

*Westport Representative  
Town Meeting*

1949-1999



*Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration*

DECEMBER 7, 1999  
7:00 PM TOWN HALL  
WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

# Resolution

*RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the RTM Special 50th Anniversary Committee a celebration of the Representative Town Meeting's 50th Anniversary is hereby approved.*

## Report

**Whereas** the Westport electorate voted on Feb. 26, 1949, to change its form of government;

**Whereas** the Westport Charter Revision Committee presented an enabling act on March 28, 1949, to establish the RTM;

**Whereas** the Connecticut General Assembly approved the enabling act as House Bill No. 1624, Special Act No. 517 on June 7, 1949;

**Whereas** the citizens of Westport approved the state legislation on July 16, 1949, thereby establishing the RTM;

**Whereas** the first 26 members of the RTM were elected on Nov. 8, 1949, and held their first meeting on Nov. 21, 1949;

**Whereas** 392 RTM members have represented their constituents from 1949 until 1999;

**Now therefore**, the RTM Special 50th Anniversary Committee recommends that all current and former RTM members and guests celebrate the 50th anniversary of the RTM on Dec. 7, 1999.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*The RTM Special 50th Anniversary Committee*

# Representing the Townspeople: The Evolution of the RTM

**S**teeped in the tradition of the New England Town Meeting, the citizens of Westport have fashioned a form of government that truly represents the special character of the town.

Throughout the years, a varied group of farmers, merchants, corporate executives, writers, artists, journalists, engineers, lawyers, teachers, housewives, doctors and retirees have assembled to debate and resolve the issues facing the town. They are the conscience of the town, a sounding board that resonates the pride, passion, and pulsating commitment to building a community for the betterment of all its people, now and for future generations.

## *A Choice of Government*

Looking to its neighbors for examples, the Town of Westport in 1949 thought it time to change its form of government from the Town Meeting to a structure more representative of all its residents—even more manageable. Greenwich and Fairfield were models of towns that had adopted a Representative Town Meeting structure earlier.

Many felt the town had outgrown its present form, the Town Meeting; it had become a voice only of the people who attended the meetings, especially special interest groups who would pack a meeting. An RTM form of government would lessen the influence of special interests and better represent all the people. The sentiment was that the Town Meeting did not represent the interests of the people who did not attend the meeting. The RTM would be the most effective form of self-rule.

On Feb. 26, 1949, residents were asked to vote on two questions: do you think the present form of government should be changed? If they voted yes, the residents were then asked to choose either a town manager and a nine-member council structure or a Representative Town Meeting.

Instead of each resident having a voice at a Town Meeting, an RTM member's vote would represent every 250 electors. The Republican Town Committee supported an RTM; the Democrats took no stand.

In six hours of voting by paper ballot that Saturday afternoon and evening at the Central Firehouse adjoining the YMCA, the townspeople voted "yes" to change the current government structure from a Town Meeting and replace it with an RTM. More voters than expected cast ballots—761 voted in favor of an RTM while 490 chose a council/manager.

Once the town agreed to the RTM structure, the town's Charter Revision Study Committee wrote an Enabling Act, which was presented at a public hearing on March 28. It was then sent to the State Legislature as the basis of a Special Act to establish the RTM.

There had been an attempt to have the bill die in committee at the state level. However, on June 7, 1949, the State Legislature passed the Enabling Act, establishing a non-partisan RTM. In signing the bill into law, Gov. Chester Bowles said, "I'm pleased to see the residents of Westport have shown such an interest in modernization and improving their town government."

The proposed RTM still was not without its critics. Opponents feared the system would turn over control to the Republican Party. Also, they favored the existing form as part of town tradition. Proponents held steadfastly to the belief the change would lessen opportunity for pressure groups and assure true representation.

The local election to change the Town Meeting to an RTM was set for July 16. An editorial urging voter turnout noted: "Keep in mind a minority can rule when a majority is too smug to stand up to be counted."

In essence, the question was: should the electors give up the right to vote directly and trade it in for the privilege of selecting a delegate who would represent them intelligently and consistently on all of the varied issues that arise in making a

community function? It was a system that promised to be as democratic as Congress and twice as personal.

Westport's residents approved the state legislation on July 16, 1949, by a vote of 299 to 173. Some called the election a revolution. It was a time of uncertainty and uneasiness, but there was also a strong sense of pride and accomplishment.

Westport would now have a non-partisan RTM. (A 1966 bid to change the RTM to a partisan body failed.) The town was divided into six districts. Each member would represent 250 electors and serve for two years. The first RTM would have 26 representatives; none could hold a paid town office. (This restriction was lifted by a court decision in 1989.) Only RTM members could vote at a meeting, but the public could speak. The townspeople could petition a referendum for any appropriation over \$25,000 that had been approved by the RTM.

### ***The First RTM***

Residents were encouraged to petition the Town Clerk's office to run for office. Eleven days before the filing deadline, only seven candidates had filed petitions among 6,657 voters. But by the Oct. 17 deadline, 124 residents had filed petitions. The breakdown was as follows: District 1, four seats, 11 candidates; District 2, four seats, 22 candidates; District 3, five seats, 19 candidates; District 4, five seats, 29 candidates; District 5, four seats, 15 candidates; and District 6, four seats, 28 candidates. The newly formed League of Women Voters provided biographies of the candidates for the newspaper.

On Nov. 8, 1949, residents cast a paper ballot at the Staples High School gymnasium. There were no absentee ballots. Twenty-six representatives were elected, ranging in age from 24 to 64.

The *Westport Town Crier* newspaper noted the sentiment of the day: "We will regret the passing of the symbol of direct democracy [Town Meeting] but welcome with hope the advent of a more effective means of legislation in a growing community."

The enthusiastic response to running for office would ebb and flow throughout the half century with interest dipping to a low in 1987 when

only 20 people expressed interest in the 36 RTM seats. There was a steady decline in people willing to put in the time. This apprehension created a fear that the town would have to go to a council form of government.

On Nov. 21, 1949, 40 people, including the 26 RTM members, met in Bedford Junior High School for the first time. The Rev. Gibson Daniels gave the invocation followed by the singing of the last stanza of "America." The order of business was to elect a Moderator, District 5's Harry Sherwood, and to authorize the Housing Authority to take over veterans' housing on North Compo Road, which it unanimously approved. The RTM formed a committee, with a representative from each district, to establish the rules and regulations the legislative body would follow.

Again, the *Westport Town Crier* wrote an editorial warning residents that the "RTM is not an excuse to get out the old rocking chair and relax." The editorial expressed concern that the townspeople would sit back and leave the town's business to the RTM. Keeping watch was imperative, especially since the 26 members elected to the non-partisan body were almost all Republican.

### ***Representatives or Rubber Stamps?***

Becoming the voice for 250 residents placed new responsibility on each of the representatives as well. They soon realized the weight of their responsibility as they were called upon to deliberate a range of issues. The RTM was divided into study committees to distribute responsibilities in a more effective and manageable manner. Each committee would study the issue and report back to the full legislative body for discussion. Representatives had to strike a balance between relinquishing some of the legwork to their fellow representatives without sacrificing the important responsibility of engaging in the democratic discussion process to deliberate the issues effectively as a full body.

