

LOCATIONS
Lincoln Public Libraries

GERE: 2400 S. 56 Street, Lincoln, NE
Room 2

WALT: 2670 S 14 St, Lincoln, NE
Room 2

TIME: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Book presentation starts at 6:15 p.m.
Library closes at 8:00 p.m.

READING CIRCLE FORMAT

Leader reviews the *Book of the Month*
Leader facilitates a dialogue about the book
and related resources

You do not need to have read the book to attend.
Participants are also asked to contribute any relevant
information about the book, topic or author.

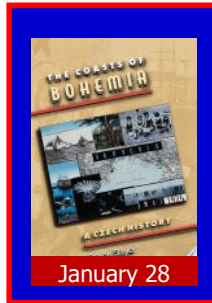
Join us for a good read!

**Learn more
about our rich
Czech heritage.**

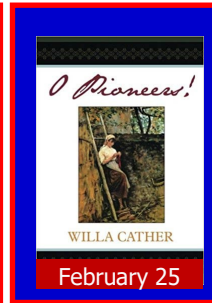


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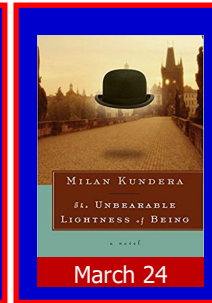
Layne Pierce
402-770-5029; layne.pierce@yahoo.com



January 28



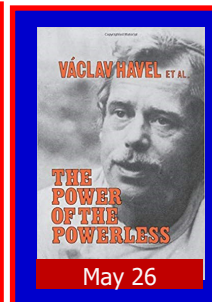
February 25



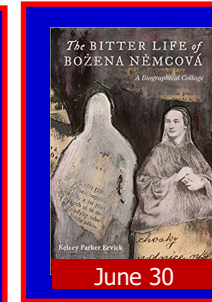
March 24



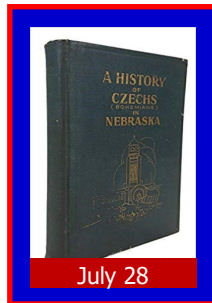
April 28



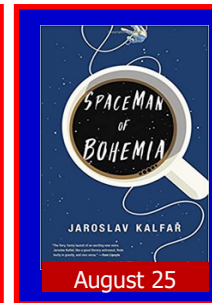
May 26



June 30



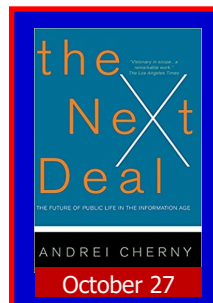
July 28



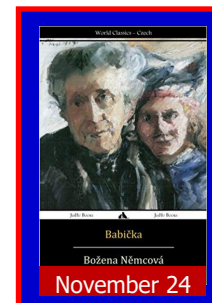
August 25



September 22



October 27



November 24



December 29



**Nebraska Czechs of
Lincoln
2020**

*The Czech/American
Reading Circle*

The snow did not fall this time, it simply spilled out of heaven like thousands of feather-beds being emptied." describing a winter snow fall on the Nebraska prairie from Willa Cather's book, My Antonia, 1918.

The Czech/American Reading Circle, formed over 100 years later, as such a snow again began to fall over the Nebraska prairie, January 11, 2019.

The Czech/American Reading Circle shares significant books about, by, for, and important to, people of Czech heritage.



Czech/ American Reading Circle 2019

Pravda vítězí
Truth prevails

MONTH: January 28, 2020 (Gere Public Library, Room 2)

TOPIC: *An Evening with Czech History*

LEADER: Shalla Young

SUMMARY:

"*The Coasts of Bohemia: A Czech History* (by Derek Sayer) draws on an enormous array of literary, musical, visual and documentary sources...." This book is one of the few books available through the Lincoln Public Library system exclusively focusing on the history of the Czech lands. Shalla Young, will give us a short history of the key events and figures in Czech history at the circle meeting. Come and share your knowledge of our rich heritage.

