

2023 AUGUST



**Nebraska Czechs
of Lincoln**

Mark you calendar!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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WEBSITE
Lincolnczechs.org
NEWSLETTER
Contact lois@loisrood.com
402-570-2333

2023 CLUB CALENDAR
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)

MEETING LOCATION
HyVee 84 & Holdrege
5:30 Social; 6:00 Dinner



**Slavit!
Celebrate!**



**2023 NEBRASKA
CZECH FESTIVALS**

**AUGUST 4, 5, 6
WILBER CZECH FESTIVAL**

Crowning of the National Czech-Slovak Queen

Saturday & Sunday, August 5 & 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Do you want to walk in the parade?

Saturday, Aug. 5 at 2:00 p.m. and/or

Sunday, Aug. 6 at 2:00 p.m.

**Contact Maurice Vonasek @ mvonasek@hotmail.com
402-432-7525**

**AUGUST 12
Prague Czech Heritage Day**

**CZECH LANGUAGE FOUNDATION
2023 EVENTS**

**AUGUST 5, 2023
ANNUAL MEETING**
11:00 a.m.—Fox Hole Tavern
Wilber Czech Festival
All Lincoln Czech Club Members Welcome!

**OCTOBER 8, 2023
FALL BANQUET**
5:00 p.m.
Keynote Speaker, John Kotouc
“What’s so special about Jan Amos?”
First Lutheran Church
1551 S. 70th St., Lincoln, NE
Website: czechlanguagefoundation.org
Facebook: @czechlanguagefoundation

**LINCOLN CZECH
CLUB**

**Information Booth at
The Farmer’s Market
in the Haymarket**

**AUGUST 26 &
SEPTEMBER 16**

8:00 a.m. to Noon

Volunteers Needed!

Contact:

**Diane Vesely-Robb
dveselyrobb@yahoo.com
402-560-4847**

BETTER LIFE

Formerly Western Fraternal
Life Association/ZCJB

**WALK AGAINST
HUNGER**

5:00—8:00 p.m.

AUGUST 6, 2023

**Pius X High School
6000 A St, Lincoln, NE 68510
Donate food or money
to fight hunger
in eastern Nebraska**

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA HAS THE LARGEST UNDERGRADUATE CZECH LANGUAGE PROGRAM IN THE USA

By Míla Šašková-Pierce

UNL has the largest undergraduate Czech Studies Program in the USA After some years of lower enrollments, the 116-years-old program has, in a typical academic year, about 60 enrolled students.

Since 1993, the Czech Language Program enrollment suffered when UNL wanted to discontinue it, but under Czech community protests shifted it into the evening program. Under the Division of Continuing Studies evening format, the studies had a split enrollment format, admitting only ten regular day-students and ten evening-students, meeting only in the evening. It struggled to find enough students.

In 2005 the Czech language program became once again a part of the Department of Modern Languages. After this transition, it struggled once again to attract enough students, as did all of the Czech Studies programs in all US universities. The UNL instructors were often graduate students, or later, instructors from the Czech Republic, hired by the Ministry of Education.

Ten years ago the ministry sent Dr. Hana Waisserova, who, with the help of the scholarships raised by Thomas Zumpfe and Cathy Oszly, and advertising throughout Nebraska, made the program into not only the biggest undergraduate program in the USA, but also a favorite with students. In a typical academic year the UNL Czech Program has about 60 students.

The Czech Language Foundation, starting in 1993, and in an agreement with UNL, guaranties that there will be enough money to pay the salaries of the instructors of the Czech Studies. The Foundation's scholarships ensure that the program will continue. Dr. Hana Waisserova, through her inclusion of the Nebraska Czech community and the travel program in the Czech Republic, made the program the largest and academically most inclusive in the USA.

WAYS YOU CAN LEARN TO SPEAK CZECH

The Czech community in Nebraska, and indeed in the USA, has opportunities to learn Czech in several formats.

BABY CZECH

Mary Sramek Levesque is offering beginning "Baby Czech" through the Czech and Slovak Museum in Omaha several times in a face to face format. For information contact Mary Sramek Levesque at uno.mlevesque@gmail.com.