As the years passed, there was sometimes concern that the RTM was becoming a legislative body that conducted business by telephone and committee prior to the regular meeting. And when the representatives passed through the door to convene, some members felt they could predict

how the vote would go before there was even opportunity for discussion.

Another concern was that the RTM was becoming a rubber stamp for the town's administrative decisions made prior to RTM consideration. This feeling was especially felt when the town dealt with potential sale and leasing of properties.

"We are the voice of the people," said one concerned representative in the 1980s. "Public property should not be disposed of without public discussion."

Another concern was that the RTM could be "a real bottleneck" for action. Examples of this came during deliberation of the marina expansion and the conversion of Bedford Elementary School to Town Hall.

### ***Local Issues and Big Decisions***

In the early years of its new representative form of government, the local legislators, like their counterparts throughout the country, enjoyed the opportunity to focus on making their small town a viable, comfortable community. As the town began to develop, many of the issues were routine—the acceptance of town roads, litter, and even a children's playground.

At its second meeting on Dec. 13, 1949, the RTM's first order of business was the \$700.71 deficit in the cost of the election. Other issues included the expansion of Town Hall and affordable rental housing.

At the Feb. 9, 1950, meeting, the RTM authorized the town's first land purchase—the 2.9 acres of land at the corner of Franklin and Charles Streets for a commuter parking lot. The action threatened the loss of a children's playground, which was saved by District 1 members.

Throughout the past half century, land acquisition has continued to garner the RTM's attention and debate, fueled by extensive public discussion. "They are not making any more land" seemed to become the mantra of land proponents, whether it be the Allen's Clam House property, Birchwood, Baron's, Gorham Island, Hall-Brooke or the Poses/Newman property.

In less than a dozen years, the legislators went from debating a children's playground in 1949 to the 191-acre Longshore Beach and Country Club

acquisition in 1960.

Still bemoaning the lost opportunity to purchase the 88-acre Birchwood Country Club property in 1945 for \$76,000, the RTM jumped at the opportunity to buy Longshore for \$1.9 million. The RTM felt the town lagged in providing recreational facilities, and it was time to do something about it. Some thought the representatives were moving in haste. A referendum attempt failed. The National Recreational Association had no record of any other town accomplishing such a feat. Westport became a model for other municipalities as it would time and time again through the many actions of its RTM.

The most heated land acquisition issue came nine years later when the RTM approved \$220,000 to buy Cockenoe Island from the United Illuminating Company to prevent it from becoming the site of a nuclear power plant. More than 750 people packed Coleytown auditorium, generating a response from RTM Moderator Ralph Sheffer to "come more often."

The land buy was not without its critics who felt the town had more pressing issues—education, refuse disposal and sewage treatment. Again, a referendum bid failed.

On Sept. 29, 1987, the RTM voted 23-10 to support the town's purchase of the 32-acre Baron's North property for \$8.7 million. While the majority heralded the acquisition, one dissenter said, "The opportunity of a lifetime would be the burden of the next 20 years."

### ***Education***

Education has continued to be the focus of RTM deliberations throughout the years, whether it be budgets or building projects dealing with school conversion, expansion, renovation, reconstruction or new construction. Two major highlights of RTM education agenda items dealt with the May 8, 1974, approval of the \$12.9 million school budget and the 1998 decision to appropriate \$37.5 million to build the North Avenue Middle School.

In 1974, the RTM's school budget approval led to the Westport Tax Watchers Association's petition for a referendum to cut \$800,000. The budget critics needed 1,582 signatures on the petition; they got more than

3,500, with 1,925 certified. The referendum was the first special referendum in the town's history. More than 60 percent of the voters turned out for the referendum. The results were 5,743 in favor of the cut, 3,794 against. The school budget was cut to \$12.2 million, representing a 4.8 percent increase over the previous budget. The \$800,000 cut saved taxpayers two mils. The 1974-75 mil rate was set at 46 mils, a three-mil increase.

Former school board chairman and veteran RTMer Alan Parsell said, "From the results should come a more responsible government in the Town of Westport...the people should now come closer than ever in getting their money's worth from their tax dollars. The RTM, the Board of Finance and the Board of Education misinterpreted the signals."

In another highly charged issue, at 1 a.m. on Nov. 18, 1998, in a vote of 25 to 6, the RTM approved \$37.5 million for the North Avenue Middle School, the largest single appropriation in the town's history. A disgruntled opponent, describing the school request, said the RTM was "walking the plank with a sword behind them jumping into a bunch of loan sharks."

### *Thinking Globally, Acting Locally*

Throughout the decades, town business branched out from housekeeping details to broader issues that would affect the community across the board and for future generations. Never one to stick their heads in the Compo Beach sand too long, Westporters continually have turned their attention beyond their borders to look globally.

In 1972, the RTM passed by a vote of 17 to 15 a resolution asking President Nixon and Congress "to take immediate action to withdraw from the war in Vietnam." This was the first time the RTM took up the discussion of foreign policy. The resolution stemmed from a petition signed by 1,000 residents. As residents entered the auditorium, they were handed black armbands. The three-hour debate became a forum for frustration, pride and anger.

In 1982, by a vote of 24 to 2 with 7 abstentions, the RTM passed a Sense of the Meeting Resolution urging a nuclear arms freeze. It called upon the United States and the Soviet Union to stop the nuclear arms race and to enter into a bilateral freeze on all further testing,

production and development of nuclear warheads, missiles and delivery systems.

### *Quality of Life*

In 1977, the town was divided into eight RTM districts with 40 representatives. As the town continued to grow in population, the RTM turned its attention to space needs in town facilities: the Town Hall, Staples High School, and a new town library.

In the 1980s and '90s, the RTM took a closer look at the quality of life in the community for all its citizens. The RTM passed an ordinance banning smoking in public buildings, restrooms, and schools. It approved the conversion of Saugatuck Elementary School to moderate income elderly housing; it restricted the landing and taking off of aircraft except in medical and civil emergencies or by federal, state and local government officials or for public or education purposes approved by the police department; it considered a moratorium on building in the business district, and it defeated a gun control ordinance.

Quality of life continued to underline issues that came before the RTM at the close of the century, whether through the deliberation of speed humps, open space, or a dog leash ordinance.

At the end of each evening, the RTM members may feel a little dog-eared, by debate. On May 5, 1999, after hours of debate that lasted many meetings, the RTM defeated by just two votes an ordinance requiring a dog be kept on a leash or lead. Instead, the RTM chose to leave local and state regulations as they were -- a dog was free to roam unleashed as long as it was under the control of its owner.

In essence, the rights remain with the dog owner to strike the balance between the dog's freedom and control in the community without infringing upon others. In a sense, it's similar to the RTM philosophy as it deliberates each issue that comes before it -- to strike a balance between freedom and control in a community.

As the RTM enters its second half-century, the spirit of the Town Meeting—Westport-style—continues to liven debate and influence decisions affecting the town's future.



