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