

2023 DECEMBER



Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln

CZECH REPUBLIC PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
December 24, Christmas Eve
December 25, Christmas Day
December 26, 2nd Day of Christmas

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
President: Andrea Volf
Vice President: Maurice Vonasek
Secretary: Lois Shimerda Rood
Treasurer: Linda Taborek
Festival Chair: Deb Vocasek
Board Members
Rev. Karen Moritz
Connie Jean Hulinsky
Diane Vesely-Robb

WEBSITE
Lincolnczechs.org
FACEBOOK

MEMBERSHIP MEETING **FRIDAY, December 8**

Reservations due by Wednesday, Dec. 6

If you make a reservation but don't attend, we will bill you since we are 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: Roast beef, mashed potatoes & gravy, glazed baby carrots, rolls & butter, beverages, cherry pie

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

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

TOPIC: **Holiday Cheer!**

LEADER: **Maurice Vonasek**

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

NEWSLETTER
Contact lois@lolsrood.com
402-570-2333

2023 CLUB CALENDAR
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

MONTH AT A GLANCE **DECEMBER** **Friday, December 8** **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Installation **of 2024 Officers** **& Board of Directors**

PRESIDENT
Andrea Volf

VICE PRESIDENT
Rachel Taylor

SECRETARY
Sinda Dux

TREASURER
Linda Taborek

FESTIVAL CHAIRPERSON
Deb Vocasek

BOARD MEMBER (12/31/2024)
Connie Jean Hulinsky

BOARD MEMBER (12/31/2025)
Rev. Karen Moritz
Resigning 12/31/2023

BOARD MEMBER (12/31/2026)
Diane Vesely-Robb

Now they all
want **Krtek**
for Christmas.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Please join us December 8th for a fun and relaxing evening as we prepare to celebrate the Christmas season. Following the meal and business meeting, we will have a small hands-on assembly project that each of you will be able to take home and enjoy for the Christmas holiday. During this busy-hands-on-creativity time, we will talk about some of the Czech-Slovak Christmas traditions held in the "old-country" as well as here. It will be a good time to reminisce about holidays gone by and share stories of how your own families celebrated as we continue to celebrate these special times. We may even be able to learn and pronounce some Czech holiday greetings and wishes for the holiday season.



We want 100 members by New Years!

PFC CHARLEY HAVLAT

from Saline County, NE

War Memorial at Saline County Museum in Dorchester, Nebraska

<https://www.abmc.gov/news-events/news/last-american-killed-action-europe-during-world-war-ii><https://www.uswarmemorials.org/html/>

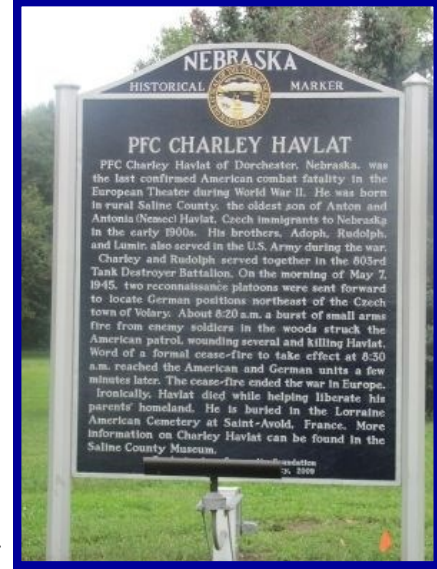


Born: November 4, 1910
Saline County, NE
Died: May 7, 1945
Volary, Czechia
Service Branch: U.S. Army
Service: 1942-1945
803rd Tank Destroyer Battalion

Son of Czech immigrants
Anton and Antonia Havlat

Brothers Adolph, Lumir, and
Rudolf also served in the Army.
Rudolf served in the 803 Destroyer
Battalion as well.

They fought in some of the most
bloody and decisive battles of WWII.