# The View from the First Five Rows: Reminiscences of the RTM

Interviews by Pamela Guthman

*For five decades, the RTM and its members have epitomized the best of Westport. And that tradition continues today. These are more than concerned citizens. Many are highly talented individuals well known in their own right who share a strong, common interest in positively influencing the affairs of Westport. We are honored to follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before and are grateful to them for helping make Westport what it is today.*

*--Gordon F. Joseloff, RTM Moderator*



As the Representative Town Meeting marks its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, almost 400 citizens have “represented their constituents.” The longest tenure was held by Joe Arcudi (24 years); the shortest Ed See (who resigned before the first meeting of the first RTM to become town attorney). A number of families have provided more than one member: there have been five Gilberties, three Arcudis, and three Harrises. In addition, there have been several two-member family teams, including: Anderson, Arenander, Heller, Peck, Sheffer, Sherwood, Valiante, and Wolgast. And at least 11 married couples have served, though not necessarily at the same time: Aasen, Dimes/Morton, Donenfeld, Harris, Hooper, Jones/Lupton, Kienzle, Rea, Sheffer/Scheffler, Shilepsky, and Slaughter.

Newspaper clippings and minutes report what happened at RTM meetings over the years. But they don’t give much of a personal insight into what it was like to serve on the town’s legislative body. These interviews provide a glimpse of the RTM from the first five rows of the auditorium, which, by the Town Charter, are reserved only for RTM members.

Among those serving on the first RTM in 1949 was **Rose Arcudi DiMartino** (Joe’s sister), who, at 24, was the youngest candidate elected. “I was very excited that we finally had a say because

the Town Meetings weren’t really well attended before,” she remembers. “Now everyone was represented. I learned a lot and I did a lot of work. I remember one fight was to keep the playground near the Saugatuck train station (where they now hold the Italian Festival). It was going to be used for additional parking. We needed to keep it because there were a lot of children in the area whose homes didn’t have backyards to play in—those homes are gone now because of the Turnpike, but the playground is still there. I got in touch with people and was able to call my constituents and keep them informed of what was happening and also get their opinions. Everyone was represented and it was a great feeling.”

**Allen A. Raymond** supports that view. He served on the RTM as a member and as the fourth Moderator. (Harry Sherwood was the first, followed by Bernard Peck from November 1950 until August 1951 when he resigned to become an Associate Judge of the Town Court. Herbert Baldwin was third from August 1951 to December 1957.) “I really enjoyed it, it was a very good experience,” Raymond recalls. “Life in Westport was exciting then because we were expanding. We were putting in roads and drainage, budgeting for school building, and facing all the challenges of growth. I remember sitting in the living room and picking people to serve on the Public Site and Building Commission we were forming. We needed people with a broad spectrum of experience—engineers, builders, and financial people. We had a wonderful group and many

became good friends. These were our early, growing years, and we were feeling our way because the RTM was a relatively new body. We were plowing new ground.”

Another Westporter who was plowing the ground with Raymond was **Thelma E. Ezzes**. She served the RTM in the late ‘50s and early ‘60s. “It was interesting to be one of three women serving at the time—I believe the others were Maggie Field and Jeanette Egan,” she recalls. “I had always been a ‘political activist,’ so it was natural to be involved in local government. We didn’t have committees at that time. Everyone was supposed to know everything about everything. A few of us wanted to bring in committees because there was just so much. I was also part of the Education Committee and helped pass the rule about school buses required for children who lived any distance greater than a half mile from school.”

**Allen U. Parsell** (who had owned the garden center now known as Geiger’s on the corner of the Post Road and Morningside Avenue) served from 1953 until 1975. In a 1975 interview, he said he was on the RTM when it voted on appropriating money for a water main to Long Lots, and for five new teachers. It was also during this time that the RTM grew from 26 to 39 members, and from six to eight districts. “The most acrimonious issue was the proposed reduction of the school budget by \$80,000,” he said. “It involved the most people pro and contra, promoted the most petitions ever read, and led to a special election.”

By the end of the ‘50s, the RTM was finding its stride, preparing for the incredible activity of the ‘60s. One of the members of the RTM during that period was **John J. Simon**. “It was an extremely pleasant experience for the most part,” he remembers. “Ralph Sheffer was the Moderator through that entire period; he was fair-minded and ran a good show. I was on the Education Committee, and we had some stormy budget battles between the Board of Education and the Board of Finance. It was a time of great growth in town. We built the addition to Long Lots Jr. High School and the extension to Bedford Jr. High School. We built Hillspoint Elementary School, and we had a big debate about spending just over \$2 million for building Coleytown Elementary School.”

Another controversial issue, he recalls, was

the evening the town voted to oppose the Vietnam War. “The New York Times covered the evening and I ended up in one of their photographs that appeared in the paper. Our town had a big battle with the American Legion, which declared war on us ‘peaceniks.’ The meeting was overflowing. More people attended that night than in all of the RTM’s history to that time. We finally elected to take a stand as a town and put on record to President Nixon that Westport was opposed to the war.” This was the first time Westport’s RTM took action on a national issue. After three hours of debate, which ended after midnight, the resolution denouncing the war was approved by a 17 to 15 vote.

Simon also recalls the speedy purchase of Longshore by the town. “It had been a privately-owned club, and the owner was involved in a deal with someone who was going to develop the property into housing. Everyone got scared that it would mean even more schools. We were already spending a bundle on building schools. So a group got together in the RTM along with others from town and within a very short time got RTM approval to buy Longshore for \$2 million—that was 140 acres on the water (a tremendous bargain by today’s standards). It was a very wise thing for the town to have done.”

Another major item on the agenda during the ‘60s was the saving of Cockenoe Island. Simon still has a poster that says “Save Cockenoe Island” hanging in his home. “The battle was with United Illuminating. They had the option to buy the island, and they were intending to erect a nuclear generating plan. The town went bananas. We had an artist do an enormous rendering of what it would look like and put it on an easel in front during our meeting. There was an enormous battle and the utility company lost. Westport now owns Cockenoe.”

**Ralph Sheffer** also saw his share of battles while working to preserve a non-partisan body. “Even the staunchest Democrats and Republicans, when elected to the RTM without party labels, seem to recognize the fact that they’re to serve all the people, all the time,” he says.

Sheffer was elected in 1953 to the third RTM and served for 16 years. During his early involvement, he remembers the controversy over building the Nike missile site next to Staples High



School. “The RTM committee worked with the government to try to put the project elsewhere,” he recalls. “But it ended up there on North Avenue, and the barracks off of Bayberry Lane.” A book by Westporter Max Shulman, “Rally Round the Flag, Boys!” brought national attention to the issue. It later became a movie starring Paul Newman and Joann Woodward. Supposedly the part of Harry Bannerman, Newman’s role, was modeled after Sheffer.

Another book that had an impact on both Westport’s RTM and Sheffer was the one he read early in his first term while commuting on the train to New York—“Robert’s Rules of Order.” “It was important that the meetings be run by Robert’s Rules,” he says, “and not many people knew them. So, I studied them.”

That study paid off because several years after joining the RTM, Sheffer was elected Moderator, a position he held for all of the ‘60s. His 10-year tenure at the RTM’s helm still stands as the record. He was known to conduct the RTM meetings, as one member recalls, “without an iron fist, and with kindness and gentility.”

