

# 2023 OCTOBER



## Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln

**PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC**  
**October 28**  
**Czechoslovak Independence Day**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
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**Vice President: Maurice Vonasek**  
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**WEBSITE**  
[Lincolnczechs.org](http://Lincolnczechs.org)  
**FACEBOOK**  
[www.facebook.com/LNKczechs](http://www.facebook.com/LNKczechs)

**NEWSLETTER**  
**Contact** [lois@olsrood.com](mailto:lois@olsrood.com)  
**402-570-2333**

**2023 CLUB CALENDAR**  
**October 13: Membership Meeting**  
**November 10: Membership Meeting**  
**December 8: Membership Meeting**

**3rd Tuesday: Conversation Club (Zoom)**  
**Last Tuesday: Reading Circle (Zoom)**

**MEETING LOCATION**

### **MEMBERSHIP MEETING** **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13**

**Reservations due by Wednesday, October 11**

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:** Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Slaw, Rolls & Butter, Drinks  
**BUSINESS MEETING:** 6:30 to 6:45 p.m.  
**PROGRAM:** 6:45 to 7:30 p.m.  
**PROGRAM TOPIC:** *Ancestral Mapping of Czechia*  
**PROGRAM LEADER:** Maurice Vonasek  
**RESERVATIONS:** 402-416-6390 (avolf83@gmail.com)



### **Where did my ancestors come from?**

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Our October 13 program is, 'Ancestral Mapping of Czechia' wherein we will locate club members' ancestral villages, towns and cities. We thought this would be a fun club activity where we will have a large regional map (and several reference maps) and will use mapping pins to indicate those locations. Some members may be quite surprised to see the close proximity of their ancestors & neighbors with other club members. Who knows, this may possibly lead to new-found relatives? Perhaps we may even learn some geography too.

For the October 13 meeting, please bring a list of your ancestral villages, towns or cities that you wish to plot on the map. We will leave it up to you as to how many generations back you wish to identify/put on the map. If you don't know an exact location for your ancestors, we can generalize locations by one of the Czech Republic's 13 regions. Should you not know locations of any of your ancestors...well then, our October 13 program directly ties into our November 10 program 'Genealogy – For Beginners & Experts Alike'. More detail on both programs will be made available soon. These next two months' meetings should be very interesting to all.

### **OCTOBER AT A GLANCE**

**Saturday, October 7**  
**Bohemia Sto Mil (100 Miles) BIKE RIDE**  
Czechland Lake 8:00 a.m. north of Prague, Ne

**Sunday, October 8th**  
**CZECH LANGUAGE BANQUET**  
First Lutheran Church  
1551 S 70th St, Lincoln, NE  
Starts at 5:00 p.m.  
Website: [czechlanguagefoundation.org](http://czechlanguagefoundation.org)

**Friday, October 13**  
**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
HyVee at 1601 N 84th St., Lincoln, NE  
Social 5:30 p.m.; Dinner 6:00 p.m.

**Saturday, October 14th**  
**YORK FESTIVAL**  
Holthus Convention Center  
9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
York, Nebraska

**Tuesday, October 17**  
**CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB**  
Via zoom at 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, October 31**  
**CZECH READING CIRCLE**  
Join zoom @ 6:15 p.m.  
Presentation @ 6:30 p.m.

**Lincoln Club Activities in Red**

## 2023 CZECH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION UNL Lecture by Czech Political Scientist, Petr Just at UNL (Summary by Lois Rood)

On Monday, August 28, 2023 **Dr. Petr Just**, who studied at Charles University in Prague and is currently professor of political science and chair of the Department of Political Science at the Metropolitan University Prague, presented a lecture at the University of Nebraska Lincoln which was also broadcast via zoom. Professor Just first came to Lincoln in 1994 as a foreign exchange student at Lincoln High School. 41 students and 8 people from the community attended the UNL lecture and 15 others attended by zoom from Nebraska and Minnesota. Professor Just's topic was the 2023 Czech presidential election which he referred to as having *the most dramatic pre-election campaign in post-1989 Czech political history*. In this recent election Petr Pavel, a retired general and ex-chief of staff of the Czech Army, beat out the populist opponent Andrej Babiš, a leader in the party ANO. Here are some interesting excerpts from his lecture.

