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# ANDOVER TOWNSMAN

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Photo by Lisa Adelsberger

Summertime, and there's an opportunity to do some fence leaning. Greg Stephens, from left, Tannor Efinger and Tommy Lane lean toward the camera for a recent shot.

## Rabbi Gendler is leaving Phillips Academy after 18 years

By Alix Driscoll

Everett Gendler is a complex man. At Phillips Academy he taught a course called "Responses to the Holocaust and Non-Violence." He advised both the Muslim and Jewish student unions. At home, he raises most of the food for his family at his homestead in West Andover. He has collected thousands of books, so many they



overflow into his barn. He's the pastor at Temple Emanuel in Lowell.

But that's not all. He served jail

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◀ Rabbi  
Gendler

## This poet, Jazz bops to a differ

By Neil Fater

In many ways, she is a cliché: tortured, misunderstood, an artist. Come to her door for a scheduled interview and she yells at you - no, barks at you - to go away. Eventually, you're let in by an apologetic housemate.



Jazz

Jazz - she goes only by this single name, like Madonna or Sting - is Andover's newest pop poet. And if she is misunderstood, it is because of her own actions. Wearing a neck collar during an interview, she answers no questions and at one point seems to fall asleep.

## Deja vu on youth

By Don Staruk

Vowing to move quickly on a plan to construct a building for youth activities at Recreation Park, selectmen Monday night asked the town manager to immediately begin work on the proposal and to report back to them at their next meeting. Sound familiar? That's because they did the exact same thing 13 months ago.

On May 9 of last year, the Andover Youth Council proposed the "Field of Dreams" youth center for Rec Park, and asked selectmen to help them build it.

"How do we proceed to go forward?" Bill Fahey, then the newly-hired youth services coordinator, asked selectmen at the time.

Selectmen were so impressed with the

## SHED finds a home

Shawsheen Extended Day and will be located in each element

By Neil Fater

The Shawsheen Extended Day and Kid's Club before-school program finally has a home for next year. Actually, it has several.

After months of uncertainty about the program's future placement, SHED administrators Tuesday watched the School Committee vote in favor of allowing a SHED before-

# Rabbi Gendler is leaving Phillips Academy

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time with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Albany, Ga.

Now, after 18 years as teacher and chaplain at Phillips Academy, Rabbi Gendler is leaving Andover Hill. He also has completed his position at the temple.

After celebrating the wedding of his older daughter, Tamar, on the family land in Great Barrington this summer, he and his wife, Mary, will leave in August for eight months in Asia. They plan a return to Dharamsala, India, and renewed friendships with the monks of Tibet led by the Dalai Lama. They will camp in the north of Vietnam and in Bali.

Upon his return, Rabbi Gendler has at least a dozen writing projects ahead. He plans to build a home in Great Barrington, in Western Massachusetts.

And Ms. Gendler, a trained psychologist and now a photographer, has been "shifting increasingly to the shutter," he says.

Rabbi Gendler lives the "Non Violence in Theory and Practice" course he taught at Phillips. He journeyed with Dr. King, and arrived for a respite in a Southern jail during the civil rights struggles of the early '60s.

"I led a group of 19 rabbis down to Birmingham, to the fire hoses in May 1963," after checking with Dr. King to see if he would welcome young Northern rabbis. The rabbi became well acquainted with Dr. King.

"We were jailed together in Albany, Georgia, in 1962."

At Phillips Academy, Rabbi Gendler's classes were real discussion sessions. Because he didn't have to tailor his four Phillips Academy religion and philosophy courses to the requirements of the Advanced Placement tests, "The classes could be genuine inquiries," he says.

Several years later, many of Rabbi Gendler's former students say their most engaging study and genuine inquiry was the rabbi's "Responses to the Holocaust" course.

His students analyzed the propaganda classic of the Nuremberg rallies, *Triumph of the Will* by Leni Riefenstahl, Hitler's filmmaker. They watched Charlie Chaplin's *Great Dictator*. They examined the issue from the point of view of the Treblinka death camp commandant. They read about the "little people of Germany," who found life for them was better under the dictator.

"Is the teacher sometimes an apologist for the Nazis?" more than one student has written in a course evaluation. Finally, Rabbi Gendler's students read Terrence DesPres' *The Survivor*, exploring the "fragility of life, but also the durability of life. Life really can assert itself over death," he says.

What amazes the rabbi is students have continued to sign up for this demanding course. Many plan several years in advance to take it.