The Last American Killed in Action in Europe during World War II

Read about this amazing Nebraskan who died defending his parents' homeland ten minutes before the war ended at the War Memorial website: [ABMC—American Battle Monuments Commission](https://www.abmc.gov/news-events/news/last-american-killed-action-europe-during-world-war-ii), Wednesday, May 07, 2014; <https://www.abmc.gov/news-events/news/last-american-killed-action-europe-during-world-war-ii>
Overseas memorial at: [American War Memorials Overseas, Inc.](https://www.uswarmemorials.org/html/monument_details.php?) https://www.uswarmemorials.org/html/monument_details.php?

YORK FESTIVAL



Nebraska Czechs Royalty (above)
Queens, Princes & Princesses at the York Festival, 2023



Andrea Volf
Czech Crafts & Jewelry Booth
Made by Two Czech Girls
York Festival 2023



NEBRASKA CZECHS OF LINCOLN NO READING CIRCLE IN DECEMBER!

2024 Reading Circle Brochure will be sent out soon!



**Do you want to know more about your own Czech heritage?
Anyone interested in starting a **Czech Genealogy Circle**?**

Contact: Maurice Vonasek at: 402-432-7525 or mvonasek@hotmail.com



Learning who one's ancestors are and where they came from is fascinating for most folks. Imagining the times in which they lived, loved, struggled, suffered and succeeded in their lives is, sometimes, the best we can do. Those lucky enough to have received photos, documents, news articles and family stories passed down about their ancestors have a cherished family treasure trove on their hands.

Our November program, 'Genealogy for Beginners & Experts Alike' was well received. Just as stated in the program title, quite a few of our Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln members are experienced in genealogy research whereas we have about an equal number of folks that are in the beginning stages of their family research. Such a broad and faceted topic and not knowing where or how to find information can be exasperating and stressful at times. This is when it helps to have a living resource base to ease some of those frustrating moments and share stories/experiences.

Based on some of the feedback from the November meeting, we would like to solicit additional input on the possibility of holding periodic meetings to discuss individual genealogy topics via Zoom meetings similar to how the Reading Circle is conducted. We would envision trying to keep these informal evening Zoom meetings limited to roughly two hours (+/-) while keeping the focus on just one or two topics per session. We're thinking that attendees could take turns in leading discussions on various topics near and dear to them. Plus, we would have facilitators for each meeting so as to help guide the presenters.

In order to see if this is feasible, we first need to know how many folks would be interested in attending such a genealogy focus group. **If you're one of those interested, contact Maurice or Bev Vonasek.** Děkuji.



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)

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	



CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB
Řekněte to česky!

Via ZOOM
December 19 @ 7:00 p.m.
Prosinec: Camille Kotouc

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. For information contact

msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu

Plán Českého konverzačního klubu

Prosinec: Camille Kotouc
Leden: Sharon Valášek Cestování
Únor: Marie Sedláček Opera
Březen: Mila Pierce Média a internet
Duben: Linus Voves: Typické (české?) jídlo

Plan of the Czech Conversation Club

December: Camille Kotouc
January: Sharon Valášek Travel
February: Marie Sedláček Opera
March: Mila Pierce Media and the Internet
April: Linus Voves: Typical (Czech?) food

SALINE COUNTY MUSEUM

S.W. corner of Junction NE Hwy 33 & Washington St., Dorchester, NE

Phone: 402-946-2129

April-October: Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

November—March: Wednesdays, Saturdays 1:00 –to 4:00 p.m.

**This County Museum is Impressive!
HATS OFF**

to all the volunteers!

Right: PFC Charley Havlat Memorial
with volunteer, Connie Strouf!

Only 35 miles from Lincoln



15

SALINE COUNTY MUSEUM 15 GREAT BUILDINGS!

1. Main Building
2. Chapel
3. Memorial Building
4. Weidner Building
5. Kaspar Building
6. Machinery Building
7. Center Hall Voting Building
8. Buckingham School Dist. 35
9. Burden Home
10. Cizek Log Cabin Building
11. Plato Post Office
12. Dorchester Depot
13. Research Building
14. Wooden Windmill
15. Charley Havlat Memorial

Thanks Connie Strouf and Doris Koll for the great tour!