- Just first explained the constitutional requirements and eligibility to run for President in the Czech Republic and explained that the president is chosen directly by the people in two rounds.
- He told us that in the Czech Republic the two candidates that receive the highest votes in the first round, face off in the 2nd round. The winner is selected by a majority.
- He gave us a brief overview of the history of direct elections since the 2013 election between Miloš Zeman and Karel Schwarzenberg and the 2018 elections when Miloš Zeman was re-elected after defeating Jiří Drahoš.
- Just described the backgrounds of the 9 registered candidates of the 2023 election: Andrej Babiš, Jaroslav Bašta, Karel Diviš, Pavel Fischer, Marek Hilšer, Danuše Nerudová, Petr Pavel, Josef Středula, and Tomáš Zima · Candidate Andrej Babiš refused to take part in some of the candidate debates including all-candidate Czech Television (public TV) debates before the first round of elections. At the 2nd round of debates, after announcing he would not attend, he appeared 8 minutes before the live broadcast started.
- The ruling coalition did not nominate their official candidate. Two criteria were required: 1) to respect to the Constitution and constitutional order, and to have a clear pro-Western, pro-EU, pro-NATO geopolitical orientation.
- Two candidates were nominated by parliamentary opposition parties, Andrej Babiš (ANO) and Jaroslav (SPD)\*.
- Only three candidates moved to the 2nd round of debates: Andrej Babiš, Danuše Nerudová (a much younger candidate and only woman running), and Petr Pavel. Major controversies existed about each of the three candidate.
- In the first round results, Petr Pavel led with Andrej Babiš second. Danuše Nerudová was a disappointing 3rd.
- In the second round results, Petr Pavel won by a landslide victory... 3,359,301 (58.32%) to 2,399,898 (41.67%) · The support to the Ukraine was the primary issue in the campaign.
- Petr Pavel is pro-West, pro-EU and pro-NATO

Footnote:

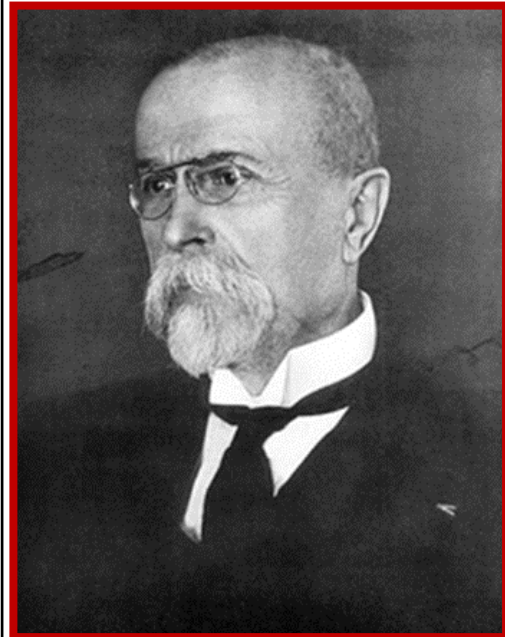
ANO 2011 refers to: In English, Action of Dissatisfied Citizens; In Czech, Akce nespokojených občanů, ANO is a populist political party in the Czech Republic.

SPD refers to: In English, Freedom and Direct Democracy; In Czech, Svoboda a přímá demokracie SPD is a right-wing populist political party in the Czech Republic.

## NEBRASKA MAKES NEWS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Eastern Nebraska made the televised news in the Czech Republic during the Ambassador's visit here in August. A Czech Delegation including members of the Armed Forces came to Nebraska to participate in the 2023 Guardians of Freedom Airshow. The Ambassador spoke and the Armed Forces Band played a concert at the Wilber Sokol Hall. Both events were televised in the Czech Republic.