MONTH: February 25, 2020 (Walt Public Library, Room 2)

BOOK: *O'Pioneers*

AUTHOR: Willa Cather

LEADER: Susan Nagle

SUMMARY:

Cather's sentimental and somewhat controversial novel tells the story of the Bergsons, a family of Swedish pioneers that settles for life in the American prairie. While Alexandra, the family matriarch, is able to turn the family farm into a financial success, her brother Emil must grapple with the tragedy of solace and forbidden love. A novel surprisingly ahead of its time, this proto-feminist work touches upon a wide range of themes, including love, marriage, temptation, and isolation.

Review Source: <https://www.amazon.com/Pioneers-Willa-Cather/dp/1619492776>

MONTH: March 24, 2020 (Walt Public Library, Room 2)

BOOK: *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*

AUTHOR: Milan Kundera

LEADER: Layne Pierce

SUMMARY:

In *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, Milan Kundera tells the story of a young woman in love with a man torn between his love for her and his incorrigible womanizing and one of his mistresses and her humbly faithful lover. This magnificent novel juxtaposes geographically distant places; brilliant and playful reflections; and a variety of styles to take its place as perhaps the major achievement of one of the world's truly great writers.

Review Source: <https://www.amazon.com/Unbearable-Lightness-Being-Perennial-Classics/dp/0061148520>



Truth prevails (Czech: Pravda vítězí, Slovak: Pravdivťazí, Latin: Veritas vincit) is the national motto of the Czech Republic.

MONTH: April 28, 2020 (Gere Public Library, Room 2)

BOOK: *Miss Fortune's Last Mission*

AUTHOR: William J. Boyce, John H. Torrison, John DeMers

LEADER: Dr. Mila Saskova-Pierce

SUMMARY:

Both intimate and historical, *Miss Fortune's Last Mission* is as much about the brave men who fought and died as it is about the survivors who honor their sacrifices. William Boyce's search to understand the reverberations of the crash of a B-24 Liberator during World War II reveals the lasting effect of loss and the healing power of sharing our stories.

Review Source: <https://brightskypublishing.org/product/miss-fortunes-last-mission/>

MONTH: May 26, 2020 (Gere Public Library, Room 2)

BOOK: *The Power of the Powerless: Citizens Against the State in Central Eastern Europe*

AUTHOR: Václav Havel

LEADER: Joe Swoboda

SUMMARY:

Books of great political insight and novelty always outlive their time of birth and this reissued work, initially published in 1985, is no exception. Written shortly after the formation of Charter 77, the essays in this collection are among the most original and compelling pieces of political writing to have emerged from central and Eastern Europe during the whole of the post-war period. Václav Havel's essay provides the title for the book. It was read by all the contributors who in turn responded to the many questions which Havel raises about the potential power of the powerless.

Review Source: <https://www.amazon.com/Power-Powerless-Citizens-Against-Central-dp/0873327616>

MONTH: June 30, 2020 (1930 Teal Circle, Lincoln, NE)

BOOK: *The Bitter Life of Božena Němcová*

AUTHOR: Kelcey Parker Ervick

LEADER: Dr. Lorraine Duggin

SUMMARY:

Literary Nonfiction. Women's Studies. Hybrid Genre. Biography. Memoir. Winner of the Silver Medal for Best European (Focused) Nonfiction at the 2017 Independent Publisher Book Awards. Artistic, rebellious, and unapologetically intelligent, Božena Němcová defied every convention for a woman in mid-nineteenth-century Bohemia: she was active in nationalist politics, she smoked cigars, she took a series of lovers, and she laid bare her ideas and emotions in her letters and stories. THE BITTER LIFE OF BOŽENA NĚMCOVÁ is a biographical collage of found texts, footnotes, fragments, and images by and about the Czech fairy tale writer, whom Milan Kundera calls the "Mother of Czech Prose." Kelcey Parker Ervick's innovative collage form, with its many voices and viewpoints, questions the concept of biographical "truth" while also revealing a nuanced and spellbinding portrait of Němcová. Inspired by Němcová's letters, the book's second section, "Postcards to Božena" is Parker Ervick's epistolary memoir of her own failing marriage and her quest for a Czech typewriter, as well as a meditation on reading, writing, and happy endings. The two sections combine to create a book as defiant, enchanting, and complex as its namesake.