MUSEUM RESEARCH CENTER

County newspapers back to 1880s, Town Histories, Rural School Records from 1876 to 1964,
Census Records from about 1876, Family Trees & Family Histories, Family Photos,
Obituaries & Funeral Program; Cemetery Maps, Plat Maps and More

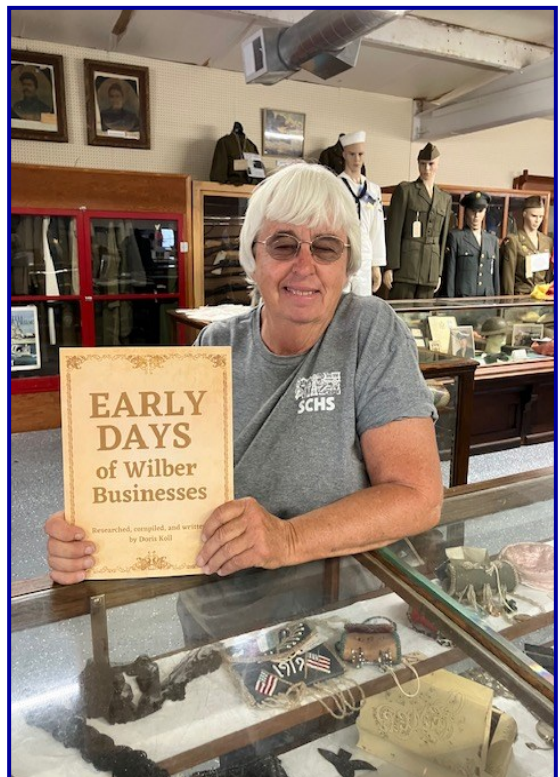


EARLY DAYS of Wilber Businesses ...a passion project by Doris Koll

Author **Doris Koll** is a native and life-long resident of Saline County, Nebraska. Her ancestors immigrated from Bohemia in the early 1870s. She is a volunteer with the Saline County Historical Society and is currently on its Board of Directors. She spends a great deal of time at the Saline County Museum in Dorchester.

As the 150th anniversary of Wilber approached (January 18, 2023) she became interested in the history of Wilber businesses. She was fascinated by the challenges of the people who settled a town and struggled to raise their families. Their stories told of fires, grasshopper plagues, dust storms and more. The strength of these people needed to be recorded. Her book tells the stories with numerous photos of many, but certainly not all, of those who started businesses in those early days of Wilber.

Purchase this book from the Wilber City Office for \$20.00. For an extra \$7, the book can be mailed. Call the Wilber City Office at: 402-821-3233. You also may get a copy at the Wilber Cultural Center.



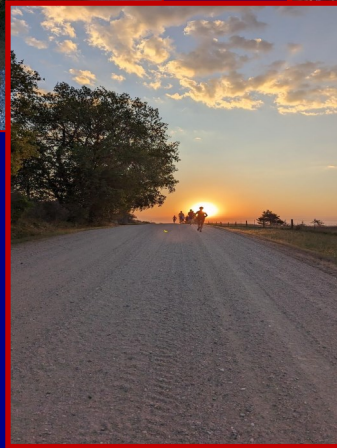
THE CZECH CONNECTION

From Layne Pierce, Mila Šašková-Pierce and Hana Waisserova; Photos from Hana Waisserova



STO MIL
(100 miles)
Bikers & runners
across the
Bohemian Alps

October 7, 2023



CZECHLAND LAKE
North of Prague, NE

Trip through the Bohemian Alps - Friday, November 3, 2023

Once again this year **Dr. Hana Waisserova** took students of the UNL Czech Studies Program and community members on a tour of the Bohemian Alps. This year they went to Howells, Abie, and Clarkson. The students learned about these Nebraska Czech communities, and had kolaches in Clarkson, and dumplings (knedlíky) and pork roast (vepřová) in Abie. (below right photo). The tour also went to the Zion Presbyterian Church in Clarkson, and the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Cedar Hill. (below left photo). Music was provided by Deb Polacek, and everyone got a chance to learn how to dance polkas (polky) and waltzes (valčíky).