## October 28 Independent Czechoslovakia State Day



(Photo Wikipedia: **Tomas G. Masaryk**, 1st President of Czechoslovakia (1918—1935))

**October 28, 1918** was the day that Czechoslovakia was founded. It was a new democratic nation founded from the territories that had been part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The first president was **Tomas G Masaryk**. The new nation was one of Europe's first multi-party democracies, but it lasted only two decades until Nazi Germany occupied it in 1938 and 1939.



The first flag in 1918 had two stripes, red and white, symbolizing their new sovereignty taken from the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Bohemia.

# NEBRASKA CZECHS OF LINCOLN CZECH READING CIRCLE & CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

## THE READING CIRCLE

**MONTH: OCTOBER 31, 2023**

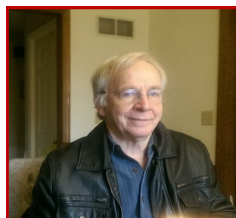
**LEADER: LAYNE PIERCE, M.A., MLS**

**BOOK: *A GOTHIC SOUL* (1900/2015)**

**AUTHOR: Jiří Karásek ze Lvovic**



Jiří Karásek ze Lvovic  
(left from Wikimedia);  
Layne Pierce (right)



**OUR LEADER LAYNE PIERCE** was born and raised in Kansas. He graduated from Emporia St. University with minor in Spanish. Layne is a veteran of the United States Army, graduate of the Defense Language Institute in Monterey California, with an emphasis on Czech language. He has a Master's degree in German Languages and Literatures from the University of Kansas and a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from Emporia State University. He has worked as reference Librarian at Bellevue University, and Reference and Community Outreach Librarian with the Lincoln City Libraries in Lincoln, Nebraska. Layne co-authored Czech language textbook with Dr. Miluše Šašková-Pierce. He has taught Czech classes and tutored students in Czech at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. At present he is retired from the library, but continues to work as Czech translator. He is currently translating František Vavák's 18<sup>th</sup> Century Chronicle together with Dr. Mila Šašková-Pierce. He continues to be active in American and Nebraska Czech organizations. He is President of the *Czech Language Foundation*, which supports the teaching of Czech language and culture classes at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Past President of the *Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln*, Treasurer of the *Czech and Slovak Educational Center and Cultural Museum*; and Secretary of the *Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, Nebraska Chapter*. He is the moderator for the *Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln Reading Circle*.

## READING CIRCLE CONTACTS

|                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Lois Shimerda Rood       | 402-570-2333; |
| lois@loisrood.com        |               |
| Layne Pierce             | 402-770-5029; |
| layne.pierce@yahoo.com   |               |
| Mila Šašková-Pierce      | 402--770-4624 |
| msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu |               |

**BOOK: *A GOTHIC SOUL* (1900/2015)**  
**AUTHOR: Jiří Karásek ze Lvovic**

*A Gothic Soul* is the most acclaimed work of Czech Decadent prose. Expressing concerns that are unique to the Czech movement while alluding creatively and ironically to Joris-Karl Huysman's *Against Nature*, the novella is set in Prague, which is portrayed as a dead city, a city peopled by shades, who, like the protagonist – a nihilist and the "last scion of a noble line" – are only a dim reflection of the city's medieval splendor. The man lives in a dream-world, the labyrinth of his soul giving rise to visions. In his quest for meaning, he walks the city, often hallucinating, while pondering questions of religious fervor and loss of faith, the vanity of life, his own sense of social alienation, human identity and its relationship to a "nation," the miserable situation of the Czechs under Habsburg rule, and Prague's loss of its soul on the cusp of modernity as old sections, such as much of the squalid Jewish Quarter, are demolished to make way for gaudy new buildings and streets. With a history of madness running in the family and afraid the same fate awaits him, he ultimately retreats into seclusion, preferring the monastic way of life as the epitome of unity and wholeness and a tonic to present-day fragmentation. Yet Karásek eschews the mawkish,



## CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

**Řekněte to česky!**

**Via ZOOM**

**October 17 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Participants should 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.



