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## CELEBRATING GREAT ARCHITECTURE IN THE AFTERLIFE

### *Chapel of the Chimes Commemorates 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Julia Morgan Mausoleum*

**OAKLAND (February 20, 2013)** – Did you know renowned architect [Julia Morgan](#) designed a mausoleum? From obscure architectural feats such as [El Campanil](#), the first bell tower on a U.S. college campus, to the famed [Hearst Castle](#), the Bay Area resident designed more than 700 buildings including [Chapel of the Chimes](#) in Oakland. This year, Chapel of the Chimes is adding 160 new cremation niches in honor of the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Julia Morgan's re-design. An intricate labyrinth of cloisters and indoor gardens featuring natural stonework, fountains, delicate sculptures and mosaic tiled floors – her unique touch elevated the Chapel to one of California's most beautiful buildings.



Chapel of the Chimes – Exterior entrance designed by Julia Morgan

Originally a streetcar station, Chapel of the Chimes Oakland was transformed into the California Memorial Crematorium and Columbarium in 1909. Decades later, the property underwent another renaissance when it was expanded and revitalized by Julia Morgan from 1926-1928. After the dedication, Morgan continued on as an advisor, influencing both structural additions and decor.

“A designated historical landmark, the 85,000 square foot mausoleum houses more than 39,000 cremation niches. Due to its popularity, the Julia Morgan section has been practically sold out for years, which is why we've decided to introduce additional niches” said [Harley Forrey](#), General Manager at Chapel of the Chimes Oakland. “The mausoleum is a sanctuary suspended in time where guests can take in a bit of history and celebrate Julia Morgan's incredible contribution to her hometown, the city of Oakland.” (See video [here](#))



Chapel of the Chimes - Mausoleum designed by Julia Morgan

On January 20, 2013, Julia Morgan would have turned 142. Fifty-six years after her death, the famed architect is still remembered not only known for her professional accomplishments but as a trailblazer for women's rights. Morgan was one of the first women to graduate with a degree in civil engineering from the University of California, the first woman to earn a Certificat d'Architecture from the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris and the first woman architect to be licensed in California. To this day, Morgan's work can be seen throughout the state, including the [Berkeley Playhouse](#), the [Berkeley Women's City Club](#), Oakland's [Mills College](#), [Julia Morgan School for Girls](#) and [Kings Daughters Home](#) as well as YWCAs throughout California.

The Julia Morgan Mausoleum is open to the public 7 days a week. To schedule a free tour, visitors can reserve [here](#). For more information about Julia Morgan, please visit: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julia\\_Morgan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julia_Morgan)

### **ABOUT CHAPEL OF THE CHIMES OAKLAND**

Chapel of the Chimes Oakland provides end-of-life services to families with diverse religious, ethnic and cultural traditions. Established in 1909 as a crematory and columbarium, Chapel of the Chimes Oakland is one of the top cremation service providers in Northern California and one of the most desired crematory locations. Today, Chapel

of the Chimes is part of a family of cemeteries, funeral homes and crematories with locations throughout the U.S., including four in Northern California. For more information, visit <http://oakland.chapelofthechimes.com/>. (FD 1254)

**Media please note:** To request a tour of the Julia Morgan Mausoleum, an interview with GM Harley Forrey, photos, video or more information, please contact Sheryl So, Landis Communications, Inc. (415) 359-2313; [sheryl@landispr.com](mailto:sheryl@landispr.com).