Former Plainfield teacher shines with a top TV show

By Bob Queen
(AFRO Staff Writer)
NEWARK

PHILADELPHIA, PA. — It becomes a writer's dilemma as to just where to begin a story on Elleanor Jean Hendley, now as star of her own Philadelphia Channel 3, KYW-TV, No. 1 'City Lights' weekly show—or way back in 1973 when she was a social studies teacher in Plainfield N.J.'s Hubbard Junior High School and director of the school's Creative Dancers.

How to condense it looms as the main problem. If presented with just a simple list, it would be too long and to describe her accomplishments along the way might require a little book. And there's the question of what can be left out, for to begin with Elleanor's period at Hubbard Junior High is really almost the halfway mark in a quite crowded career.

"City Lights" is embarking on its 8th year in September 1987, an on-the-air magazine format that mixes interviews with top black celebrities from all walks of life and music and recording stars. Her show in the 7:30 p.m. time slot on Saturdays has rated the No.1 listening program for the past three years.

Polls reveal that she has drawn hundreds of black viewers away from such popular shows as 'Magnum P.I.'s 'Remington Steele' and 'St. Elsewhere.'

In an interview in the early 70's while she was still at Hubbard Junior High, Elleanor Jean made a most positive prediction. 'One day I'm going to be in television", she said.

As a side career? this reporter asked, and she replied, "No, it will be THE career."

But what a route it took and every step along the way a collection of testimonies to her endless talents and versatility. Thus it is necessary to go as far back when Elleanor Jean was six years old.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Hendley of Plainfield was enrolled in piano classes at this age (She is a highly rated concert pianist) and was a triple music scholarship winner at the Metropolitan Opera House. She studied with Nora Caperon of the Juilliard School of Music.

There followed piano recitals and guest appearances at such events as Business and Professional Women's luncheons in the Jersey City area where the family lived before settling in Plainfield. Her mother, Essie, taught in Jersey City for 10 years and also moved little Elleanor Jean into dancing school. Elleanor, however, was born in Savannah, Ga.

At JC's Lincoln High School, from where she graduated, Elleanor Jean was a member of the "Pep Squad", cut her journalistic teeth as a reporter for the school's paper, The Lincoln Leader, and in her final year was named "Queen" of the annual Jersey City NAACP Cotillion.

Her young life raced ahead to Wilberforce, Ohio and honored by the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity of Central State as "Miss Photogenic" and "Scroller Sweetheart." Graduating with a degree in elementary education, Miss Hendley was named by the fraternity as one of the 10 top college women.

ELLEANOR NOW—Star and producer of her Philly KYW-TV Channel 3, weekly City Lights show, Elleanor Hendley has developed the longest-running live show in the Delaware Valley as the program will within weeks enter its 8th straight year. Featuring personalities from entertainment to controversy and a mixture of music before a live audience, City Lights has won several awards. She recently accompanied a group of local students on a recreation of the 60's Freedom Rides south and gave daily reports to Channel 3 viewers as a news reporter.

It is at this point that a real 'list' becomes appropriate as episodes and changes in her life seem to come at a rapid clip. She experienced residency in France where she attended The Sorbonne and lived in several African and other European countries; She designs and once made a lot of her own clothes; became proficient at jewelry making (necklaces, bracelets etc.), at some time, finding time, her face began to crop up on the pages of Life, Essence and Ebony as a model for hairstyles and wigs.

This brings us to the area of 1971-73 when a news release issued by the Public Schools of Plainfield, NJ, was headed as follows: "Creative Dance Group Coached by Creative Teacher." Their routine was described as "creative choreography of jazz, hard rock and Latin musical favorites," under the direction of Miss Elleanor Hendley, social studies teacher at Hubbard."

It all began as a charm club meeting in the morning before the opening of classes. The girls, Wanda Stevens, Darlene Carter, Vanessa Burton, Grace Ruderson, Victoria Johnson, Rosemary Brodie, Della Damon and Rudi Davis learned how to walk, eat, sit and apply makeup. The close comradeship grew from charm to an interest in the dance.

The girls told of Elleanor's intense work, creating the steps, helping make and adjusting the costumes often practicing until after 6 p.m. on school days. She choreographed one number especially for Rudi Davis, the only male member.

It all paid off with one grand honor—They took first place in the Plainfield Teen Arts Festival in the modern dance division and were selected to participate in the statewide teen arts program at the Trenton Museum.

