



HUMANITIES KANSAS

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Colleen Hastings
Dodge City CVB
400 West Wyatt Earp Boulevard
Dodge City, KS 67801
620-225-8191
www.visitdodgecity.org

Presentation Explores Famous Harvey Girls

Dodge City- The Dodge City Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB), in partnership with the Depot Theater Company, Dodge City, will host “The Harvey Girls,” a presentation and discussion by Dr. Michaeline Chance-Reay on Tuesday, July 30, at 2:00 pm at the El Vaquero Room in the Depot Theater, 201 East Wyatt Earp Boulevard. Members of the community are invited to attend the free program. Contact the Dodge City CVB at 620-225-8191 for more information. The program is made possible by Humanities Kansas.

This presentation is an official event of Dodge City Days.

The Harvey House chain of restaurants got its start in Topeka when Fred Harvey opened a café for people traveling the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway. Preferring the term “Harvey Girl” to waitress, he recruited single women to work at his restaurants that gradually sprang up all the way to California and Texas. This presentation explores the job duties and working conditions of Harvey Girls from 1876 to the early 1950s.

Dr. Michaeline Chance-Reay teaches women’s studies and education at Kansas State University. Her current research focuses on the Harvey Girls and historic sites on the K-State campus, especially those related to women.

“Women in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries who wanted jobs or careers outside of the home had few choices,” said Chance-Reay. “But the Harvey Company offered unique opportunities. It was demanding work, but it provided a decent salary in a protected environment, in addition to travel and adventure.”

“The Harvey Girls” is part of Humanities Kansas’s *Movement of Ideas* Speakers Bureau, featuring presentations and workshops designed to share stories that inspire, spark conversations that inform, and generate insights that strengthen civic engagement.

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For more information about “The Harvey Girls” in Dodge City, contact the Dodge City CVB at 620-225-8191 or visit www.visitdodgecity.org.

About Humanities Kansas

Humanities Kansas is an independent nonprofit spearheading a movement of ideas to empower the people of Kansas to strengthen their communities and our democracy. Since 1972, our pioneering programming, grants, and partnerships have documented and shared stories to spark conversations and generate insights. Together with our partners and supporters, we inspire all Kansans to draw on history, literature, ethics, and culture to enrich their lives and serve the communities and state we all proudly call home. Visit humanitieskansas.org.

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