

# The Call to Remember

Newsletter - Vol. VI, No. 3

EASTLAND DISASTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May/June 2004

## A BENEFIT OF VOLUNTEERING

Chicagoan Kay Wade recently volunteered for the *Chicago River Day* river clean up, joining thousands of other volunteers all along the Chicago River in an effort to cleanup the river's garbage and debris. (See related article under "Feature Organization".) During the afternoon she stopped at the festival that was held to celebrate the efforts of the volunteers.

While enjoying the afternoon festival that included free food and a live band, Kay visited the booth that was hosted by EDHS and signed up to join the EDHS mailing list. In doing so she became eligible to win a gift certificate to Bob Chinn's Crab House of Chicago.

Kay's entry was the lucky one pulled from the dozens entered. Volunteering has many benefits, including those that are unanticipated!

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

EDHS is a non-profit, all volunteer organization. We depend upon volunteers to take an active part in helping the organization grow. Is there any reason you wouldn't consider volunteering a few hours a month to help with the following tasks?

- Newsletter and other mailings
- Special events
- Correspondence to inquiries
- Web site programming
- Other

You may have skills that you developed in your personal or professional life or through leadership in other organizations that would be of great value to us. Please call us and discover the joy in volunteering.



## PUBLIC PROGRAM (INCL. JAY!)

We will be presenting our *Eastland* Disaster public program at the Evanston (Ill.) Public Library on Tuesday, September 14, at 7:00 p.m. The library is located at 1703 Orrington Avenue (at Church St.). Please call the library at 847-866-0300 for more information.

Author Jay Bonansinga, a resident of Evanston, will be joining us to read from his book, *THE SINKING OF THE EASTLAND: America's Forgotten Tragedy*.

## CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

Join the *Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery* on Sunday, September 19th for a walking tour of Bohemian National Cemetery, 5255 N. Pulaski Road, Chicago (773-539-8442). The tour begins at 10:00 a.m. Noted historian Albert Walavich, an expert on all the marvelous monuments, will lead the tour and answer questions (including those about Section 16 where many of the *Eastland* Disaster victims are buried). Refreshments to be served at 9:30 a.m. in the Gatehouse.



(Monument to "Mother" at Bohemian National.)

Tickets are \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members. Checks may be made payable to *Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery*, c/o Ray Capek, 652 Cedar Avenue, Elmhurst, IL, 60126. Please contact Ray Capek for additional information at 630-834-8291 or raycapek@att.net.

## EASTLAND CORNER

Charles Carroll and Irene McDonald were hard-working, blue collar laborers at the Western Electric Company. Upon boarding the *Eastland*, they remained on the upper deck to view the river and to watch people board. As the *Eastland* rolled over into the river, Charles helped Irene grab hold of the ship's railing, ensuring that she was safe. They remained together clinging onto the railings until they were rescued and helped off of the ship.

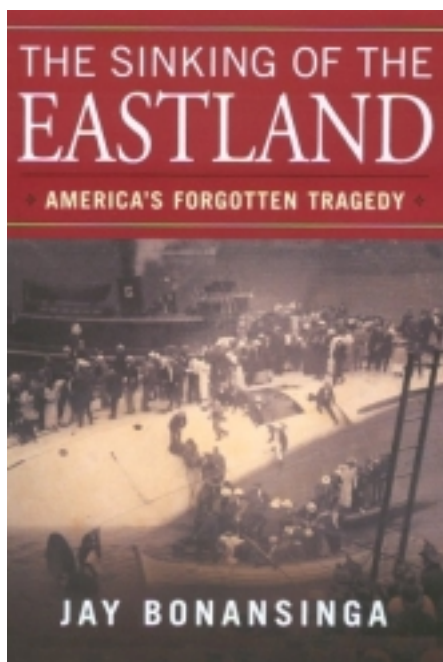


(Charles Carroll and Irene McDonald.)

Charles and Irene were married later that year, and subsequently raised five children.

(If you have a personal connection to the *Eastland* Disaster, please consider submitting your family's story and photos to us.)

## JAY BONANSINGA BOOK UPDATE



The first week of June began the summer promotional efforts for Jay's book. A very busy first weekend began with Jay's agent, *Peter Miller & Associates*, hosting a grand kickoff party at the exclusive *Tavern Club* on Michigan Avenue in downtown Chicago. Numerous VIP guests attended and were treated to fine food, beverage, and a mix of programs including an *Eastland* Disaster exhibit, a special greeting and announcement by Jay, and a folk-rock-Americana musical performance by one of Chicago's leading bands, *Angel Paint*.

Following this late night gathering, Jay was off to the 3-day *Book Expo America 2004* (BEA) at McCormick Place in Chicago.



(Opening day crowd at BEA 2004.)

BEA is the premier event serving the U.S. book publishing industry with more than 2,000 exhibits, 500 authors, and over 100 conference sessions. *THE SINKING OF THE EASTLAND: America's Forgotten Tragedy* is one of the lead titles this fall for Kensington Publishing, and visibility for the book was quite good.



(*THE SINKING OF THE EASTLAND* was showcased with an oversized, well-lit display.)

Jay also had time for a 30-minute author signing (extended to 60 minutes because of the large crowd that had lined up for Jay!), and he also squeezed in an appearance at the Printer's Row Book Fair held this same weekend.

For the tens of thousands of attendees of *Book Expo America 2004*, the highlight may have been seeing former President Bill Clinton, comedian George Carlin, or actor Jamie Lee Curtis. For us, it was seeing author Jay Bonansinga and *Kensington Publishing Corporation* promoting *THE SINKING OF THE EASTLAND: America's Forgotten Tragedy* to the international audience.



(Thousands of people walked through the Kensington Publishing area at McCormick Place.)

## FEATURED ORGANIZATION

EDHS sponsored a booth at the Chicago River Day Festival held Saturday, May 8. The weather was perfect for the 3,000 volunteers who worked throughout the morning helping to clean up over 50 sites along the Chicago River.



(Many volunteers stopped at the EDHS booth and learned about the *Eastland* Disaster.)

The event was organized by *Friends of the Chicago River*. The *Friends* organization fosters the vitality of the Chicago River for the human, plant, and animal communities within its watershed. They actively pursue on-the-ground projects that have a real impact on the Chicago River and, at the same time, reconnect people to the Chicago River and to their communities. For more information, visit them at [www.chicagoriver.org](http://www.chicagoriver.org) on the Internet, or call 312-939-0490.

## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

There are numerous ways in which you may help the Society expand its programs and services. These include:

- Becoming a member.
- Making a donation.
- Attending our public programs, and encouraging others to attend.
- Purchasing EDHS merchandise as gifts for others.
- Volunteering a couple of hours each month. (See related articles in column 1 of page 1.)

Please call us to discover how you can help EDHS grow and discover the joys of personally making a difference.