-founding partner and then Ubby's subsequent illness, nursing home stay and, eventually, his death. There were a lot of financial decisions to make and we are pleased that we were there to help June and Ubby. June maintained her deep religious conviction and charitable generosity throughout the lean times and the more comfortable. She attributes her good fortune to Ubby's hard work and to God providing. An interesting anecdote was the call we received from a listener after one of June's appearances where she mentioned our firm on the 700 Club television program. It took awhile to make the caller understand why someone named June Cohen was giving testimony on the 700 Club.

June and Ubby's daughter, Susan, reflects both of their strengths. She is hard working, kind, religious and charitable. Susy, as she prefers to be called, has been a Professor of Business for the Community College of Allegheny County since 1981. She was uniquely prepared by a K-12th grade education from Pittsburgh's Winchester-Thurston School followed by a B.A. degree from Penn State in Art History, a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh in Education and an MBA from Duquesne University. Susy, like June, maintains a deep religious faith and a love of animals resulting in many rescues of abandoned and needy dogs and cats. Susy is married to Dennis Myrick who is the Head Golf Pro at Alcoma Golf Club near Pittsburgh. In an interesting twist, Ubby was a founding member of Westmoreland Country Club where Dennis served as an assistant pro, but the two did not meet at that time. Susy reported that before he died, Ubby knew of Dennis and approved of the marriage as he felt it would help Susy's golf game.

As June has experienced some recent health challenges, Susy and Dennis have been supportive. June continues to maintain her living independence in Pittsburgh with Susy visiting regularly. Because of those challenges, June had to sell her beloved winter condo in Florida, but has the 20 years of great memories of winters spent there after Ubby died. June still has the now-17 year old cat, Blessing, who came to her Florida door as a kitten asking for a meal and shelter. And June still feeds the squirrels that come daily to her patio door asking for a handout. That typifies June and Susy who open their doors, literally and figuratively, to animals and people in need of their help.

We are proud to call June, Susy and Dennis clients and friends.