With the creative dancers behind, we find our heroine beginning to ease into the field of communication and television where she shines brightly today. There was a stint while doing the other things above—as a weekly columnist in 1972 for the Plainfield Voice newspaper; also the same for The Philadelphia Tribune and wrote several articles for the NJ AFRO-AMERICAN.

The first nip on TV came when she performed in several programs over New Jersey Public TV Channel 52, including her prowess as a dancer and then to accept a job at WHP-TV, Harrisburg, Pa. as a news reporter and talk show producer and host. Here she was given a citation by the governor for a TV news series she wrote, produced and reported.

It was almost inevitable that Philadelphia would be next on the line and in 1979, Elleanor Jean Hendley arrived at KYW-TV, Channel 3, to produce and host the long-running "City Lights."

Elleanor is a familiar face on Philly's KYW-Channel 3 whose signals often reach out as far as her Plainfield, NJ, and where she is also a general assignment reporter and very recently completed one of her most unique coverages.

In mid-July she accompanied a number of college students on a recreation of the historic Freedom Rights to Selma, Ala. following the march of the civil rights activists with Dr. Martin Luther King. Leaving Philly by bus, they continued on to Montgomery where they talked with many veterans of the rides that caused blood, sweat and tears in the 60's.

The journey moved into Atlanta, where the group participated in the four-day summer workshop by the Martin Luther King Center on non-violent change. As Miss Hendley reported on the ride's progress each day on Channel 3's early evening news and the Eyewitness News slots, the group stopped off enroute back at the South African Embassy in Washington for an anti-Apartheid protest. The current day odyssey ended July 24 at the Liberty Bell and welcome by Mayor W. Wilson Goode.

The popularity and longevity of her City Lights show can be credited not only to Elleanor's personality, but its unique format. Although geared to a black audience, plus a usually packed studio audience, she has key white guests who have input with the black community.

A sampling of some of the prominent guests she has interviewed on City Lights, reveals why her viewing audience makes it a weekly must—Charles Fuller, Pulitzer prize-winning playwright; Patti LaBelle, Johnny Mathis, Stevie Wonder, Dexter Gordon, Rev. Leon H. Sullivan, Jesse Jackson, Gospel Star Shirley Caesar and many of similar stature.

While she has made her mark in so many ways, going back to Hubbard Junior High and beyond, her influence upon the Delaware Valley listening is assured of posterity, for last spring she presented a collection of video tapes of her programs to the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum for the museums archives.

A GREAT CITY DESERVES GREAT DOWNTOWN SHOPPING●

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION CEREMONY
Thursday, September 3
12:00 Noon
CORNER OF PRATT AND CALVERT STREETS
Join the Baltimore City Brass Band, students from the Peabody Preparatory, and the Morgan State Choir as we salute the children of Baltimore at the opening of the city's newest retail destination, complete with a ceremonial cake cutting and a grand finale extravaganza●

GRAND OPENING FESTIVITIES
Thursday, September 3, through Monday, September 7
The grand opening festivities continue each day with musical performances, fall fashion previews, strolling entertainment, and samplings of the best of The Gallery at Harborplace. There are 1,150 new on-site parking spaces for your convenience, and more than 16,600 spaces are available within a short walk●

You're invited to join us Thursday, September 3, at noon for a great day in downtown Baltimore. It's the day The Gallery at Harborplace opens with a grand celebration, a special Americana concert at 9:00 P.M., and five days of festivities through Monday, September 7. The Gallery at Harborplace brings great shopping to our great city. You'll find four levels of shopping and dining in a dramatic glass-enclosed atrium, connected to Harborplace and the Inner Harbor by an overhead walkway. You'll discover new stores and hometown favorites, including Brooks Brothers, The Sharper Image, Ann Taylor, Gap Kids and Banana Republic. We'll also have on-site parking for 1,150 cars. And soon, a luxury Stouffer Hotel and the Legg Mason office tower. Most of all, you'll rediscover downtown Baltimore as your newest downtown shopping destination. A place to come, to shop, to enjoy, to sample, and to share in the life of a great city. So join us Thursday, September 3, as The Gallery at Harborplace brings great downtown shopping to Baltimore●

A GREAT CITY DESERVES A GREAT NIGHT OF CELEBRATION
Thursday, September 3
9:00 P.M.
MCKELDIN SQUARE—AT THE TRIANGLE OF PRATT, CALVERT AND LIGHT STREETS
Come join us for an unforgettable Americana concert in celebration of our great city, featuring the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, the Morgan State Choir, the Chorus of the Chesapeake, the concert premiere of the Baltimore City Brass Band, special guest star Lady Rebecca, and a finale spectacular saluting Baltimore. Rain date is Sunday, September 6, at 7:00 P.M.●

THE GALLERY HARBORPLACE

The Gallery at Harborplace celebrates Baltimore Sept. 3-7.

