

# 2023 APRIL



## Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln

**FRIDAY, APRIL 14**

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING:  
Reservations due by April 12**

If you make a reservation but don't attend, we will bill you since we are still charged for your meal. Please let us know if you have special dietary needs when you make your reservations.

**LOCATION:** HyVee 2nd Floor Party Room  
1601 N 84th St, Lincoln, NE 68505

**SOCIAL TIME:** 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**WELCOME & DINNER:** 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. (Cost \$15.00)

**MEAL:** Herb roasted pork loin, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans almondine, rolls & butter, tea & water

**BUSINESS MEETING:** 6:30 to 6:45 p.m.

**PROGRAM:** 6:45 to 7:30 p.m.

**TOPIC:** **VINTAGE CZECH WALL CLOTHS**

**LEADER:** **JANET JEFFRIES**

**RESERVATIONS:** 402-416-6390 (avolf83@gmail.com)

**CZECH REPUBLIC  
APRIL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**  
April 7, Good Friday  
April 10, Easter Monday



Photo used with permission



**Threads of Wisdom**  
VINTAGE CZECH WALL CLOTHS – BEAUTY, INSPIRATION, ADVICE  
by Janet Jeffries

Native Nebraskan and descendant of Czech immigrants, **Janet Jeffries** has bachelor's and master's degrees in American history from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her areas of study include Nebraska history and the state's architectural history, Czechs in Nebraska, Czech costumes and folk art, genealogy, and other related topics. Jeffries directed a Czech studies Elderhostel program at Doane University for 18 years, owns a Czech costume collection that is exhibited periodically, and regularly leads tours to the Czech Republic. She also serves on the Czech Heritage Program Advisory Committee at UN-L. Jeffries is president of the Crete Heritage Society, and does exhibits and programming for that organization. She is the author of several articles on Crete and Doane University history, and wrote a pictorial history book *Crete*, released by Arcadia Publishing in their *Images of America* series. Jeffries, also a musician, performs a variety of music, including old time traditional and Czech, both solo and with The Kramer Sisters. Her professional career has been spent at the Nebraska State Historical Society, Doane University, and Berggren Architects.

### Newsletter Contact

Lois Shimerda Rood  
lois@loisrood.com  
402-570-2333

**Submissions deadline:**  
2nd Friday of each month  
**Distribution date:**  
Last Friday of each month

**WEBSITE:**  
[lincolnczechs.org/](http://lincolnczechs.org/)

### 2023 CLUB CALENDAR

April 14: Membership Meeting  
April 29, Kolache Baking Event  
**May 7: Festival @ Pla Mor**  
May 12: Membership Meeting  
September 8: Membership Meeting  
October 13: Membership Meeting  
November 10: Membership Meeting  
December 8: Membership Meeting  
3rd Tuesday: Conversation Club (Zoom)  
Last Tuesday: Reading Circle (Zoom)

### FESTIVAL SILENT AUCTION

**Donated Items Needed  
for the Silent Auction**

**Bring to the  
April 14 Meeting  
or the  
May 7th Festival**

**Auction starts at noon  
and ends at 3:00 p.m.**

### FESTIVAL KOLACHE BAKING EVENT

*Everyone is Welcome!!!*

*Everyone is Needed!!!*

**Need Volunteers & Cash  
or Check Donations**

Donation checks should be made out to the **Lincoln Czech Club**. Be sure you indicate on the Memo that it is a donation for the **Bake Sale**. Send to Linda Taborek, Treasurer, 524 S 53rd St., Lincoln, NE 68510