CONVERSATION CLUB

There is a Czech Conversation Club that meets virtually via ZOOM every third Tuesday of the month at 7.00 PM, starting September 19th 2023. The participants already know some Czech, either as heritage speakers, or former students of the language. Members can prepare material for the themes that are conversed about and share it with the club members. In September, the group will talk about summer vacations they had in 2023. For information contact msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

There is a possibility to study Czech academically in person by enrolling in Fall Czech 101 at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, either as a regular or as a visiting student. In January 2024, the Beginning Czech 101 will be offered in an on-line format, using ZOOM program. Both beginning classes are for university credit. There are four semesters of the language classes at UNL.

You can apply for either class through the UNL Admissions Office, <https://admissions.unl.edu/contact-us/>; or write questions to admissions@unl.edu.

Note that one needs to apply for the class admission very soon, it is as a rule full by the beginning of the semester.

You can speak Czech!



MORE LINCOLN CZECH CLUB NEWS

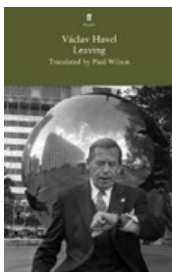
CZECH OUT OUR WEBSITE: lincolnczechs.org

MONTH: AUGUST 29, 2023

LEADERS: PETR JUST, Ph.D.

PLAY: LEAVING (HAVEL COLLECTION)

AUTHOR: VÁCLAV HAVEL



OUR LEADER: Dr. Petr Just (b. 1978)

obtained his Ph.D. in Political Science at the Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, where he has served as part-time Assistant Professor of Political Science since 2005. In 2006 he joined the Metropolitan University Prague (MUP), Czech Republic, as full-time Assistant Professor. He also served as MUP's Vice-Rector for Student Affairs in 2007-2013 and since 2013 he has been the Chair of MUP's Department of Political Science. His teaching engagements have included more than 20 short-term visiting teaching positions at universities in Iceland, Slovakia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovenia, Cyprus, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Turkey.

His professional interests include mainly comparative politics (forms of government, coalitions, bicameralism, presidency) and political systems of the Czech Republic and Slovakia (and Czechoslovakia). He has authored or co-authored 9 monographs, 40 chapters in collective monographs and 40 scientific articles. He has actively participated at more than 80 scientific conferences, both international and domestic. Since 2015 Petr has served both as Vice-President of the Czech Political Science Association (CPSA) and member of Executive Committee of the Central European Political Science Association (CEPSA). In 2018 he was elected CEPSA's Secretary General. He is also member of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) and the American Political Science Association (APSA). Since 2006 he has provided almost 2000 political analysis, commentaries, and interviews for both Czech and foreign media.

READING CIRCLE CONTACTS

Lois Shimerda Rood 402-570-2333;

lois@loisrood.com

Layne Pierce 402-770-5029;

layne.pierce@yahoo.com

Mila Saskova-Pierce 402--770-4624

msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu

PLAY: LEAVING

AUTHOR: VÁCLAV HAVEL

Václav Havel, (born October 5, 1936, Prague, Czechoslovakia [now in Czech Republic]—died December 18, 2011, Hrádeček, Czech Republic), Czech playwright, poet, and political dissident who, after the fall of communism, was president of Czechoslovakia (1989–92) and of the Czech Republic (1993–2003). ... Havel's first new play in more than 20 years—*Odcházení* (*Leaving*), a tragicomedy that draws on his experiences as president and presents a chancellor leaving his post while grappling with a political enemy—premiered in 2008. Havel subsequently directed its film adaptation) 2011. (Source: Britannica.com)

In Loving Memory

Jeanette Smith

June 7, 1917—July 11, 2023

Jeanette joined the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln in 1993. She chaired our festival for many years. She will be missed by all of us.

Please read her obituary at:

<https://www.lincolnalternativefuneral.com/Obituaries/post/jeanette-darlene-smith>

A private family service will be held at Fairview Cemetery in Lincoln

THE COURTESY CORNER

Let us know if you are aware of someone who is celebrating something very special or is in need of our support.

Connie Jean Hulinsky

402-464-5184 (leave message)

(land line with recorder after four rings)

Luconnie@windstream.net

DO YOU WANT TO BE ON THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE?

Contact: Andrea Volf

Avolf83@gmail.com

402-416-6390

Happy Birthday, Anne Callahan



THE NEBRASKA CZECHS OF LINCOLN CLUB HONORS

Anička (Anne) Štechová Callahan

WITH AN **HONOR BRICK** AT THE WILBER HOTEL IN THE CZECH CAPITAL OF THE U.S., WILBER, NEBRASKA
& AN **ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP** IN HER NAME, TO THE CZECH LANGUAGE FOUNDATION