## 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**

Chairman, Courtesy Committee 2023

402-464-5184 (leave message)

(land line with recorder after four rings)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE! READING CIRCLE CHANGE!**  
**The September Reading Circle had to be cancelled.**  
**Carter Hulinsky will present Karel Capek's The Gardner's Year**  
**Tuesday, December 12; Same Time, Same Link**



# THE CZECH CONNECTION

## Recent Events



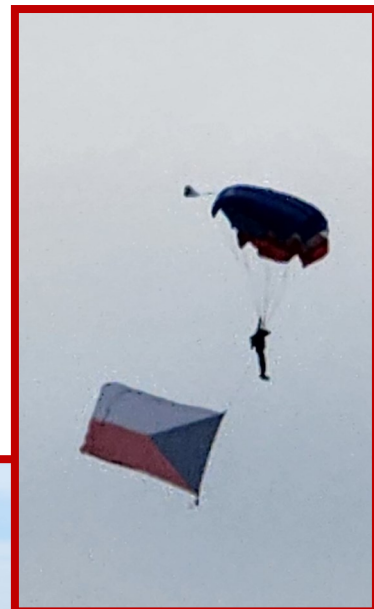
Wilber Mayor Roger Chrans welcomes Czech Ambassador, Miloslav Stašek



Czech Republic Armed Forces Central Band  
Wilber Sokol Hall



Band receives a standing ovation from a large crowd at the Wilber sokol Hall



Czech Ambassador, Czech Armed Forces Central Band and Czech Air Force at the Guardians of Freedom Air Show, Lincoln, NE August 26 & 27



# THE CZECH CONNECTION

## Recent Events



Above: St. Wenceslaus Brewfest  
Milligan, NE  
Photos from Rachel Taylor

Left: Mr. Vít Hořejš with the Czechoslovak-American Marionette Theater from New York City with Mila Šašková-Pierce, Hana Waisserova and Layne Pierce  
Photo from Linda Taborek

Below: Omaha Sokol Polka Hall of Fame  
Photo from Facebook

### Omaha Sokol Polka Hall of Fame

Living Inductees:

Galen Beck

Jan Lhotak

Bill Scott

Leonard R. Siedlik (Lenny Rich)

Bob Zyblut

Deceased Inductees:

Herman (Hermie) Franzluebbers

Raynold Woita



# THE CZECH CONNECTION OCTOBER EVENTS

## BOHEMIAN STO MIL

(One Hundred Miles)

### BIKE RIDE

(From Dr. Hana Waisserova)

**OCTOBER 7, 2023**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Czechlands Lake (north of Prague, NE)**

Join bikers for a 100 mile, one-day bike ride on dirt and gravel roads through the beautiful hilly country in Butler and Saunders counties. This area was referred to as the Bohemian Alps by our pioneering ancestors.

The event is locally sponsored and is free to those participating. There will be *Czechpoints* along the way with water and refreshments for bikers and a traditional Czech meal at the end. **Register at: <https://bohemianstomil.com/>**



## CZECH LANGUAGE FOUNDATION

(From Layne Pierce)

**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](http://czechlanguagefoundation.org)

Facebook: [@czechlanguagefoundation](https://www.facebook.com/czechlanguagefoundation)



## 18th ANNUAL CZECHFEST OF YORK

**OCTOBER 14**

**Holthus Convention Center**

**9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

9:30 am—10:30 am Coffee & Koláče

10:00 am—12:00 pm Accordion Jamboree

10:00 am—2:00 pm Silent Auction

11:00 am—2:00 pm Authentic Czech Dinner

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Music by the Milligan Czech Brass Band



Photo from  
Deb Polacek

## CZECHOSLOVAK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2023 19th Genealogical/ Cultural Conference

(From Linda Taborek)

**OCTOBER 17-21**

**The Ingleside Hotel  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

**Learn! Share! Connect!**  
**History, Culture, Genealogy**

Register at:

<https://cgsi.org/2023-cgsi-conference>

(CGSI Phone: 651-964-2322)