75 shops and eating places open Monday-Saturday, 10 A.M.–10 P.M.; Sunday, noon–8 P.M.

AIDS cases growing

By Denise Smith
AFRO Staff Writer

The number of AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, (AIDS) reports are expected to rise this year in the state and nation, because of new reporting requirements developed by the national Centers for Disease Control.

Maryland's reported AIDS cases are expected to jump by 20 to 30 percent, said an official with the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Aids Administration.

"The expanded definition," said Mr. Cyros Hamidi, Epidemiologist for the AIDS Administration, "should provide a more accurate representation of the problem and the impact of the AIDS epidemic in Maryland and the United States."

The revised AIDS case definition, according to Mr. Hamidi, will help the AIDS Administration in planning for then needed services.

Under the narrower definition, there was 173 cases reported in Maryland as of January 1987, and 677 to date.

The Living Church

Maryland Food Committee honors local deacon

The Maryland Food Committee presented the "Silver Plate Award" to Deacon Harcum Phillips of St. Bernadine's Church Sunday, August 30 at an appreciation dinner held at St. John's AME Church, 810 N. Carrollton Ave.

At this occasion, the Maryland Food Committee announced the Governor's declaration of September as Hunger Month in Maryland. Also, individuals and organizations were recognized for their efforts in working to end hunger in Maryland.

Harcum has served as a deacon at St. Bernadine's since his assignment there in July, 1980. He was formerly a Deacon at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church, 1542 N. Gilmor St. where he was ordained as a permanent deacon in 1973.

Since his assignment at St. Bernadine's, Harcum has been instrumental in the establishment and operation of an emergency food pantry, and also a food co-op.

The pantry is operated Monday through Friday between the horus of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and during emergencies. Harcum said it serves an estimated number of 40 to 50 people each month.

The co-op, which is operated twice a month, provides a way for people to purchase food such as fruits, vegetables, fish, and chicken at wholesale prices. According to Harcum, 250 to 300 persons have registered to be members of the food co-op.

The keynote speaker for the awards program was former Congressman Parren J. Mitchell. He spoke of the need for Americans to be concerned about the poor and hungry people of this country and other nations.

Congressman Kweisi Mfume also spoke at the event.

The appreciation dinner serves as the kick-off activity for the Maryland Food Committee's major annual fundraising effort, the Hunger Appeal. The Food Committee is the only statewide, private non-profit anti-hunger organization in Maryland.

Pictured above is Deacon Phillip Harcum of St. Bernadine's Church being presented an award by Virginia Beverly, Emergency Services coordinator at the Maryland Food Committee.

Pictured above is Mr. Keith Bailey at the consecration service of the new building, 1942 W. North Ave., where Your Neighborhood Florist is housed.

Florist business blooms

By Maxine L. Wallace

Seven years after opening his florist shop in the basement rented building, Keith Bailey Saturday celebrated the grand opening of a modern shop at 1942 W. North Ave.

Councilman Nathaniel McFadden was present at the opening of Your Neighborhood Florist and cut the ribbons. He also gave a presentation from Mayor Clarence "Du" Burns and the City Council. Mr. McFadden spoke of the struggles that both he and Mr. Bailey had to make their dreams come true. Bailey said he and McFadden are cousins.

The building was consecrated as seven ministers from the Baltimore area officiated at the praying and anointing service Elder George Wilson of Pentecostal United Holy Church of America, 204 N. Mount St., prayed over the water used for anointing. Rev. Ronald Muse, of the United Pentecostal Miracle Center, 2620 Quantico Ave., presided over the service.

Other ministers taking part included Evangelist Ethel White from Celestial Pentecostal Church of God, 4244 Reisterstown Road, Elder Lewis Lambert and Evangelist Frazier of Baltimore, Dr. Ronald Armstrong, of the Armstrong Singers in Baltimore; and Rev. Danny Bellamy of the Cherry Hill Community Choir.

