

Press Release

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THE OREGON ENCYCLOPEDIA



www.oregonencyclopedia.org

A partnership of Portland State University, the Oregon Historical Society, and The Oregon Council of Teachers of English

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The OE at the Rialto: Stumptown Stories: Portland History and Legends

The Oregon Encyclopedia (The OE) is pleased to announce its partnership with the historic Rialto Poolroom and Bar in downtown Portland to present a series of free public programs on the history and culture of our city in **Stumptown Stories: Portland History and Legends**. OE authors will present each month on the people, places, and events that shaped the city in important—and sometimes unexpected—ways. Historical photos are part of each program.

“The Stormy Petrel of Portland”: the story of Dr. Marie Equi

Presented by Heather Mayer

Tuesday, August 23

7:30 p.m.

Rialto Poolroom and Bar

529 SW 4th Ave

Free and open to the public. Must be 21 or over.

Among the many fascinating people in Portland’s Progressive Era history, Dr. Marie Equi stands out. She was a suffragist, an advocate for labor rights, and a vocal political agitator against World War I, imperialism, and profiteering. As a medical doctor, she treated mostly women and children in the Portland working-class neighborhoods—often for free—and was one of the few Portland physicians to provide birth control and abortions. She was also openly gay—a fact that came up in her indictment by the federal government for “sedition” for her anti-war activities when the U.S. prosecutor called her an “unsexed woman.”

Heather Mayer presents the story of this remarkable woman and her influence on one of the most politically charged periods in Portland history—and on the health and well-being of our city’s early labor class residents.

Heather Mayer is a part-time instructor at Portland Community College, and is currently working on her dissertation, “Beyond the Rebel Girl: Women and the Industrial Workers of the World in the Pacific Northwest, 1905-1924.”

The OE is an online resource for information on the state’s significant people, places, events, institutions, and biota. Over 800 entries and essays have been published online and new entries are added every day. For more information visit www.oregonencyclopedia.org.

The OE is a partnership between Portland State University, the Oregon Council of Teachers of English, and the Oregon Historical Society. The OE has received support from a collaborative of the state’s five cultural partners—the Oregon Arts Council, Oregon Council for the Humanities, Oregon Heritage Commission, Oregon Historical Society, and the State Historic Preservation Office—with funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust. The Oregon Council of Teachers of English, the Oregon Heritage Commission, the Oregon University System, Willamette University, and private donors have provided additional support.