THE CZECH CONNECTION

From Layne Pierce and Mila Šašková-Pierce; Photos from Hana Waisserova

American Friends of the Czech Republic meet in Lincoln November 10, 2023

<https://www.afocr.org/about>

The American Friends of the Czech Republic (AFoCR) met in Lincoln on the tenth of November. The meeting and the ensuing banquet was attended by the **Czech Republic Ambassador Miloslav Stašek**, Czech Consul General in Chicago Jakub Utěšený, Nebraska State Secretary Robert Evnen and his Deputy Secretary Cindi Allen; UNL Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs Maegan Stevens – Liska, dean of UNL Arts and Sciences Mark Button; Professors Stephen Lahey, Dr. Hana Waisserová, who is head of the Czech Studies, and other faculty and students of UNL.

AFoCR were represented by members of the Afocr Board of Directors, President Roger Kodat, and Vice President Barbara Gibian, John Kotouc and other members of the AFoCR. Also in attendance were Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, CEO of the Czech and Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids, and her husband Robert Petrik, MD, The Nebraska National Guard was represented by Adjutant General of Nebraska Craig Strong. The Honorary Consul of Czechia for Nebraska Dr. Mila Šašková-Pierce and President of the Czech Language Foundation, Layne Pierce, as well as the president of the Czech Cultural Foundation of Nebraska Steve Steager and treasurer Linda Taborek also attended.



Academic collaboration between Nebraska and Czechia

Meetings of Czech Studies head Hana Waisserova, Ambassador Miloslav Stašek and Consul Jakub Utešený with UNL Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs Maegan Stevens – Liska and Dean Mark Button. Miloslav Stašek proposed research collaboration between Czech institutions of higher learning with UNL that will involve faculty and students from both Nebraska and the Czech Republic.



Students of Czech, professors Hana Waisserova and Mila Šašková-Pierce, Czech community members, during a trip to the Bohemian Alps

THE CZECH CONNECTION

From Layne Pierce, Mila Šašková-Pierce & Hana Waisserova; Photos from Hana Waisserova

Radio Correspondent Pavel Novák talks about Nebraska

Pavel Novák, foreign correspondent for the **Czech Public Radio**, visited Nebraska already for the second time. He is based in Washington D.C., and came to Nebraska first in August of this year to report on the celebrations of the 30-year-long collaboration between Czech Armed Forces and Nebraska National Guard. Major General Bohac headed the events. In the beginning of November 2023, Pavel Novák came back to report about Czech Nebraska and specifically Wilber. His latest article can be read in Czech at: <https://radiozurnal.rozhlas.cz/laska-s-vuni-benzinu-americky-manzelsky-par-dela-z-rezavych-vraku-zase-fesaky-9109072> Use GOOGLE translate to read it in English. You can also listen to it in Czech.

His recent article about his visit to Nebraska is now linked to the website: lincolnczechs.org



(Above right) Pavel Novak, foreign correspondent for Czech Public Radio interviews doctoral opera student, Rachel Sweeney Green (above left) about her interest in Czech opera.



Left to right: The President of Angloamerican University in Prague, Dr. Jiří Schwarz, graduate students Julian Gillian and Tim Turnquist, guest lecturer Dr. Anna Hájková, Dr. Hana Waisserova, Honorary Consul, Dr. Mila Šašková-Pierce, and Layne Pierce.

Czech Writer Anna Haiková lectures at UNL

Also happening recently on November 6th 2023 was the UNL lecture by Czech writer **Anna Hájková**, author of the [The Last Ghetto: An Everyday History of Theresienstadt](#). Dr. Hájková is a professor at Warwick University in London, England. She gave a lecture to the public and visited the Czech classes at the University of Nebraska.