Bailey also gave a short speech. His theme was "I've Come this Far by Faith." In his speech, Bailey reflected upon his journey from starting the florist in a basement on Pennsylvania Avenue, when he actually lived in the shop, to the present.

Bailey said the name of the shop was changed from Eternal Life Florist so that those who were not Christians would not feel unwelcome.

Refreshments were donated by Cake House Bakery, 3133 W. Belvedere Ave.; and also Miller's Cakes, 6709 Reisterstown Road. Flowers were donated by Jay Slate, Seick of Claymore Florists at 311 E. Chase St., who also helped in the ribbon cutting.

Music was provided by Deacon Odell from St. Peter's Church of God. A wreath that hung on the outside of the building as a part of the scenic decorations was designed and donated by floral designer Sandy Cunningham.

More than a hundred ministers were present at the ribbon cutting and consecration service and approximately 200 attended, according to Bailey.

Your Neighborhood Florist will open for business at its new location on Saturday, September 5 at 10 a.m. Scheduled hours are Monday through Sunday, 10 a.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Rev. Joseph E. Lowery

Sharp Street Bicentennial planned

The celebration of the 200th anniversary of Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church, 1206 Etting St. will culminate on Friday, October 23 with a Bicentennial Banquet at the Palladium. The keynote speaker for the occasion will be Rev. Joseph E. Lowery, Executive Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which he co-founded with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Lowery is the pastor of Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta, GA., and is an internationally acclaimed lecturer.

Sharp Street has served the spiritual and social needs of the black community since its first worship service held in Old Jacob Forte's basement in 1787.

The congregation has had among its membership such notable national leaders as Lillie Carroll Jackson, freedom fighter and NAACP organizer; the man known as the "101st Senator," Clarence Mitchell, Jr., and the great Frederick Douglass, who sang on the choir at Sharp Street.

More than a thousand guests are expected to celebrate with Sharp Street at the Palladium in October. Among those expected are ministers and members representing sister churches of other denominations; city, state, and federal government officials; and well known leaders from the business community.

Sharp Street Memorial is recognized as the Mother Church of Black Methodism by virtue of being the first black congregation in the state of MD. Its pastor is the Rev. Eugene W. Matthews, Rev. Leon H. White is the Associate Pastor.

Rev. Dr. James A. Everett, D.D.

Pastor's retirement planned

The Rev. James A. Everett of New Shiloh Baptist Church, 105 East Ave. in Turner Station, will be honored at a retirement banquet, Dec. 7 at La Fontaine Bleu.

Everett, 65, is a native of North Carolina who is credited with rebuilding New Shiloh.

He arrived at the church in 1953, and under his leadership a new building was erected for the congregation, and the numer of parishioners increased dramatically.

Prior to arriving in Baltimore, Everett served as pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church in Gastonia, N.C., St. Thomas Baptist Church of Portsmouth, Va. Mt. Sinai Baptist Church of Ivor, Va., and Mt. Carmel Baptist Church of Portsmouth, Va.

Everett is a graduate of Shaw University, and holds a doctorate of divinity degree from Howard University.

Everett has been a leader in the Baltimore community. He has served as president of the Dundalk-Sparrows Point branch of the NAACP and the Baltimore Baptist Ministers' Conference.

He has been a member of numerous organizations, including the National Baptist Convention, the Hampton Ministers' Conference, the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Board, the United Missionary Baptist Convention of Maryland and Clergy in Action.

A WORD OF HOPE

Maxine L. Wallace
Church News Editor

"My Endless Love"

In life, so many things are prone to change. Children grow up.... Summer turns to Fall... values and attitudes change... friends come and go. But there is one thing that does not change; and that is God's Love for us:

"The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, 'Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee." (Jeremiah 31:3).

And so it is that God loves us with an everlasting love. He does not love us today and then not love us tomorrow, but His Love for us is constant . . . It never runs out. God's love is the same yesterday, today and forevermore!

In life, we often experience love that is superficial ...love that only last as long as we are fulfilling some need or desire of another individual. We often find ourselves loving because of instead of in spite of. And so we find the attitude taken by many is "If you scratch my back, I'll scratch your . . . .If you love me, I'll love you."

We even find the attitude that I will love you to the degree that you love me. In life, we often give and receive superficial love.