Review Source: <https://www.amazon.com/Bitter-Life-Bozena-Nemcova-Biographical/>

MONTH: July 28, 2020 (6701 Everett St., Lincoln, NE)

BOOK: *The History of the Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*

AUTHOR: Rose Rosicky

LEADER: Dr. Mila Saskova-Pierce

SUMMARY:

The History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska, compiled by Rose Rosicky and published by the Czech Historical Society of Nebraska in 1929. Rosicky used several sources to write about Czech emigrants of the 19th century, including the records of her father John Rosicky, historian and publisher of the popular (Nebraska) Czech newspaper, *Hospodar*. The book begins with insightful introductions and continues with interesting stories of the pioneers' (hard) lives, their names, years of arrival, their birthplaces, some birth and death dates, occupations, and photos of pioneers, houses, downtowns, churches, etc.

MONTH: August 25, 2020 (Gere Public Library, Room 2)

BOOK: *Spaceman of Bohemia*

AUTHOR: Jaroslav Kalfar

LEADER: Dr. Lorraine Duggin

SUMMARY:

Orphaned as a boy, raised in the Czech countryside by his doting grandparents, Jakub Procházka has risen from small-time scientist to become the country's first astronaut. When a dangerous solo mission to Venus offers him both the chance at heroism he's dreamt of, and a way to atone for his father's sins as a Communist informer, he ventures boldly into the vast unknown. But in so doing, he leaves behind his devoted wife, Lenka, whose love, he realizes too late, he has sacrificed on the altar of his ambitions.

Review Source: <https://www.amazon.com/Spaceman-Bohemia-Jaroslav-Kalfar/dp/0316273430>

MONTH: September 22, 2020 (Gere Public Library, Room 2)

TOPIC: *The Last Man on the Moon*

AUTHOR: Eugene Cernin (Czech/Slovak-American)

LEADER: Carter Hullnsky

SUMMARY:

The basis of the 2014 award-winning feature-length documentary! A revealing and dramatic look at the inside of the American Space Program from one of its pioneers.

Eugene Cernin was a unique American who came of age as an astronaut during the most exciting and dangerous decade of spaceflight. His career spanned the entire Gemini and Apollo programs, from being the first person to spacewalk all the way around our world to the moment when he left man's last footprint on the Moon as commander of Apollo 17.

Between those two historic events lay more adventures than an ordinary person could imagine as Cernin repeatedly put his life, his family and everything he held dear on the altar of an obsessive desire. Written with *New York Times* bestselling author Don Davis, *The Last Man on the Moon* is the astronaut story never before told - about the fear, love and sacrifice demanded of the few men who dared to reach beyond the heavens for the biggest prize of all - the Moon.

Review Source: <https://www.amazon.com/Last-Man-Moon-Astronaut-Americas/dp/0312263511>

MONTH: October 27, 2020 (Gere Public Library, Room 2)

BOOK: *The Next Deal*

AUTHOR: Andrei Cherny

LEADER: Lois Shimerda Rood

SUMMARY:

The Next Deal offers a highly readable blueprint for politics in the twenty-first century. The old-style one-size-fits-all government, Cherny argues, cannot accommodate the significant changes-including the moral revolution of the '60s and the technological revolution of the last fifteen years-that American society has undergone. Cherny proposes a "Next Deal" that will expand democracy by taking decision-making power out of the hands of experts and back into the hands of ordinary people.

Review Source: <https://www.amazon.com/Next-Deal-Future-Public-Information/dp/0465009727>

MONTH: November 24, 2020 (Gere Public Library, Room 2)

BOOK: *Babicka*

AUTHOR: Božena Němcová

LEADER: Dr. Lorraine Duggin

SUMMARY:

Set at the foot of the Giant mountains- is a grandmother, who embodies the ideal of motherliness with her plain wisdom, goodness and love. The father of the Prosek family living in the country idyll is compelled to spend a large part of the year in the imperial town of Vienna due to his work. Thus, the grandmother is brought home to tend to the children and the property. With this background, the author evolves the most significant work of pros in Czech literature and creates "one of the most beautiful female figures in world literature."

Review Source: <https://www.amazon.com/Grandmother-Babicka-Bozena-Nemcova/dp/8072530720>

MONTH: December 29, 2020
NO CIRCLE MEETING

**Happy New Year!
Šťastný Nový Rok!**