



# EASTLAND DISASTER

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

100th Anniversary Commemoration • July 24-26, 2015  
*Author Panel*



**Amy Stefhon: Stepdaughter of the late George W. Hilton**  
***Eastland: Legacy of the Titanic* (Author George. W. Hilton)**  
**Comprehensive documentary, 1995**

Amy Stefhon and her daughter will represent the heart, soul, and spirit of her stepfather, the late George W. Hilton. Hilton was a historian, economist, professor, and author. He taught at the University of California at Los Angeles and UCLA. He served as the Acting Curator of Rail Transportation at the Smithsonian Institution from July 1968 through June 1969. He died in 2014 at age 89.



**Jay Bonansinga: Author**  
***Sinking of the Eastland***  
**Narrative non-fiction, 2004**

Jay Bonansinga is a New York Times best-selling author of 22 books, including the Bram Stoker finalist *The Black Mariah*, the International Thriller Writers Award finalist *Shattered*, and the wildly popular *Walking Dead* novels. Jay has been called “one of the most imaginative writers of thrillers” by the *Chicago Tribune*. In 2004, Jay’s non-fiction debut, *The Sinking of the Eastland*, was published and received national acclaim. The novel also became a source for the hit musical, *Eastland: A New Musical*.



**Ted Wachholz: Executive Director and Chief Historian, EDHS**  
***The Eastland Disaster***  
**Photo essay, 2005**

Ted Wachholz authored the third book ever written about the *Eastland* Disaster. Now in its fourth printing, the book combines captivating images and compelling narrative from firsthand accounts of families of victims, survivors, responders, and others directly affected by the tragedy. Ted’s passion and interest was sparked by his personal connection to the tragedy: His wife’s grandmother, Borghild “Bobbie” Aanstad, survived the tragedy.



**Andrew White: Artistic Director**  
***Eastland: A New Musical***  
**Musical, 2011**

Andrew White is a founding Ensemble member of the Lookingglass Theatre Company. He has performed and/or participated in the creation of more than 40 original Lookingglass productions, including writing and directing the 1989 production of *Of One Blood* about the 1964 murders of Schwerner, Chaney and Goodman; an adaptation of George Orwell’s *1984*; and the book and lyrics for *Eastland: A New Musical*.



**Marian Cheatham: Author**  
***Eastland***  
**Young adult fiction, 2012**

Marian Cheatham is a fulltime writer of contemporary and historical young adult fiction. A graduate of Northern Illinois University, Marian taught special education and worked in the business world before pursuing her dream of becoming a writer. Marian presents about the *Eastland* to schools, libraries, and book clubs. She writes a post on the subject in the *Tribune’s* “Chicago Now” blog.



**Michael McCarthy: Author**  
***Ashes Under Water***  
**Narrative non-fiction, 2014**

Michael McCarthy, who learned to sail on Lake Michigan, worked for the *Wall Street Journal* for 22 years, first as a reporter and then an editor on feature stories. He is the author of *The Sun Farmer* and has been published in *The Southern Review*, among other publications. He spent 12 years researching the *Eastland* case. He has lived in Chicago and now resides in South Haven, Michigan — two ports of call in the *Eastland* story.



# EASTLAND DISASTER

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

100th Anniversary Commemoration • July 24-26, 2015  
*Author Panel*



**Catherine Lantz and Dennis Schlagheck**

***Hawthorne Works***

**Photo essay, 2014**

Catherine Lantz first heard of the Western Electric story while working as a reference librarian at Morton Community College, which is also the home of the Hawthorne Works Museum. Originally from Southern California, she enjoys reading about Chicago and the Midwest. Catherine currently is a Reference Librarian at the University of Illinois at Chicago.



Dennis Schlagheck is a Reference Librarian at Morton College in Cicero, Illinois, where he regularly conducts tours for school groups, researchers and community members at the Hawthorne Works Museum on campus. He and Catherine Lantz co-authored Arcadia Publishing's *Hawthorne Works*. Dennis is a fifth generation Chicagoan with a BA in History from Roosevelt University and a Master's degree in Library Science from Dominican University. His interests include local history and genealogy. He and his wife Tess live on Chicago's Northwest Side.



**Sue Barwick, Kelly Barwick, and Mary G. Furlong: Authors, Musicians**

**"Sylvia's Story"**

**Common core aligned resource, 2015**

Susan Barwick, an Illinois State Teacher of the Year Award of Merit recipient, has taught in primary, intermediate and special education classrooms. She holds a Master's Degree in Education and currently teaches fifth grade in the Chicago suburbs. Susan enjoys reading, writing, drawing, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. The love of history and of her grandmother Sylvia led Susan to write "Sylvia's Story." She is the proud mother of a daughter Kelly and lives with her four-legged girl Lilah in the Chicago area.



Kelly Barwick is a graduate of Columbia College Chicago's fiction writing program, and will graduate in June from National Louis University with her Masters of Arts in Teaching Secondary Education - English. She is honored to sing "Sylvia's Song," based on her great-grandmother's role in the *Eastland* Disaster and written by Mary G. Furlong. She is very proud of her mother Susan for bringing Sylvia's tale to the page.

Mary G. Furlong is an award-winning children's author and musician who integrates original music and stories into core classroom subjects such as geography, science, and history. In addition to Sylvia's Song, Mary is the author/composer of other song-stories including: Nile, Nile Crocodile; 5 Monkeys & Little Crocodile; and Little Fido: The History of the Civil War Through the Eyes of Abraham Lincoln's Beloved Dog. A native of Wisconsin, Mary is an avid Packer and Cubs fan. She lives in the Chicago area with her husband T.C., two dogs, and two sons.



**Graham Lee: Author**

***Fujita—A Portrait of Jun Fujita: Photographer and Poet***

**Biography, 2016**

Graham Lee is the grand-nephew of Jun Fujita, who photographed the *Eastland* Disaster for the *Chicago Evening Post*. Lee spent the last four years researching Fujita's life, retracing his grand-uncle's footsteps, and creating a story that combines a rich family history with historical and personal photographs. The culmination of his work will be published in the forthcoming biography, *Fujita—A Portrait of Jun Fujita: Photographer and Poet*. The project is dedicated to his family and the stories that connect us all.