Anglo-American University President visits UNL

<https://www.aauni.edu/>

President of the Anglo-American University in Prague, Jiří Schwarz, (right photo) visited UNL during the first week of November, with a plan to establish student exchange program. Both institutions, UNL and AAU, want their students to experience European and Nebraskan approach to learning respectively.

(Photo right: Honorary Consul, Mila Šašková-Pierce, Jim Schwarz, President of Anglo-American University, Prague, Vice Chancellor for Global Strategies, UNL and Czech Language Professor, UNL Dr. Hana Waisserova).



"Knihovna" That's "library" in Czech by Sinda Dux



There's a wonderful library in Lincoln that you may not know about. It is the **Lincoln-Lancaster County Genealogical Society Library** and this library of over 3,000 items has thirty (30) items relating to Czech language, history, and culture. Examples:

Czech Churches in Nebraska

Czech Cemeteries in Nebraska

Czech-English, English-Czech dictionary

Czechoslovak surname list

History of Czechs in America

Czech immigration passenger lists, volume 6 : New York 1881-1886, Galveston 1880-1886

Czech immigration passenger lists, volume 7 : New York 1887-1896

Czech immigration passenger lists, volume 9 : Baltimore 1880-1899 and a book that is listed on the lincolnczechs.org website:

A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska, by Rose Rosický

We have items from dozens of countries, American states, and Nebraska counties, all catalogued by the Dewey Decimal System.

LLCGS Library

Open Tues., Wed., Thurs., Sat. 1-3 p.m. with volunteers to help you

Access to the collection is available by appointment almost any time.

Search our website version of an online catalog to see LLCGS titles.

Title, author, subject, and call number searching are currently available. We have tried to include the county name in many subject headings. Just enter the name of the county you are interested in, for example, "Phelps County."

If you have questions or wish to make an appointment, contact the LLCGS Library Committee at library@llcgs.info or call 531-249-5939 and leave a message.

For a fee, our volunteers can provide copies of Lancaster County obituaries, early marriage records, and naturalization papers. Just email <library@llcgs.info>.

Library Location

Lincoln-Lancaster County Genealogical Society Library

2900 East O Street, Lower Level Suite 2

Lincoln NE 68510

You can check out the resources at www.llcgs.info for Library Catalog and Calendar of Events, **even if you're not a member!!** We also have scanners and copiers for your use and a scanner that prints large pages such as maps. You can ask for a FREE flash drive to use in your research. There are always volunteers to help you when you come to the LLCGS library.

Official Catholic Beer Blessing



(English) Bless, this beer. O Lord

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord
R. Who made heaven and earth,
V The Lord be with you.
R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.
Bless, + O Lord, this creature beer, which thou hast deigned to produce from the fat of grain: that it may be a salutary remedy to the human race, and grant through the invocation of thy holy name; that, whoever shall drink it, may gain health in body and peace in soul. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Latin) Benedic, Domine, cervisiam hanc

V. Adjutorium nostrum in nomine Domini.
R. Qui fecit caelum et terram.
V. Dominus vobiscum.
R. Et cum spiritu tuo.

Oremus.
Benedic, + Domine, creaturam istam cerevisiae, quam ex adipe frumenti producere dignatus es: ut sit remedium salutare humano generi: et praesta per invocationem nominis tui sancti, ut, quicumque ex ea biberint, sanitatem corporis, et animae tutelam percipiant. Per Christum Dominum nostrum. Amen

Slovenian Drinking Song



To Your Health in Czech

Živijó (Cheers)

Živijó, živijó, živijó, živijó.

*Mnoga ljeta, mnoga ljeta,
mnoga ljeta, živijó.*

*Mnoga ljeta, mnoga ljeta
mnoga ljeta .*

*Živijó, živijó,
živijó živijó.*



Cheers!

- Czech
Na zdraví! [*Naz-dra-vee*]
To your health!
- Czech
Na EX! [*Na ex*]
Drink in one go/dry the glass!
- Czech
Do dna! [*Do dna*]
Until the bottom of the glass!