The ‘70s found **Joseph P. Arcudi** on the RTM. “I was elected in 1969 and served through early 1993,” he recalls. “Then I was elected First Selectman. And now I’m serving a four-year term as Third Selectman. At the end of this term, that will make 32 years of serving in public office.”

Arcudi says that while an RTM member, he served on some very good groups, and on some mediocre ones. “Sometimes members would vote objectively with little politics—for the good of Westport. Sometimes not ... I remember in the ‘70s that teachers were struggling to make a living. We approved salary increases, and today they are still being paid top wages. In that same decade we also allowed Stauffer Chemical to come into Westport. While there was a lot of controversy, ultimately the RTM realized the company would bring a lot to Westport.

“One year we rejected union contracts because they came in with tremendous increases. And, at one time in the ‘70s we realized the Board of Finance wasn’t funding pensions properly. We overturned them, and today Westport continues to have some of the best pension plans in the state. I’m proud that I had something to do with that.

“Working in the RTM trained me to learn

more about our town, and it prepared me for the job as Selectman ... I think it is a wonderful organization. It is the watchdog of our town. It offers checks and balances in the running of our community. It is the legislative branch of the city government...it is literally Congress on the city level. I loved my years on the RTM. They were rewarding, and we did a lot of good things. We help keep services up and taxes down. That is something to be proud of.”

It was in 1987 that **Arnold K. “Pete” Wolgast** filled a vacancy on the RTM, and was then elected to a second term. “I thoroughly enjoyed the experience,” he recalls. “There are wonderful people on the RTM. They are committed to serving Westport, spend a lot of time doing it, and it is all volunteer. I began by serving on the Finance Committee. Ira Bloom chaired it. Then he moved up to the position of Deputy Moderator and I became the chairman. I also served on the Parks and Recreation committee. We faced interesting issues. One time the gates at Mill Pond (by Old Mill Beach) broke and the pond became stagnate. During the summer there was a terrible odor from that stagnating water. There was a great deal of controversy between the town and the neighbors because the town was going to put up the money to correct this but couldn’t decide if this was for the whole town or just for the people who lived around the pond. By the end of the meeting, people were throwing punches at one another—a fight broke out between the public and some RTM members when the meeting concluded. While the larger project was turned down, a less expensive one was approved.

“Other issues while I was on board included the approval of the Saugatuck School project (housing); the purchase of Winslow Park—we went through several votes and then a referendum—and the controversial renovation of the Bridge Street Bridge. Doug Wood was the Moderator at the time and did a great job—he kept everyone on track and on the subject. He did a wonderful job at running meetings and working with everyone on the RTM. Over my three years on the RTM, I got to know him well and later became his campaign manager when he ran (successfully) for First Selectman.”

**Douglas R. Wood** served almost a decade on the RTM and recalls his time on the body

fondly. “The RTM played an important role in my life both during the nine years I was a member and for my four years as First Selectman,” he says. “I believed at the time, and am even more certain now, that it not only works well but is the best form of local government. I am pleased there will be a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony. The RTM deserves it.”

**Nathaniel W. Gibbons** also served on the RTM in the late ‘80s and early ‘90s. He enjoyed his experience so much that he wrote a primer on RTM proceedings that is still distributed to new RTM members. “We attempted the regulation of a plastics ban and lost by two votes,” he remembers. “The Environment Committee supported it, but someone from James River Corp. got wind of this and came to talk to us about why plastic was better than paper.” The ‘80s, Gibbons remembers, was a time when the school budgets were not a big issue.

Also serving in the ‘80s and into the ‘90s is **Irwin Donenfeld**. “I’ve served for 18 years so far, under three police chiefs, three fire chiefs and four First Selectmen,” he says. Irwin and his wife, Carole, were the second married couple to serve simultaneously on the RTM. “I remember the local television station interviewing us and commenting on air, ‘politics makes strange bedfellows.’”

“It may make strange bedfellows, but serving on the RTM has been a wonderful experience for me. People from other towns and counties and states have said to me how astounded they are with our success. This form of government is such a great democracy—the non-partisan status of our RTM is wonderful. You never hear of a Democratic sewer going to such and such an area or the Republicans putting the addition on to Long Lots. What is going on is that the members of the RTM are voting for what is best for the town.”

**Anthony J. Lowe** agrees and says he was happy to have given something back to the community by serving on the RTM as Moderator in the early ‘90s. While on board, the RTM passed the Waterway Protection Ordinance (guarding against heavy construction on any of the seven major rivers and streams in town). “There is no place left to build, and people started encroaching on wetlands and streams,” Lowe remembers. Another issue concerned the number of liquor outlets in one area. “This was very controversial. We held to the 1,500-foot minimum between establishments selling and serving liquor,” he recalls.


Lowe says that the RTM put a great emphasis on the fact that politics not enter into its discussions. “We also sped up the meetings to reduce the amount of time members had to stay up on meeting nights. Many were commuting into New York on 6:30 a.m. trains, and our meetings had been running as late as 1:30 or 2 a.m. We passed a rule that no new items on the agenda could be brought up after 11:30 p.m. unless there was a two-thirds vote. We also put an emphasis on sticking to the subject and encouraged cutting speeches to three minutes or less.”

**Gordon F. Joseloff** first began attending RTM meetings in the early ‘60s while in high school as a summer reporter for the Westport Town Crier. He says he remembers the lengthy debates and the long nights. “It was heady stuff for a teenage reporter. I remember watching Moderator Sheffer in action as well as Alan Parsell debating in his bib overalls and Thelma Ezzes having no hesitation telling her fellow members what was on her mind—and there was plenty.”

First elected to the RTM in 1991, Joseloff later became Deputy Moderator and was elected Moderator in 1995. “We had to work hard and work creatively to gain consensus on a number of issues,” he says. “The ‘90s was a time of transition for the town and that was reflected in the work of the RTM. We saw the economy improve and more families with children move into Westport, resulting in increasing educational expenditures. But at the same time there was an increase in our senior population, many of whom were on fixed incomes.

“Nevertheless, we approved a \$37.5 million appropriation for a new middle school as well as more than \$10 million for land purchases, including Baron’s South. We sought to increase town productivity through increased use of computers and also enhanced town government communications with residents through the use of e-mail and online resources.

“When I was first elected as Moderator in 1995, I told the RTM, ‘We must be respectful of our past, confident of our present, and bold about our future.’ I hope our efforts to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RTM are in keeping with that pledge.”

Anyone who has sat in  the first five rows at an RTM

# Representative Trivia & Memories

By Alice Shelton, RTM District 2

The *longevity record* on Westport's RTM is held by Joseph P. Arcudi, who served for 24 years. In second place is Alan U. Parsell, 22 years. Third is Lorna B. Christophersen with almost 19 years. Irwin Donenfeld will move into third place after he completes his 10th term for which he has just been elected.

The *shortest term* on the RTM was served by Edgar T. See. He resigned *before* the first meeting in 1949 to become Town Attorney. He later returned to serve a full term in 1955-57 and another in 1967-69.

