

# The Call to Remember

Newsletter - Vol. IV, No. 3

EASTLAND DISASTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Nov/Dec 2002

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



We recently concluded our fourth year of serving our many donors, members, and constituents.

We are looking ahead to our fifth year with more optimism and enthusiasm than ever before. Here are but a few of the reasons why.

**Organizationally we are much stronger.** Our new board members are contributing in many ways, and they are helping to shape and position us for the future.

**Personal interest is increasing.** The number of people subscribing to our mailing list is up 48%. The number of donors is increasing as is the average dollar amount of each gift.

**Organizational interest is increasing.** The number of libraries, senior centers, historical societies, and genealogy societies contracting us to present to their patrons or members is increasing.

## COMING TO BLUE ISLAND

We will be presenting at the Blue Island Public Library on Thursday, February 13, beginning at 7:30pm. This program is available to the public - we hope to greet you there!

## HISTORICAL MARKER TO BE REDEDICATED

The historical marker that commemorated the site of the Eastland Disaster for over ten years disappeared in the spring of 2000. A replacement marker was ordered shortly after and has been in storage awaiting the completion of the construction along Wacker Drive in Chicago.



Now that the "Revive Wacker Drive" reconstruction project has been completed, we are making plans to rededicate the new marker. The rededication ceremony will be held Thursday

morning, July 24. Please join us!

The new marker is a near-replica of the original marker that stood from 1989 through 2000. The original marker was erected by the [Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy](#). The replacement marker was co-funded by the *Eastland* Disaster Historical Society and the [Chicago Public Art Program](#) of the [Department of Cultural Affairs](#) in coordination with the [Illinois State Historical Society](#).

For more information about the marker rededication ceremony, please contact the *Eastland* Disaster Historical Society.

The 20-Month, \$200 Million *Revive Wacker Drive* project was completed last November on schedule and within budget. The photos show Wacker Drive as of June 2001 and November 2002.



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## SPECIAL EVENTS

In addition to the marker rededication ceremony and program (see previous article), we are planning other special events throughout the year. We already have tentative plans for a second event that is being scheduled for Saturday, December 13, beginning at 2:00pm. It will be an event that the entire family can enjoy, and seating will be limited. Mark this date on your calendar!

## CHICAGO DAILY NEWS PHOTOS

The Chicago Daily News was founded in 1875 and ceased publication on March 4, 1978. In April 1960, its owner, Field Enterprises, gave the newspaper's approximately 83,000 glass plate negatives to the Chicago Historical Society. Of these, the oldest negatives - approximately 55,000 - were selected for digitizing and are now available online via the Internet. Included in this incredible collection are over 100 images related to the Eastland Disaster. To see this photo collection, go to <http://memory.loc.gov>, click on the "search" button, and then type "eastland disaster" into the search area. (Once the list of *Eastland* Disaster images appears, it is easier to view these by clicking on the "gallery view" button.)

## DOCUMENTARY AWARDED EMMY

"*The Eastland Disaster*," a documentary written and produced by Harvey Moshman

(WTTW) and Chuck Coppola (formerly with WGN), won two Regional Emmy Awards at the 44th Annual Midwest Emmy Awards in Chicago on Saturday, November 23, 2002. The documentary told the story of how the gala annual picnic for Western Electric employees turned tragic,



ending in a fire that killed over 800 people.

The program, which appeared as part of WTTW's *Chicago Stories* series and was narrated by host John Callaway, originally aired on November 7, 2001. The Emmys were awarded in the categories of "Historical Documentary" and "Best Writer." Both Harvey and Chuck were recognized with a Best Writer Emmy.

"We commend Harvey, Chuck, WTTW and all others who contributed to this fine program for the attention it has brought to this obscure yet important piece of Chicago's history," said Susan Decker, vice president of the Eastland Disaster Historical Society. "Our Society is very grateful for having been a key resource in the making of this documentary, and we are especially grateful for the friendships we developed in Harvey and Chuck through our working together."

"*The Eastland Disaster*" is available on videotape through the Eastland Disaster Historical Society.

WTTW 11, which led all stations by receiving a total of twelve Emmys, is the public broadcast portion of Network Chicago. Network Chicago's mission is to help people living in and around Chicago to better connect with all that the great city has to offer. Television, radio, print, internet and events work in concert to allow that connection to happen when, where and how people may want. WTTW content is driven by their commitment to three key things: Helping people engage the rich cultural life of Chicago; helping people to discover and learn about Chicago's diverse community life; providing a safe haven for all Chicago families for learning and fun.