



**EASTLAND
DISASTER**
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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EASTLAND DISASTER 100TH ANNIVERSARY

1915 - 2015

**100TH COMMEMORATION WEEKEND
FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JULY 24-26, 2015**

YOUR WEEKEND HOST



EASTLAND DISASTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Welcome to the Chicago Riverwalk for the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Eastland Disaster. Whether or not you have a personal family connection to the tragedy, we hope that your participation in this historic weekend will prove to be a meaningful and memorable experience for you.

After this weekend concludes, we encourage you to re-read the following words from Marcus Tullius Cicero, 106-43 B.C.: "For what is the worth of human life unless it is woven into the lives of our ancestors by the records of history?" Then, and as we look to the future beyond the 100th anniversary, we hope that you will weave the stories of your ancestors into the lives of your immediate and extended families, and then with others. By doing this, together we will ensure that the Eastland Disaster no longer remains the most obscure part of Chicago's history. Let's right the future together.

VOLUNTEERS

Cheryl Bokelmann
Leo Burns
James Edward Dauphin
Sharon Extrom
Liz Garibay
Carla Gerts

Matt Hodge
Meredith Hodge
Anita Jaszka
Cheryl Loughman
Jean Mau
Chuck Michalek

Mary Occhipini
Mary Ann O'Rourke
Chris Powers
Sammy Wachholz
and others!

ABOUT EDHS

The Eastland Disaster Historical Society (EDHS) passionately preserves and shares the legacies of the tens of thousands of people who were affected by the Eastland Disaster, connecting people today to these personal stories and the history of the tragedy.

Organized in 1998, EDHS is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization. Our organization's roots started decades earlier when we listened to our grandmother, Borghild "Bobbie" Aanstad, tell us her harrowing story of survival in the Chicago River that morning nearly 100 years ago.

In the years since 1998, EDHS has legitimized the importance of the history of the Eastland Disaster, and we have altered the collective historical consciousness of society by sharing the story of the Eastland Disaster with several million people. We have also restored and are continuing to share the personal life stories of thousands of people who were affected by the tragedy.



Susan Decker

Co-Founder & Granddaughter of
survivor Borghild "Bobbie" Aanstad



Barbara Decker Wachholz

Co-Founder & Granddaughter of
survivor Borghild "Bobbie" Aanstad

NOTES, ADDRESSES, SIGNATURES

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| Allen | Hrivnak | Pycz |
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| Bennett | Klemp | Rimnac |
| Berg | Kopecky | Roseland |
| Binkley | Krebs | Roser |
| Bohn | Kuhlman | Rudin |
| Bowles | Latowski | Ryan |
| Brizzolara | Lawson | Rylands |
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| Buszkiewicz | Mathews | Schnierle |
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| Frydrych | Novotny | Thommen |
| Goyette | O'Brien | Thyer |
| Gunderson | O'Keefe | Vileta |
| Hajek | O'Meara | Wilkens |
| Hayes | Ostrowske | Zahradnik |
| Hill | Peo | Zobac |
| Hipple | Petersen | |

THE EASTLAND DISASTER

On July 24, 1915, the S. S. *Eastland* was one of a fleet of five excursion boats assigned to take Western Electric employees, families, and friends across Lake Michigan to Michigan City, Indiana. More than 7,000 people had purchased tickets to the day's festivities - the Fifth Annual Employee Picnic of the Western Electric Company's Hawthorne Works' plant in Cicero, Illinois.

The *Eastland*, docked at the Clark Street Bridge, never left the Chicago River. Still tied to the dock, the *Eastland* rolled away from the wharf and into the river with more than 2,500 passengers and crew members on board - 844 people lost their lives, including 22 entire families. Tens of thousands of people were impacted by the tragedy.

The Eastland Disaster - Chicago's greatest loss of life tragedy - is also the largest loss of life from a single shipwreck on the Great Lakes. Three to four times more people died in the Eastland Disaster than in the Great Chicago Fire.



WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 25, 2015 (continued)

8:30 p.m. Sunset Ceremony (River Theatre)

Eastland Disaster Historical Society Ted Wachholz

8:44 p.m. Commemorative Candle Lighting (River Theatre)

Families with a connection to the tragedy will light 844 battery-powered candles in memory of “The 844,” as well as all others whose lives intersected 100 years ago at the scene of the tragedy

8:50 p.m. Sunset Concert (River Theatre)

Lookingglass Theatre Company Andrew White, Artistic Director

Three songs from Eastland: A New Musical will be performed, including “A Summoning,” “Parade of Souls,” and “Only The River Remains”

Performed by Jeanne T. Arrigo, Lillie Cummings, Steve Dawson, Amanda Dehnert, Lawrence E. DiStasi,* Christine Mary Dunford,* Jess Godwin,* Derek Hasenstab,* Ben Collins-Sussman, Andrew White

Stage Manager: Jeri Fredericksen*

Music Director: Amanda Dehnert

* Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers

Eastland: A New Musical was developed and produced by the Looking-glass Theatre Company, where the World-Premiere production opened in June 2012 for a nine-week sold-out run

Sunday, July 26, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Open House & Museum Tour (Museum of Broadcast Communications)

GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION

UNITED STATES

| | | |
|------------|---------------|------------|
| Alabama | Kansas | Nevada |
| Arizona | Maryland | New York |
| California | Michigan | Ohio |
| Colorado | Minnesota | Oregon |
| Florida | Missouri | Tennessee |
| Iowa | New Hampshire | Washington |
| Illinois | New Jersey | Wisconsin |
| Indiana | | |

INTERNATIONAL

Ireland



Cornelius Coughlin (seated in light jacket) and sons, Leonard and Norman, took the Chicago to St. Joseph excursion on the *Eastland* on July 23, 1915. (Courtesy family of Norm Coughlin.)

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday, July 24, 2015

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Mesirow Financial Lunch Program

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Ceremony (River Theatre)

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Eastland Disaster Historical Society | Ted Wachholz, Executive Director |
| City of Chicago | Alderman Edward Burke |
| United States Coast Guard | Chief Warrant Officer Kyle Chapman |
| Chicago Fire Department | Deputy District Chief Ron Dorneker |
| Chicago Police Department | Lieutenant Allison Schloss |
| Eastland Disaster Historical Society | Susan Decker, Co-Founder |
| | Barbara Decker Wachholz, Co-Founder |

Memorial flowers placed into river by first responder marine units

8:44 p.m. Citywide Commemorative Toast

Citywide Commemorative Toast to the 844 victims and the thousands of others involved in the Eastland Disaster

Saturday, July 25, 2015

8:30 a.m. Chicago River Cruise (River Theatre)

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Ceremony (River Theatre)

Eastland Disaster Historical Society Ted Wachholz

"The Boat That Never Left Town," performed by Kelly Barwick, John Boda, Morgan Buckley, Peter Buckley, Nanette and Paul Sowa, Barbara Decker Wachholz

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| City of Chicago | Michelle Woods |
| Family of Survivor Marion Eichholz | Kathleen Kremholz |
| Family of Survivor Marie Hrabacka | Carol Gilchrist, |
| | Pamela Gilchrist Corson |
| Eastland Disaster Historical Society | Susan Decker |

Memorial flowers placed into river by first responder marine units

Rose petals from 844 roses to be placed into the Chicago River by families

Recorded performance of "Only The River Remains," written by Andrew White, music by Ben Sussman and Andre Pluess

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 25, 2015 (continued)

12:30 p.m. Luncheon (River Roast)

2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Program (Westin Grand Ballroom)

Author Program

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Eastland: Legacy of the Titanic, 1995 | Amy Stehfon for George Hilton |
| The Sinking of the Eastland, 2004 | Jay Bonansinga |
| The Eastland Disaster, 2005 | Ted Wachholz |
| Eastland: A New Musical, 2012 | Andrew White |
| Eastland, 2012 | Marian Cheatham |
| Ashes Under Water, 2014 | Michael McCarthy |
| Hawthorne Works, 2014 | Catherine Lantz and |
| | Dennis Schlagheck |
| Sylvia's Story, 2015 | Sue Barwick, Mary G. Furlong |
| A Portrait of Jun Fujita, 2016 | Graham Lee |

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Joe Popa, Executive Creative Dir.

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Emily Cranfill

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Caitlyn Dial

Tours

Carla Gerts, Liz Garibay

George W. Hilton Online Research & Collections Center

Ted Wachholz

Sylvia's Song

Kelly Barwick