Date

**Saturday, April 29, 2023**

Location

**Hickman Presbyterian  
Church @ 8:00 a.m.**

300 E 3rd St, Hickman, NE 68372



## **THE CZECH CONNECTION at the University of Nebraska from Mila Šašková-Pierce**



### **UNL Komenský Club**

The history of the **Czech Komenský Club** (named for **Jan Amos Komenský**, or **Comenius**, the pioneer educator, b. 3-28-1592 and d. 11-15-1670) is closely tied to Czech language instruction in Nebraska at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the cultural and political involvement of its members. Conceived in December 1903, and officially established in 1904, it became a nursery for influential personalities in Nebraskan political and cultural life, for example state and U.S. politicians Roman Hruška, Otto Kotouc, Joseph Vosoba, and Rudy Vrtiska; poets Ferdinand Musil, Jeffrey Hrbek, and Hrbek's sister the writer, translator, politician, and educator, Dr. Šárka Hrbková. Another member was Dr. Olga Šťastný, the organizer of the modern World Red Cross, and also one of the founders of the U.S. Association of Female Physicians in 1914. According to the club constitution, its aim was to form a bond among Czech-Americans and to provide a model of cultural association to other universities, where students could study and practice Czech language, learn about history, literature and share accomplishments of Czech culture. Komensky Club members are students at UNL but welcome members from the community to join. It invites speakers to present programs and lectures on Czech cultural and political themes.

**Facebook::** <https://www.facebook.com/CzechKomenskyClub/>

### **UNL Czech Language and Studies Program**

The University of Nebraska was one of the first universities in the United States to offer Czech language instruction. The Czech language and culture program was inaugurated in 1907, and has continued up until now except for a short interruption in the 1920s. The program has been a very successful one, thanks to its instructors and a number of outstanding students who have also been engaged in the programs of the Czech Komenský Club. The history of Czech language instruction in Nebraska is closely tied to the history of the club (named for Jan Amos Komenský, or Comenius, the pioneer educator, b. 3-28-1592 and d. 11-15-1670) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the involvement of its members.

At present the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Czech Program offers three to four years of undergraduate instruction, and a minor in the Czech Language. It also offers several exchange programs between UNL and the Czech Republic.

The University of Nebraska Czech Studies have lasted over hundred years. From a program that was one among several in Nebraska it became the sole program in the whole state that teaches the language that draws students from other Nebraska institutions, and indeed from all the states in the U.S. University of Nebraska-Lincoln students of Czech have been professionally successful in their use of their language skills. They became translators, film makers, university professors, and diplomats. The program plays an important role in the state of Nebraska: upon the return to their communities of origin, the graduates organize new, or take over the existing cultural activities, that make life in Nebraska more interesting for many of its citizens. The Czech program students are also involved in the digitization of the Czech archival materials published on the Czech Heritage Project Site, that include oral history recordings and other materials researched or preserved by students of Czech. All this make the Czech Language Program a valuable part of Nebraska cultural life.

**Website:** <https://www.unl.edu/czechheritage/language.shtml>

### **Paul Robitschek Student Exchange Program**

Paul Robitschek originally wanted to donate couple of millions to the Charles University in Prague, but then sought an American university which would be willing to offer scholarships to Czech and Slovak students from the money he provided. Greg Jensen from University of Nebraska Foundation received his letter in 1996 and that's how the scholarship started. The money which the University of Nebraska Foundation received from Paul have been invested and coming scholars' scholarships are funded from the interest. Therefore the scholarship should exist for a long time to come. Since 1996 close to 40 Czech and Slovak students received the scholarship. Many Robitschek alumni are studying and working around the world and many are involved in the politics and cultural lives of the Czech and Slovak Republics.

**Website:** <https://robitschek.org>

### **Czech Language Foundation**

CLF was founded in 1993 as an answer to the planned discontinuation of Czech Studies at UNL, due to the budget cuts. The Czech Language Foundation is a 501(c)3 foundation formed to promote Czech language and culture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and in the state of Nebraska. It provides scholarships for day students of the Czech language at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. It also supports financially the Czech Studies instruction if needed. It has received contributions to the scholarship fund from Nebraskans as well as supporters from other states. For contact, please call **Layne Pierce at 402-770-5029**.

