

June 2025

## Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



### Last Sunday Open House at Masonic Cemetery June 29th, 1 to 4 PM



We'll be hosting our monthly open House this coming Sunday, June 29, in Hope Abbey Mausoleum. The doors will be open for visitors from 1 to 4 PM, and there will be two knowledgeable board members present to answer questions about the mausoleum and the cemetery grounds.

We invite you to visit because we're proud of what we've accomplished over the past 30 years. After years of restoration, the beautiful interior of the 1913 mausoleum is today pretty much as it was when it was dedicated in 1913; the stunning walls of marble, the shiny terrazzo floors and the 80+ replica stained glass windows by local artist John Rose that bathe the interior in a new light.

Please park on city streets because there is no general parking on the cemetery grounds. Hope Abbey is the large concrete structure at the end of E 26th

### Hallis March 30, 1944-June 15, 2025



Hallis, one of the longest tenured EMCA board members, died on June 15 of this year.

She was born in Everett, Washington and grew up on a milk ranch, five miles from Redmond, Washington.

Her great, great grandfather, Fielding McMurray, sold the land where the cemetery is today to the Masonic Lodge. Fielding owned 320 acres of land, and built his home where the UO Erb Memorial Union now sits.

At the age of 22, Hallis worked in Germany for 19 months, which dramatically changed her view of

life and the larger world. She later spent another three years in Germany.

She attended Pacific University in Oregon, but graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a BA in anthropology, and received her MA in anthropology from the University of Nevada at Reno. She started her CPA career in Eugene when she was forty. With all the courses she had from her degrees, she realized she needed only a few others to be able to sit for the CPA exam. She passed the exam, of course.

Hallis met Kay Holbo at the Masonic Cemetery in 1995 when the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association (EMCA) was created to take over ownership of the grounds and Hope Abbey Mausoleum. Kay was the first president, and Hallis agreed to work with her on the board. After several years, her CPA work became demanding enough that she left the Board of Directors. She rejoined several years later when her work load permitted, and took over as the EMCA Treasurer, a position she held until recently. She remained on the board until her death.

Many have asked why she only has only one name. It came about because she intensely disliked the two names she was given at birth. In about 1980 she began using her current name, and in 1987 had it legally changed to simply: Hallis.

In addition to her sense of humor and the twinkle in her eye, she's remembered primarily for her financial prowess, but she was also an artist herself. She was instrumental in curating an art show at Hope Abbey called *Body of Work*. It featured many artists and was considered a creative success.

She will be remembered fondly as an outstanding woman. She will be missed.

### Caroline Forell Masonic Cemetery Tour

Saturday, July 19th  
1 to 2:30



EMCA Board Member Caroline Forell will conduct a free tour of Hope Abbey Mausoleum and the cemetery grounds on Saturday, July 19th, at 1 PM. Meet Caroline at the entrance of the historic Hope Abbey to begin the tour, which includes the interior of Hope Abbey. You'll visit the graves of many of the historic luminaries of their day, and get a good overview of this 1859 cemetery

The photo at the left gives a glimpse of the glorious interior of the mausoleum. So mark your calendar for Saturday, July 19th, and come see it in person!

The tour will last about 90 minutes.

A reminder that there is no parking in the cemetery. Park on Potter or E 25th & University and walk up to Hope Abbey.

### Music To Die For Concert Series 2025



July 13: Porch Band  
August 10: Mike and Carleen McCornack  
September 14: Oregon Bach Collegium  
October 12: David Helfand

All concerts are at 2 PM on a Sunday, are free and held in Hope Abbey mausoleum. They last about an hour.

Please park on city streets because there is no general public parking on the cemetery grounds. Enter either at 25th and University or the entrance at the end of E 26th St. Walk uphill to the Hope Abbey Mausoleum.

### Music on the Square Concert Series 2025



Yes, we are back for another season of great music in the gorgeous Masonic Cemetery Public Square! These concerts are sponsored by Lane Forest Products. Admission is free.

July 6: Kef!  
July 20: Oregon Tuba Ensemble  
August 24: Kyzyl Gul-Red Rose  
September 21: Kara Ubanks and Nathalie Fortin

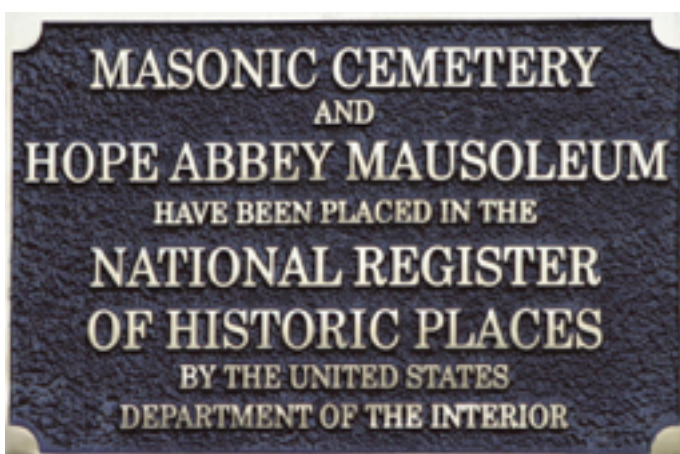
Bring a folding chair or a blanket to sit on and a picnic dinner if you wish.

Please park on city streets because there is no general public parking on the cemetery grounds. Enter either at 25th and University or at the end of E 26th St. Walk uphill to the public square.

For easier access to the public square, people with mobility issues can be dropped off at the south east cemetery entrance at the end of Elinor St. This is a pleasant level walk without major elevation changes.

### —Full of Life—

The History and Character of Eugene's Masonic Cemetery  
Something worth reading one month at a time.



Recently we began a serial presentation of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery's publication *Full of Life*, a short book on the history and background of the cemetery. A link to this month's chapter appears below.

One of the outstanding physical characteristics of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery is the magnificent structure

called Hope Abbey. Who designed it? Why was it built? When was it built and what did it cost? This chapter tells all.

Click on the title below to access this month's chapter.  
Chapter Eight: [Hope Abbey Mausoleum](#)

Because of the size of the print in the original book, it's suggested that you read these chapters on a laptop or large computer screen.

John Bredeesen, eNewsletter Editor  
Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

[DONATE](#)

#### Mission Statement

To restore, rehabilitate, maintain, interpret and operate the historic Eugene Masonic Cemetery and Hope Abbey Mausoleum as a cultural and natural resource for the community.

The cemetery is operated for the public benefit,  
but it is private property.  
(A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization)



Eugene Masonic Cemetery  
ASSOCIATION

Back issues of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery's *eNewsletter* and the semiannual printed *Monumental News* are available on our website listed below.

[Visit our website](#)