The *youngest member* on the first RTM was Rose Arcudi (now Rose DiMartino) at age 24 in 1949. Among the youngest ever to serve: Jamison A. Daily, Thomas E. Capasse, Walter D. Harris and W. Gerard Hoffman III, elected at ages 22, 23, 23, and 24, respectively. Kara Riggle Edwards, 36, is the youngest member of the current RTM.

At least *11 married couples* have served on Westport's RTM. But only three husband and wife teams have served simultaneously. Carole and Irwin Donenfeld served together from 1987-93. Current District 1 RTM members Ann Sheffer and Bill Scheffler have served since 1993. And, RTM members Helen Lupton and Robert Jones were married in February 1962. Reportedly, they met at the RTM "*and amid the gaveling and the resolutions found love*" (as recalled in an interview with RTM member Alan U. Parsell published in 1975).

The *invocation* at the first RTM meeting on Nov. 21, 1949, was given by the Rev. Gibson Daniels of the Saugatuck Congregational Church. The invocation for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the Dec. 7, 1999, RTM meeting will be given by the Rev. Alan Johnson, *also* of the Saugatuck Congregational Church.

Before 1957, there were *no Deputy Moderators* on the RTM. A *Moderator Pro Tem* had to be elected each time a Moderator was unable to chair even a portion of a meeting. The current Deputy Moderator, William J. "Bill" Raines, is the 16<sup>th</sup>. The others: Hereward Wake, Robert M. Anstett, Fred C. White, John C. Honey, Edwin H. Kahn, Donald J. Lunghino, Holton E. Harris, Frances Cowden, Roy M. Dickinson, Raymond W. Hartman, Douglas R. Wood, Ira W. Bloom, Anthony J. Lowe, Joseph P. Arcudi, and Gordon F. Joseloff.

Six partners of the law firm *Wake, See, Dimes & Bryniczka* have served on the RTM: Hereward Wake, Edgar T. See, Edwin K. Dimes, Jacob P. Bryniczka, Henry McDonald, Jr. and Ira W. Bloom. Another partner, Amy Day, is the daughter of current RTM Secretary Edna Yergin. The desk from which Hereward Wake practiced law (1931-1977) currently resides in the Second Selectman's office at Town Hall.

Two members of the current RTM *returned after 16-year absences*. Jorgen F. Jensen served from 1969-71 and from 1987 to present. Maria S. Nilson served from 1979-81 and from 1997 to present.

***Is there a representative in the house?***  
Henry W. “Harry” Munroe purchased a house on Clapboard Hill Road from RTM member Margaret T. Field in 1960. Munroe recalls that Field joked that her RTM seat went with the house. Apparently, Munroe liked the idea. He not only filled Field’s vacancy but went on to serve for 10 years.

**B**efore 1962, there was *no RTM Secretary*. The Town Clerk was responsible for the minutes at RTM meetings. In the minutes of the Feb. 6, 1962, RTM meeting, the Moderator reports that the Rules Committee discussed the “possibility of hiring secretarial assistance” but decided against changing the existing system. By July 1962, the RTM minutes reflect a call from RTM member Harmon H. Cardozo for “some definite action”. He also asked the question: “What happened to the minutes of the March and April meetings?”

***The town hired Helen S. Waltz as the first RTM secretary in July 1962.*** (Rita Hooper, who later joined the RTM, kept minutes on an interim basis in May and June 1962.) Four years later, Waltz received “a standing ovation in recognition of her services” when her resignation was announced at the Nov. 1, 1966, meeting.

***Barbara Dorogusker*** was introduced as the ***second RTM secretary*** at the May 2, 1967, meeting. She also received a standing ovation at the April 3, 1979, meeting for her “13 years of loyal service.”

***Judy Hardy*** (now Judith Hardy Olson) was hired as the ***third RTM secretary*** in May 1979. At the Jan. 5, 1982, meeting, RTM members thanked her “for the fine work she has done for the RTM” as the ***fourth RTM secretary, Patricia Kruming***, was introduced.

The RTM thanked Kruming for her RTM service when her resignation was announced at the June 15, 1982, meeting.

Hardy filled in as acting RTM secretary until the ***fifth RTM secretary, Yvette Bluhm***, was hired in August 1982. When she resigned in April 1983, Hardy again served as acting RTM secretary until the ***sixth and current RTM secretary, Edna Yergin***, was introduced at the Sept. 6, 1983, meeting.

**T**he ***Maclear Jacoby seat*** remains unoccupied at RTM meetings in a tradition that began 34 years ago. Section A162-4 of the current RTM *Rules of Procedure* states that, “When facing the Chair, the first right-hand seat of the left-hand section, the seat always used by the late Maclear Jacoby, a charter member of this body, shall remain unoccupied in memory of all deceased Representative Town Meeting members.” The tradition began with a unanimous resolution at the Sept. 7, 1965, meeting “as a memorial to Maclear Jacoby, a dear friend as well as a conscientious and able legislator of the town.” Jacoby served on the RTM from 1949 until his death in August 1965.

**I**n the Dec. 7, 1971, minutes, Moderator Edwin H. Kahn announced the installation of a ***plaque in memory of RTM members who have passed away***. It still hangs at the entrance to the Town Hall auditorium.

**T**here were ***four women*** (out of 26 representatives) on the first RTM in 1949. ***Thirteen*** of the 36 members elected in November 1999 are women. The only woman to serve as RTM Moderator was Mary M. Jenkins (for nine years). The only woman Deputy Moderator was Frances

Cowden.

At the first RTM meeting, on Nov. 21, 1949, **Ralph V. Sollitt**, former Moderator of Westport's Town Meetings wished the new system well and remarked that "we should pay our respects to the man who, as chairman of the Charter Revision Committee, had worked so hard in the formation of . . . [Westport's new RTM] . . . this man being **Alois Forger**." Forger spoke next, saying that he "hoped the change would be for the better." But the minutes reflect that he went on to say that he "did not like the idea of committees within the representatives' group and he hoped that Westport would stay clear of them."

*As all RTM members who have endured decades of RTM committee meetings know, Forger's advice went unheeded.* Currently, there are 12 standing committees and six special committees, including the RTM Special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.

The vast majority of RTM work takes place at the committee level. Former RTM Moderator Donald J. Lunghino attributes the success of the RTM to two factors: its committee system and its non-partisanship. In a message to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee from his home in Florida, Lunghino said as an attorney, he had dealings with many other local communities and found nothing like Westport's RTM committees.

The gavel used by the first 11 RTM Moderators will be retired at the RTM 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Dec. 7, 1999. Ralph Sheffer initialed the gavel when he retired as Moderator in 1969. *Maybe some of the other Moderators will initial the gavel at the anniversary meeting.*

## Members elected to the first RTM, 1949-1951:

John A. Anderson, Sr.	Maclear Jacoby
Rose Arcudi	Sereno G. Jennings
Herbert E. Baldwin	Paul J. Kowalsky
Granville M. Brumbaugh	Anson T. Leary
Virginia P. Boyd	Edward C. Nash
George M. Darby	Bernard S. Peck
Joseph DeMaria	Howland H. Pell Jr.,
Howard W. Gault	Oscar W. Peterson
John S. Gilbertie	Edgar T. See*
Nat H. Greenberg	Harry R. Sherwood
Grace A. Hale	Charles P. Stetson
Joseph D. Hitch Jr.	Donald J. Tedesco
John S. Horosky	Helen H. Warnock

(\*Edgar T. See resigned on Nov. 15, 1949, and was replaced by Frederick H. Denham.)

