

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) partners 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.

“Rural Revolution: Lesbian Intentional Communities in Southern Oregon”

Presented by Heather Burmeister

Tuesday, September 13

7:30 p.m.

Rialto Poolroom and Bar

529 SW 4th Ave

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

In the 1970s, hundreds of intentional communities claimed Oregon as home, including numerous lesbian separatist communities. Communities with names like WomanShare, Rootworks, and Cabbage Lane dotted the landscape along the I-5 corridor between Portland and San Francisco. Their goals included the complete disruption and change in the patriarchal system, and the creation of a sustainable egalitarian feminist community. Heather Burmeister will present her interviews with women involved in this utopian effort and examine the reasons why women left their homes in Portland and other urban areas as part of the back-to-the-land movement, how the experience changed them, and what they brought back with them to the city.

Heather Burmeister a graduate student in public history at Portland State University, where she earned her undergraduate degree in 2009. Before college, she was active in the writing and performing arts community of Austin, Texas. Her life goals include the research, analysis, and writing of histories of underrepresented populations, especially GLBTQ histories, with an awareness of race, class, gender, and ability; to make these histories more accessible to this and future generations; to promote historical knowledge as important to personal, political, and community growth and sustenance.

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.