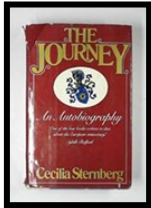
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/CzechLanguageFoundation/>

# Mark your calendar!!! LINCOLN CZECH FESTIVAL

Sunday, May 7th at Lincoln's Pla Mor Ballroom - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

## THE READING CIRCLE

**Date:** April 25, 2023  
**Leader:** HANA WAISSEROVÁ, PH.D.  
**Book:** The Journey (1977)  
**Author:** CECILIA STERNBERG



Hana Wasserová  
Photo used with permission

### OUR LEADER: HANA WAISSEROVÁ, PH.D.

is an Assistant Professor of Practice of Czech Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is also a fellow of the Harris Center for Judaic Studies, UNL, and a scholar in Czech and Central European cultural, gender, and literary studies. Over the years, she taught various courses focused on Gender and Central and Eastern European Studies. She earned a Ph.D. in transnational literature from Palacky University, CR, and Gender Graduate Certificate from TAMU, TX. Her current research interests include Central and Eastern European women, transnational literature, cultural memory, women's totalitarian experience, women's Holocaust experience, women dissidents, and literary ethnography. She has published numerous articles and book chapters. She has traveled widely in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Central America, and is much invested in promoting cultural sensitivity and global citizenship.

### BOOK: THE JOURNEY (1977) AUTHOR: CECILIA STERNBERG

This thrilling memoir focuses on the life of Czech nobles from the Sternberg family told from the perspective of Cecilia. It retells the pre-war family life, as well as their aristocratic and well-connected life prior and under Nazi occupation, and when Nazis confiscated their family home Častolovice. The story also tells how Count and Countess Sternberg with their daughter Diana fled Czechoslovakia as the Communists came to power in 1948 with the help of the American ambassador in Prague, Laurence Steinhardt. It is an important and well-written account of one important European noble families related to the Bismarks, who also witness complex diplomacies or divided loyalty among nobles prior the occupation of Sudetenland and during the Austrian Anschluss. It can be read as an alternative European history. The book also narrates with good humor how the family of these Czech refugees settled in New York, and how they faced their setbacks in the US. Eventually, they settled in St. Petersburg, Florida in 1952, where the countess sold homemade jewelry on the waterfront while the count sat in his underwear on the porch drinking wine and reading the Constitution of the United States before moving on to Jamaica.

## THE COURTESY CORNER Connie Jean Hulinsky, Chairperson Courtesy Committee

- ◆ If you are new to our club or a guest, please introduce yourself to our Courtesy Committee Chairperson, **Connie Jean Hulinsky**.
- ◆ Give her a call if you need a ride to a meeting or an event.
- ◆ Let her know if you are aware of someone who is celebrating something very special or is in need of our support.

**Connie Jean Hulinsky**  
Chairman, Courtesy Committee 2023  
402-464-5184 (leave message)  
(land line with recorder after four rings )  
[Luconnie@windstream.net](mailto:Luconnie@windstream.net)

## CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

### Řekněte to česky!

#### Via ZOOM

The Czech Conversation Club meets monthly on the third Tuesday at 7:00 PM. It started in 2022, when a group of heritage speakers and former students of the Czech Studies at UNL got together to practice the Czech language on-line. Previously, there were conversation groups in Wilber and other Czech towns that met in person. What makes the Conversation Club special is the virtual format and it's members' involvement. Each meeting is lead by one person who chooses a theme, such as travel, Christmas holiday, or other. The participants are conversant, and therefore, it is not a language teaching space for beginning learners.

Next virtual meeting will be on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. The ZOOM link is: 825 9793 8964 and password 231581 Everybody is welcome to join. For questions call: 402-770-4624.

## CZECH HERITAGE LICENSE PLATES

Follow Legislative Bill 140 on our website:  
[LincolnCzechs.org](http://LincolnCzechs.org)

## READING CIRCLE CONTACTS

**Lois Shimerda Rood** 402-570-2333;  
[lois@loisrood.com](mailto:lois@loisrood.com)  
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[layne.pierce@yahoo.com](mailto:layne.pierce@yahoo.com)  
**Mila Saskova-Pierce** 402--770-4624  
[msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu](mailto:msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu)



**NEBRASKA CZECHS, INC  
DR. VLADIMÍR KUČERA AWARD**  
Adapted from the Nebraska Czechs, Inc. website

The Nebraska Czechs, Inc. are accepting nominations for the **Dr. Vladimír Kučera Award** which are due by April 15th. This award will be presented at the State Czech-Slovak Queen Pageant. **Dr. Vladimír Kučera** was an educator who taught Czech language classes at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He worked for the Nebraska State Historical Society and taught the Czech language in many small towns in Nebraska.