## RTM Moderators, 1949-1999:

**Harry R. Sherwood**, 1949-50

**Bernard S. Peck**, 1950-51

**Herbert E. Baldwin**, 1951-57

**Allen A. Raymond**, 1957-59

**Ralph Sheffer**, 1959-69

**Edwin H. Kahn**, 1969-73

**Donald J. Lunghino**, 1973-77

**Mary M. Jenkins**, 1977-86

**Douglas R. Wood**, 1986-89

**Anthony J. Lowe**, 1989-95

**Gordon F. Joseloff**, 1995 to present

(Joseloff will be nominated for election at the Dec. 7, 1999 meeting.)



re-

## *P.T.M. Members, 1949-1999*

Lawrence O. Aasen, 1980-97  
Martha M. Aasen, 1975-77  
Andrew Ackemann, 1981-82  
Michael G. Agate, 1965-69  
Anthony E. Ahern, 1983-87  
Craig G. Allen, 1959-71  
John A. Anderson Sr., 1949-55  
John A. Anderson Jr., 1955-57  
R. Gavin S. Anderson, 1997-99  
Robert M. Anstett, 1957-61  
Elvira Arcudi, 1951-53  
Joseph P. Arcudi, 1969-93  
Rose Arcudi, 1949-51  
Alfred W. Arenander, 1961-65  
Alfred W. Arenander Jr., 1965-75, 1977  
John L. Armitage III, 1967-69, 1973  
Ernest I. Arnow, 1973-77  
Ruth V. Ashcraft, 1971-79  
Eleanor C. Atwell, 1981-83  
Wayne G. Atwell, 1976-81  
Herbert E. Baldwin, 1949-57  
Robert T. Baldwin, Jr., 1951-55  
John H. Barton, 1981-83  
Julie D. Belaga, 1975-76  
Richard Berkowitz, 1969-71  
Stuart S. Bernard, 1995-97  
Ira W. Bloom, 1981-89  
Gerald E. Bodell, 1999-present  
Jean F. Bodkin, 1977-83  
John W. Booth, 1993-present  
George O. Boothe, 1957-59  
Edward M. Boucher, 1957-59  
Daniel E. Boyce, 1995-97  
Virginia P. Boyd, 1949-51, 1963-65  
Tracy R. Boyer, 1987-91  
Horace W. Boynton, 1983-87  
Penny A. Bray, 1985-90  
Lewis D. Brey, 1995-99  
Morton S. Brod, 1973-77  
Richard L. Brooks, 1955-57  
Veronica Brophy, 1959, 1970-71  
Hamilton H. Brosious, 1965-72  
Granville M. Brumbaugh, 1949-57  
Jacob P. Bryniczka, 1975-77  
Abe Bunks, 1968-75  
Robert W. Cain, 1965-67, 1971-80  
Michael F. Calise, 1967-75  
James W. Call, 1985-91  
Gwen T. Campbell, 1997-present  
Robert L. Campbell, 1969-71  
Janet S. Canning, 1989-97  
Thomas E. Capasse, 1979-85  
Marion S. Cardell, 1970-73  
Harmon H. Cardozo, 1955-71  
Daniel J. Carnese, 1985-91  
Eugene E. Cederbaum, 1981-85, 1989-91  
Francis J. Charlton, 1985-89  
Lorna B. Christophersen, 1971-77, 1982-95  
William S. Christy, 1965-69, 1971-75  
Urana Clarke, 1955-57  
William G. Clotworthy, 1985-86  
Luther Conant Jr., 1959-61  
Thomas F. Conroy, 1979-85  
George D. Constantikes, 1963-65, 1967  
Marylou K. Corbett, 1971-73  
Frances Cowden, 1969-77  
Thaddeus G. Cowell Jr., 1957-59  
J. Harry Craig, 1959-63  
Otis L. Crawford, 1997  
Frank H. Crump, 1983-86  
Betty Lou Cummings, 1987-93  
Jamison A. Daily, 1993-99

Thomas Danbury, 1971-75  
 George M. Darby, 1949-57  
 Jerry Davidoff, 1991-95  
 Sydney T. Dawson Jr., 1953-55, 1957-63  
 Edward C. Delafield Jr., 1973  
 Frank DeLuca, 1957-61, 1963-65  
 Joseph R. DeMaioresbus, 1973-79  
 Joseph DeMaria, 1949-51  
 Frederick H. Denham, 1949-53, 1957-59  
 Marshal N. deNoyelles Jr., 1965-66  
 Rhona Derrin-Lieberson, 1997-99  
 Theodore Diamond, 1961-67  
 Roy M. Dickinson, 1971-83  
 Floyd K. Diefendorf, 1961-63  
 Edwin K. Dimes, 1961-63  
 Richard S. Dodge, 1955-57  
 Alfred Karl Dolge, 1965-69  
 Arlene P. Donahue, 1981-83  
 Edgar J. Donaldson, 1961-63  
 Carole Donenfeld, 1987-93  
 Irwin Donenfeld, 1981-present  
 Morris Downs, 1952  
 Candace Drimmer, 1993-95  
 Amos Dublin, 1959-61, 1965-69, 1973-75  
 Christopher C. Dunham, 1986-93  
 Kara Riggle Edwards, 1999-present  
 Jeanette Egan, 1957-73  
 Alfred S. Eiseman Jr., 1971-79  
 Irwin Elliot, 1955-59  
 Raymond Eyes, 1971-73  
 Thelma E. Ezzes, 1957-63  
 Patricia A. Fagan, 1975-80  
 Henry Ferne II, 1950-51, 1961-63  
 Margaret T. Field, 1957-60  
 Sidney L. Filderman, 1979-91  
 Andrew F. Fink, 1979-81  
 Ruth E. Fleming, 1979-80  
 Norman W. Flint, 1971-83  
 John C. Folsom, 1959-68, 1969-70  
 C. Richard Foote, 1977-83  
 Leslie T. Fossel, 1953-55  
 Arthur L. Foster Jr., 1959-61  
 Sanford P. Frey, 1967-69  
 Richard B. Friedman, 1993-97  
 Barbara L. Fry, 1979-81  
 James A. Galambos, 1991-95  
 Dorothy Gambaccini, 1969-71, 1972-77  
 Howard W. Gault, 1949-57  
 Nathaniel W. Gibbons, 1989-95  
 Anthony T. Gilbertie, 1974-75  
 John S. Gilbertie, 1949-51  
 John S. Gilbertie Jr., 1971-75, 1977-79, 1981-87  
 Michael A. Gilbertie, 1999-present  
 Salvatore J. Gilbertie, 1951-53  
 Nancy Gilchrist, 1963-71  
 Theodore P. Gluckman, 1961-71  
 Steven S. Goldberg, 1997-present  
 Richard Goldhurst, 1961-63  
 Catherine Goldschmidt, 1989-1993  
 Stuart H. Gollinger, 1985  
 Paul R. Green, 1965-1968  
 Nat H. Greenberg, 1949-51  
 George Guryan, 1976-77  
 Saul Haffner, 1997-present  
 Edward W. Haggarty, 1959-63  
 Grace A. Hale, 1949-59  
 Charles B. Hamill, 1955  
 Eugenie D. Hamm, 1993-95  
 Nancy J. Hammond, 1969-75, 1979-81  
 Evan H. Harding, 1961-67  
 Holton E. Harris, 1969-75, 1993-97  
 Jeanne D. Harris, 1975-81  
 Walter D. Harris, 1987-99  
 David H. Harrison, 1981-85  
 Raymond W. Hartman, 1977-83  
 Robert R. Hartsig, 1967-69  
 John D. Hastings, 1953-55  
 Martha S. Hauhuth, 1977-78  
 Craig Barry Heatley, 1977-79  
 Bruce Heatly, 1983-85

