

Fourth Tuesday Program

The Harvey Girls

Presented by Michaeline Chance-Reay



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.”

April 26, 2022

7:00pm – 8:30pm

**Tonganoxie Community
Historical Society
Site & Museum**

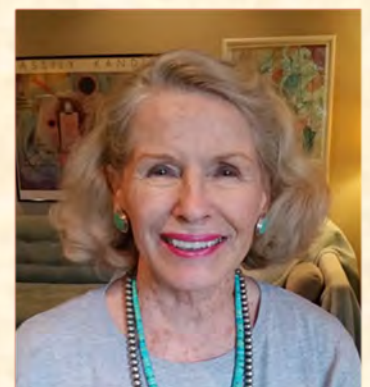
**201 West Washington St.
Tonganoxie, KS 66086**

TCHS presents programs on the Fourth Tuesday of every month (except June and December).

This program meeting will be held in the Reno Methodist Church on the museum site.

The meeting begins at 7:00 PM and includes a brief business meeting and historical program.

All members of the community are welcome. The program is free; and refreshments are served after the program.



Dr. Michaeline Chance-Reay



“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.