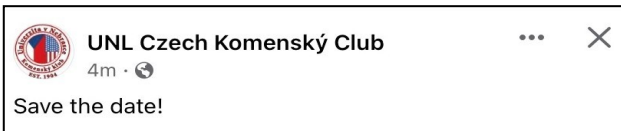
The requirements for this award are:

1. Persons who have promoted and preserved the Czech cultural heritage in Nebraska.
2. The award is limited to living persons at the time of the nomination.
3. They are not required to be of Czech descent
4. They are not required to be currently living in the State of Nebraska
5. They do not need to be members of a local chapter.
6. They will be asked to be present at the State Queen Pageant to be recognized and receive their award.

For more information contact:

Deb Vocasek, [dvocasek@hotmail.com](mailto:dvocasek@hotmail.com)

**NOTE: MORE AT: [lincolnczechs.org](http://lincolnczechs.org) (Home Page Link)**



UNL Czech Komenský Club 4m · 🌐 Save the date!



**MONDAY April 10th@12:30-2pm**  
Join us in person in BURN 301 or via zoom@ <https://unl.zoom.us/j/482968109>

Marka is wearing many hats. She is award-winning writer of children's books, musician in the first all-female legendary rock-band Zuby Nehty, actress, puppeteer and theater director with experience in directing performances for children and adults, primarily focusing on puppets. Finally, she is also business manager of non-profit foundation for children.

**LUNCHEON LECTURE ON MONDAY APRIL 10th@12:30-2pm**

Meet Marka Miková: Discussion with award-winning writer, puppeteer, rock star and theatre director...



Event is sponsored by: UNL CZECH STUDIES and DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

**CZECH MUSICIANS HONORED**  
**Nebraska Musicians Hall of Fame**  
from Deb Vocasek

Some content adapted from *The Czech Slavnosti*  
March/April 2023 Issue

Seven Nebraska musicians were inducted into the Musicians Hall of Fame during the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual ceremony, accordion jamboree and dance held at Lodge Tabor Hall, rural Dorchester, NE on Jan. 28, 2023. All honorees are of Czech descent and have made significant contributions in preserving Czech musical traditions in Nebraska and the Midwest throughout their lives. Those honored for their dedication to the preservation of Czech music were **Steve Hines**, Brainard; **Jim Kucera**, Elkhorn; **Kenny Shuda**, Grand Island. Honored posthumously were **Ernest "Ernie" Coufal**, Bruno; **Frank Kucera**, Linwood; **Alvin "Al" Moudry**, Ord; and **Norman Sodomka**, Grand Island.

There's a little more to the story regarding Ernie Coufal....our own **Lincoln Czech Club** member "**Brad Husak**" accepted the award for "**Ernie Coufal**" on behalf of the family. Ernie was quite special to Brad because Ernie is the one who taught Brad how to play the accordion....by ear, at age 14. Ernie learned to play by ear when he was young, he would listen to records then play the accordion. Ernie said Brad was a fast learner and he was happy the Czech music would be carried on after he could no longer play. Now Brad is teaching the next generation how to play....by ear....does the name **Addie Hejl** sound familiar?

**NEBRASKA CZECH FESTIVALS**

**May 7**  
**Lincoln Czech Festival**

**June 3**  
**Hastings/South Central Czech Festival**

**June 11**  
**Milligan June Jubilee**

**June 23, 24, 25**  
**Clarkson Czech Festival**

**July 21, 22, 23**  
**Dwight Czech Festival**

**August 4, 5, 6**  
**Wilber Czech Festival**

**August 2**  
**Prague Czech Heritage Day**

**September 9**  
**Milligan Saint Wenceslas Brewfest**

**October 14**  
**York Czechfest**