Then there are others who cannot relate to love at all. They feel lonely and rejected, as if no one loves them or even cares. Have you ever been in a crowd but somehow felt as if you were all by yourself?

Well, the Bible says that we are never alone: for God has promised never to leave us or forsake us. My friends, know that God cares for you... know that He loves you with an everlasting love. Does Jesus care when my heart is pained too deeply for song or mirth? Oh Yes He cares... I know He cares ... I know my Savior cares. Because God loves us, He cares.

God's love is so real in my life. I experience His love when He kisses my face with the morning sunshine to awake me from last night's sleep. I experience His love when He causes a gentle breeze to come my way on hot summer's eve. I experience His love when He wraps His arms of love and protection around me and keep me from all harm. I experience His love when He causes a river of peace to flood my soul in the midst of the raging storms in my life. God's love is so real to me.

Do you feel like nobody loves you today?... God loves you. God loves us with an undying love... He loves us with an unfailing love. He loves us with a love that does not give up... He loves us with a real love.

Because He loves us, His mercies are new every morning... Because He loves us, He is our rock and our refuge ...Because He loves us, no good thing will He withhold from us— if we diligently seek Him: But He will give us the desires of our heart.

The Bible says "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him... shall not perish but have everlasting life." Greater love than this has no man, that he would lay down his life for a friend.

Therefore with loving kindness has He drawn us. He has drawn us out of darkness and into His marvelous light. Thus He calls us to His peace, to His love, to His joy. God loves us with an everlasting love... For that reason, He is to me, "My endless love."

Metro Church Briefs

Chancel Choir of Shiloh in concert

In celebration of its 40th Anniversary, the Chancel Choir of Shiloh Christian Community Church will present a full fall concert on Sunday, Sept. 27 in the main sanctuary of the church, beginning at 6 p.m. The church address is 2500 W. Lombard St.

Fall Food Market sponsored by New Shiloh

The Food Co-op of the New Shiloh Baptist Church invites you to come and shop at their Fall Food Market, Saturday, Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Shoppers will be able to purchase fresh poultry, meats, seafood, baked goods, fruits and many other items.

It will be held at New Shiloh's Outreach Center at Clifton Avenue and Payson Street.

Call 523-5306/523-5308.

Baptist Missionary Convention board meeting scheduled

There will be a monthly board meeting of the United Baptist Missionary Convention and Auxiliaries Tuesday, Sept. 8, 10 a.m. at the Baptist Center, 1424 McCulloh St.

Music ministry of Phil Driscoll scheduled

Enjoy the music ministry of Phil Driscoll, Sunday, Sept. 13, 7 p.m. at Faith Christian Worship Center, 125 N. Hilton St. Call 362-9200.

Installation services at Little Ark

The Little Ark Missionary Baptist church, 1263 East North Ave. will hold a week of Installation Services Sept. 21 through 25 for the pastor-elect, Rev. James Lee Carter. Rev. Carter will be formally installed on Sunday, Sept. 27, at 3:30 p.m.

An Installation Banquet will be held in his honor at the Palladium, 2900 Liberty Heights Avenue, on Monday, Sept. 28, at 7 p.m. Call 448-0910.

Women's Day at Church of St. Cecelia

The Church of Saint Cecelia, situated at the corner of Windsor Avenue and N. Hilton Street, will celebrate Women's Day on Sunday, Sept. 13. Services will begin at the 10 a.m. Mass.

The guest speaker is Baltimore City Councilwoman Agnes Welch. Refreshments will follow the Mass.

The theme is "Christian Women With Strength and Unity." All are welcome. Call the church at 624-3600.

Baby contest scheduled at Simmons Memorial

There will be a Baby Contest at Simmons Memorial Baptist Church on Sunday, Sept. 13 at 6 p.m. This contest is sponsored by Brother Robert Purnell for the benefit of Men's Day. Simmons Memorial is situated at the corner of Pennsylvania Ave. and Cumberland St.

Carter Robinson is the chairman of Men's Day. James P. Thornton, Jr. is the program chairman, and Dr. William King is the church pastor.

Fall classes to start at Bethel Bible Institute

The Bethel Bible Institute Center for Theological and Ministry Preparation will open for its Fall semester of classes on Sept. 13. Learn about the Gifts of the Spirit, How to Study God's Word. Interces-

(Continued on page 18)

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