

THE WAYLAND TOWN CRIER

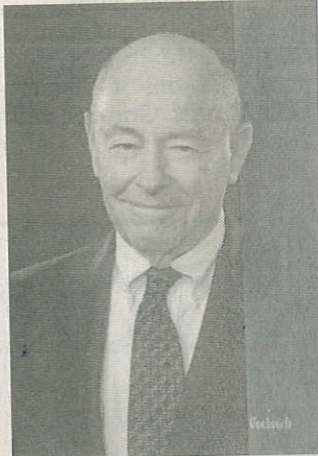
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FIRST PERSON

Peter Gossels

We are a nation of differing opinions, but what if we focused on accepting those differences in the pursuit of finding common ground? We asked C. Peter Gossels of Wayland, an attorney and former town moderator who fled from the Holocaust as a child, to tell us what he sees as our path forward, how to heal divisions and how to become a stronger community and nation.



[COURTESY PHOTO]

"I like to think that the best thing we can do as a nation is to try to talk to each other, whether we agree or disagree with each other. And most of us do that. Some of us are unable to function when we hear a point of view very much opposed to our own and begin to think ill of the person."

Gossels said people learn something from those with whom they disagree and expand their knowledge of

the world.

"I would like to see more conversation, more colloquy, more of a mixing of ideas, more listening to each other ... I know that the world is not black and white. If you understand that and know that things are much more gray than black and white, then you can respect the views of other people."