Garson F. Heller Jr., 1967-81  
 Grant G. Heller, 1997-present  
 Catherine S. Herman, 1993-97  
 Eve M. Hertz, 1973-77  
 Joseph D. Hitch Jr., 1949-63  
 William G. Hoffman III, 1979-80  
 Edith W. Holcomb, 1953-57  
 Nancy E. Holson, 1987-1993  
 John Holzapfel, 1957-65  
 John C. Honey, 1959-67  
 Raymond Lee Hooper Jr., 1963-67  
 Rita V. Hooper, 1978-87  
 John S. Horosky, 1949-61  
 John F. Hughes, 1957-61  
 Ralph Hymans, 1991-93, 1995-99  
 Laura A. Ingersoll, 1983-85  
 George E. Ingham, 1977--81  
 Roger K. Irvine, 1983-85  
 John J. Izzo, 1997-99  
 Frederick H. Jackson, 1957-59, 1961-67  
 Maclear Jacoby, 1949-65  
 Andre H. Jaeger, 1951-55  
 Joan Jansen, 1979-83  
 Mary M. Jenkins, 1975-83, 1985-87  
 George H. Jennings, 1957-61  
 Sereno G. Jennings, 1949-55  
 Jorgen F. Jensen, 1969-71, 1987-present  
 Robert R. Jespersen, 1967-69  
 Albert R. Johnson, 1983-93  
 Paul C. Johnson, 1993-97  
 Robert Louis Jones, 1957-59, 1960-61, 1963  
 Gordon F. Joseloff, 1991-present  
 Edwin H. Kahn, 1963-73  
 Jerome A. Kaiser, 1963-65  
 Herman Kaufman, 1975-77  
 William Kaufman, 1995-97  
 William J. Kery, 1963-69, 1971-73  
 Nancy K. Kienzle, 1995-99  
 Thomas C. Kienzle Jr., 1971-73  
 Penn T. Kimball, 1959-63  
 Eugene King, 1961  
 Arthur O. Klein, 1983-85  
 Woody Klein, 1971-73  
 Charles T. Kline, 1977-79  
 Robert L. Kline, 1975-1981  
 John G. Klinge, 1997-present  
 Robert J. Koch, 1975  
 Harvey L. Koizim, 1966-67  
 Wanda E. A. Kokoszka, 1990-95  
 Paul J. Kowalsky, 1949-53, 1955-57, 1958-59  
 Thomas F. Krygier, 1975-77  
 Charles P. Lamb, 1978-79  
 Alan S. Landis, 1986-89  
 Marion H. Lang, 1977-83  
 Nathan S. Lanning, 1963-67  
 Anson T. Leary, 1949-59  
 Frederick E. Lederer, 1971-74  
 Kathleen L. Lehn, 1975-81  
 Nancy Leonard, 1965-69, 1971-73  
 Martin Levin, 1971-75  
 Donald S. Levy, 1971-79  
 Stanley H. Lieberstein, 1977-79  
 Penelope D. Lind, 1981-89  
 Barbara J. Lippard, 1985-91  
 Anthony J. Lowe, 1979-95  
 Richard A. Lowenstein, 1997-present  
 Donald J. Lunghino, 1965-77  
 Helen Lupton, 1959-63  
 David R. Lurie, 1967-73, 1985-87  
 Holger M. Luther, 1975-77  
 Francis W. MacBarron, 1957  
 David S. Maclay, 1977-79  
 Sandy C. Macpherson, 1957-60  
 Howard R. Maddock, 1955-58  
 Sara A. Magruder, 1969-71  
 Marion C. Mahone, 1979-83  
 Ronald F. Malone, 1991-present  
 Paul C. Manchester, 1957-59  
 Gladys E. Mansir, 1961-65  
 John R. Martenson, 1973-74



Jeffrey Alan Mayer, 1995-97  
 Judith B. McCormick, 1961-71  
 Henry McDonald Jr., 1959-61  
 K. Burr McGhee, 1969-73, 1975-83  
 William P. McGorry, 1987-91,  
 Francis C. Mercier, 1953-55, 1963-65  
 Linda Merk-Gould, 1995-97  
 Wally Meyer, 1981-85, 1997-present  
 William F. Meyer III, 1995-present  
 Barbara A. Meyers, 1989-93  
 Sylvia L. Milberg, 1977-79, 1980-81  
 Arthur Millman, 1983-85  
 Clifford W. Mills, 1957-59  
 Mary D. Mix, 1979-83, 1987-95  
 Joy M. Miyasaki, 1995-97  
 Kenneth S. Montgomery, 1951-57  
 William A. Morris, 1957-59  
 Harry E. Morse, 1975-76  
 Antoinette Morton, 1985-87  
 Donald Munroe, 1952-53  
 Henry W. Munroe, 1960-70  
 John D. Murphy, 1955-57  
 Thomas J. Murphy, 1991-93, 1995-97  
 Rudolph Francis Mutter, 1977-81  
 James Edward Myer Jr., 1989-91  
 Catherine MyGodney, 1997-present  
 Thomas Nadeau, 1981  
 Edward C. Nash, 1949-61  
 Peter W. Nathan, 1963-71  
 Michael A. Naylor, 1981-1985  
 Bernard A. Nevas, 1986-87  
 Fred O. Newman, 1957-63  
 Maria S. Nilson, 1979-81, 1997-present  
 James B. O'Connell, 1969-75  
 Richard Lee Ordeman, 1953-57  
 Christine B. O'Sullivan, 1981-91  
 Mark T. Owades, 1997-present  
 Dan Page, 1959-61  
 Alan U. Parsell, 1953-75  
 Bernard S. Peck, 1949-51  
 Daniel D. Peck, 1975-79  
 Howland H. Pell Jr., 1949-59  
 Jefferis M. Pennington, 1955-61  
 Gordon E. Perry, 1973-81  
 Oscar W. Peterson, 1949-57  
 W. Irving Plitt, 1955-57  
 Richard J. Pober, 1985-89  
 Patricia A. Porio, 1991-95  
 Charlotte S. Price, 1989-1991  
 Joseph R. Radigan, 1983  
 William P. Raines, 1990-present  
 Deborah R. Rath, 1993-95, 1999-present  
 Allen A. Raymond Jr., 1955-59  
 Carla Rea, 1979-81  
 Michael A. Rea, 1999-present  
 John J. Renzulli, 1953-55  
 Prescott L. Richards, 1959-61  
 Jane S. Ritter, 1989-90  
 Elliott J. Roberts, 1951-57  
 Leonard S. Rogers, 1961-65  
 Robert Bruce Rogers, 1957-59, 1965-67  
 Lisa S. Rome, 1995-present  
 Raymond F. Ross, 1965-75  
 Warren C. Rossell, 1991-93  
 Domenic E. Rotolo, 1973-75  
 Stephen M. Rubin, 1993-present  
 Alison J. Russell, 1973-76  
 John Sachs, 1987-95  
 Barbara K. Saipe, 1975-79, 1983-89  
 Bruce H. Salvo, 1983-87  
 Vincent R. Sandercock, 1981-83  
 William L. Scheffler, 1993-present  
 Joel D. Schine, 1963-65  
 Lois G. Schine, 1997-present  
 Walter L. Schlenker, 1981-87  
 Robert G. Schneider, 1995-97  
 Suzanne A. Schnog, 1987-91  
 Philip N. Schuyler, 1953-55  
 Mark L. Schwartz, 1972  
 Ralph Schwarz, 1995-present