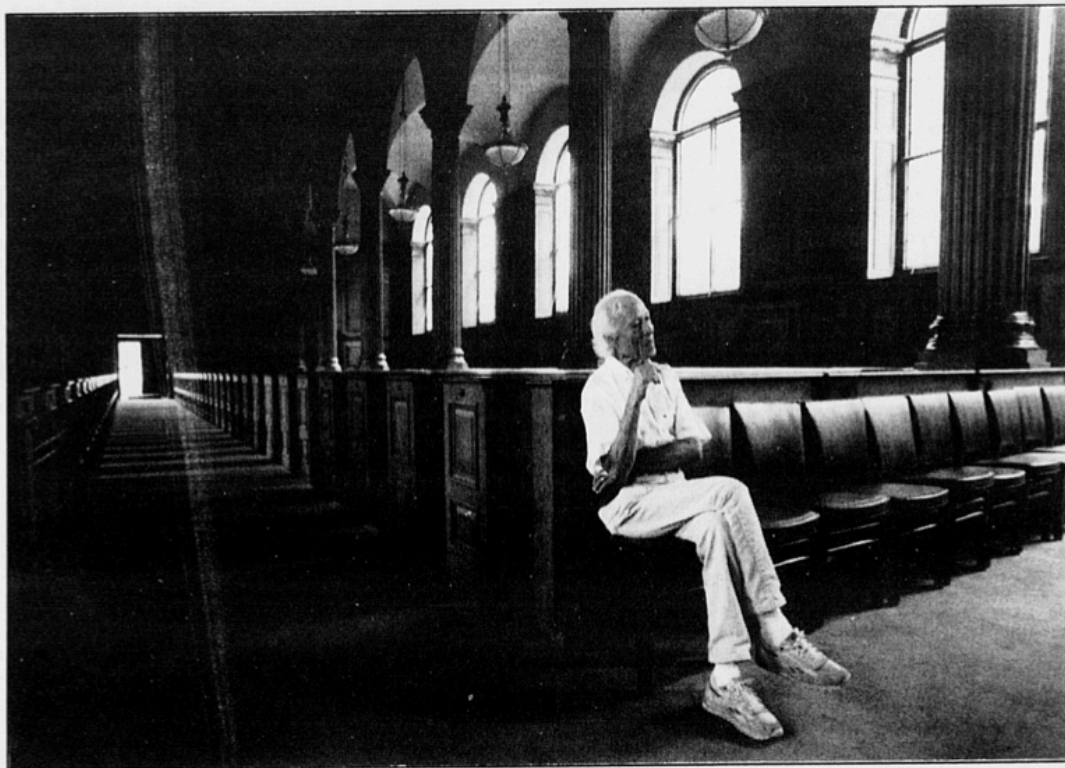


Photo by Lisa Adelsberger

Rabbi Everett Gendler sitting in the front row at Cochran Chapel, Phillips Academy.

"Introduction to Eastern Religions," another popular Phillips Academy course, blossomed from Rabbi Gendler's many months of travel and study in 1988.

"Islam came alive, Hinduism got quite a boost and Buddhism enjoyed a revived appreciation," he says.

That year, he and his wife journeyed to Nepal, Thailand, Dharamsala, Jordan, Sumatra, Istanbul and United Arab Emirates, to mention a few.

Colleagues say he has been a continual support to all the PA students who practice Eastern religions, some of whom are many time zones away from home while living at Phillips.

In 1971, the Gendlers settled at 227 Haggetts Pond Road. Rabbi Gendler joined Phillips in January 1977 for what was to be a six-month contract when "the school was beginning to experiment with an ecumenical chaplaincy," he says.

During the almost two decades he has particularly enjoyed the friendship of the Rev. Philip Zaeder, Phillips' Protestant chaplain and English teacher, whom he affectionately calls "Rebbe."

And now the rabbi, a wiry, soft-spoken, humanist, spiritual leader, complex man is opening new doors of experience.

"I turn 67 this summer. It deserves some respect. When we come back we will see how our energies are."

## Things have changed for Temple Emanuel in 75 years

By Neil Fater

Seventy-five years ago, if you looked skyward in Temple Emanuel you'd see the door to a hayloft. Now, you can actually see the sky. Things sure have changed.

When Temple Emanuel first opened, for instance, many were surprised that men and women were allowed to sit together. Some people also were offended because music was played, a good portion of the service was in English and the rabbi did not sport a beard.

"This was a change," said Thayer Warshaw, who had been a 5-year-old member of Temple Emanuel's first Sunday School. "The strictly Orthodox, those who remained Orthodox, were put out by the modern temple - and I'm putting this nicely."

Mr. Warshaw, the temple's unofficial historian, was one of many who celebrated Temple Emanuel's 75th anniversary during a Friday evening service June 16. Even though he has been a member of the congregation since the temple's beginning, he's not recognized by everyone. That's because Temple Emanuel's population has mushroomed from little more than the 27 families who signed the original incorporation papers to the 600 fami-

lies that worship there today.

### Beginnings

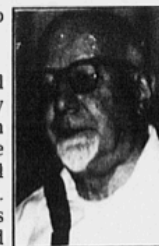
Temple Emanuel was originally located in Lawrence on the corner of Lowell and Milton streets. There, the founders secured land and bought a barn and a three-story mansion that had been used as an inn.

"The barn became the sanctuary and in the early days in the sanctuary it was possible to look up at the place where the Ark (to hold the sacred Torah) was kept and see the door to the hayloft," said Mr. Warshaw.

"They had services of different types to appeal to different constituencies and there were different dialects" spoken by the worshippers, said Mr. Warshaw. "It was a wonderful thing to listen to these people pray in their different tongues."

However, for many years the con-

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Thayer Warshaw, the temple's unofficial historian, speaking at Town Meeting.