Rita B. Seclow, 1987-95  
Edgar T. See, 1949, 1955-57, 1967-69  
Stephen R. Sefsik, 1967-69  
William Seiden, 1977-81  
Donald M. Selesko, 1977  
Robert Seskin, 1981-89  
Ann Elizabeth Sheffer, 1993-present  
Ralph Sheffer, 1953-69  
Alice H. Shelton, 1997-present  
Harry R. Sherwood, 1949-55  
John Sherwood, 1951  
Ann E. Shilepsky, 1969-72  
Lee Burger Shilepsky, 1963-67  
Clarence R. Shingleton, 1969  
Wayland R. Shook, 1959-61  
John G. Sibley, 1997-present  
John J. Simon, 1963-65, 1966-71  
Robert R. Slaughter, 1967-73  
Virginia B. Slaughter, 1973-77  
Margaret J. Slez, 1999-present  
Norton D. Smiley, 1977-79  
Mark A. Smith, 1981-87  
Irwin Sollinger, 1983-85  
Eleanor C. Solovay, 1973-85  
Charles F. Spear, 1959-63  
Judith K. Starr, 1985-87  
Edmund F. Stefenson, 1961-63  
Rita A. Steinberger, 1973-79  
Charles P. Stetson, 1949-50  
Rita Stitzer, 1977-81  
Adam D. Stolpen, 1985-87  
Percy N. Stone, 1951-53  
Theresa Stroffolino, 1973-75  
Henry R. Swift, 1951-52  
Stephen Tate, 1961-73, 1981-85  
Robert E. Taylor, 1951-55  
Donald J. Tedesco, 1949-57  
John E. Terrell, 1975-80, 1981-86  
Nicholas W. Thiemann, 1977-78  
Sally C. Thompson, 1959-61, 1968-69

Benjamin F. Tiley, 1990-91  
Earle L. Townsend, 1965-71  
Harry Traub, 1993-97  
William C. Turner, 1965-72  
James Valiante, 1955-57  
Joseph J. Valiante Jr., 1987-present  
Joseph V. Vallone, 1991-93  
Frances M. Van Siclen, 1991-93  
Wildes W. Veazie Jr., 1965-66  
John L. Vezendy, 1980-81  
William Vornkahl III, 1969-71  
Richard B. Wagner, 1967-71  
Hereward Wake, 1957-59  
Virginia G. Waldo, 1960-61  
Jonathon B. Walker, 1989-93  
William J. Walker, 1972-73  
Helen H. Warnock, 1949-51  
Joseph Donald Warren Jr., 1989-90  
Janis M. Wasserman, 1991-97  
Carol Ann Waxman, 1993-present  
Mary Gordon Webber, 1993-present  
David F. Wells, 1951-52  
Mary Moers Wenig, 1999-present  
Girard E. Wheeler, 1959-60  
Fred C. White, 1957-61  
John R. Wilhelm, 1961-67  
C. Daniel Wilson Jr., 1972-76  
Stephen W. Wolfe, 1979  
Arnold K. Wolgast, 1986-1989  
Lucia J. Wolgast, 1991-95  
David R. T. Wood, 1987-93  
Douglas R. Wood, 1980-89  
James K. Woog, 1961-63  
Herbert B. Woolley, 1959-61  
Barlow C. Wotton, 1965-69  
Stephen Yanklowitz, 1977  
Jane Young, 1983-89  
Theodore W. Youngling, 1977-87  
Steve Zakos, 1957-59  
Samuel C. Zurich, 1981

# The RTM Special 50th Anniversary Committee

*Gordon F. Joseloff, Chair*

*Richard A. Lowenstein*

*Wally Meyer*

*Lisa S. Rome*

*Ann Elizabeth Sheffer*

*Alice H. Shelton*

*Carol Ann Waxman*

*With special thanks to:*

*Lorrie Boynton*

*Betty Lou Cummings*

*Pamela Guthman*

*Rita Papazian*

*Patricia H. Strauss and the staff of the Town Clerk's Office*

*Edna Yergin*



Editor of the Standard-Free Press, Westport, Conn., under the act of March 8, 1937

### Westport Town Crier

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MEMBER: NATIONAL ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION

# Town To Vote Saturday On RTM Passes After Name-Change Marks Stormy Govt. CL

**RTM: backbone of Westport**  
W. News 8-26-77  
members consist of a cross-section of town residents from all backgrounds and issues, all of whom share a concern to be well managed. The RTM here took action on pending issues in Westport, including modernization of town library, new town library, Public Works, and so on.

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**Westport Calls for War Pullout**  
Town Meeting backs plea to Nixon by 17-to-15 vote  
BY JOHN DARNLEY  
The representative town meeting here—a successor to the old-time New England town meeting—usually convenes at the town hall.

**RTM's try to cut meetings**  
BY ELIZABETH PAYNE  
The problem of how to keep Representative Town Meetings from becoming unreasonably long was discussed but not resolved during an informal session recently called by moderator Mary Jenkins.

**Longshore: RTM Is Cautious In Everything But Final Vote**  
BY BUZ FAWCETT  
To a hearty ovation of some 500 spectators, Westport RTM voted a "yes" for the purchase of Longshore property Wednesday night. The "Yes" that the voters gave didn't misgivings that soon expressed before the suddenness of the

**RTM 'Open Forum'**  
bring matters up at contact the cushion of matters of concern to members, even if no action re-

VOL. 24, NO. 30 (USPS 857-040) WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1967

## Has the RTM gone partisan?

Some say 'yes' and...

**RTM wants more say in land deal**  
Representative Town Meeting NH 9/18/65  
agreement. First Selectman William Sydnor signed with the Westport RTM on the purchase of Longshore property.

## Will the RTM bite the dust?

property not covered updated Planning and commission action RTM be authorized to have state mandated