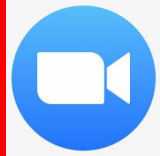


READING CIRCLE FORMAT

MEETINGS ON **ZOOM**
LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
(except December)

JOIN US AT 6:15 p.m. CST
PRESENTATION FROM 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.
DISCUSSION FROM 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.



TO GET YOUR **ZOOM** LINK

and learn more about our rich
CZECH HERITAGE

Email:

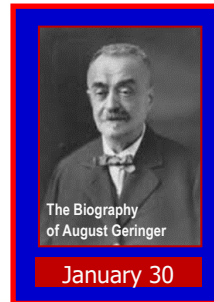
lois@loisrood.com
layne.pierce@yahoo.com
or
msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu



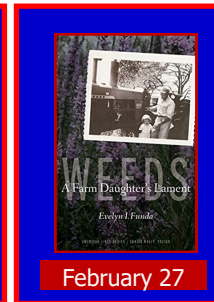
You do not need to have read the book to attend!

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



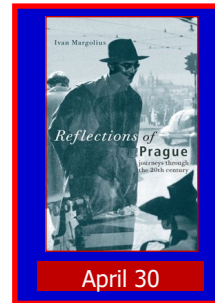
January 30



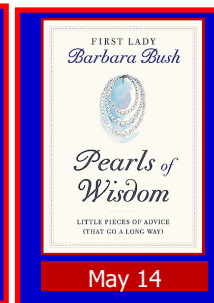
February 27



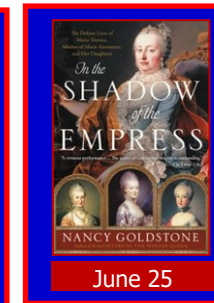
March 26



April 30



May 14



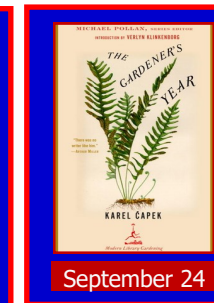
June 25



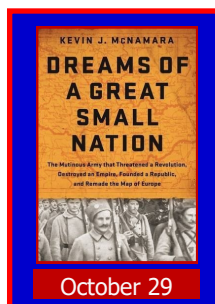
July 30



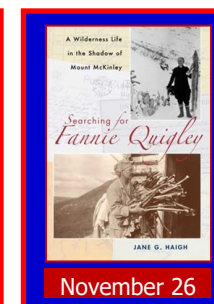
August 27



September 24



October 29



November 26



December 31



Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln 2024

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.

Vítáme vás!

We Welcome You!



Czech/ American Reading Circle Pravda vítězí Truth prevails*

MONTH: January 30, 2024
TOPIC: *The Biography of August Geringer* (1842-1930)
AUTHOR: R. Jaromír Pšenka, Chief Editor of "Amerikán"
 Published In "Amerikán, Národní kalendář,"
 1923 No. XXXXVI In Chicago Pp. 256-278
LEADER: Mila Sasková-Pierce, Ph.D.
SUMMARY:

August Geringer was the publisher of Czech books and of the oldest Czech language daily newspaper in Chicago "Svornost." The English translation of the biography by Mila Šašková-Pierce and Layne Pierce, will be send out upon request.

MONTH: February 27, 2024
BOOK: *Weeds: A Farm Daughter's Lament* (2013)
AUTHOR: Evelyn Funda, Ph.D.
LEADER: Evelyn Funda, Ph.D.
SUMMARY:

"While patiently recounting the deep immigrant roots that permeate her personal history, Funda has crafted an intensely American story. She channels Willa Cather when writing of her mother, who traveled west from New York City on the promise of an epistolary friendship after only recently escaping Moravia with her life and little else. The romance between Funda's parents is built of heartbreak and hopefulness, and played out in big family gatherings and within a patient, if disappointed view of the world.... It is a penetrating look at family, land, and the power of knowing one's past, stretching back from the American frontier to other lands. "There is nothing inherently special about my family's farm in Idaho," writes Funda, who then eloquently proves just how inaccurate that statement actually is." (From the *Booklist* review)

MONTH: March 26, 2024
BOOK: *Daria Kilmentová: Agony and Ecstasy: My Life In Dance* (2013)
AUTHOR: Daria Kilmentová & Graham Watts
LEADER: Andrea & Iva Volf
SUMMARY:

Daria wasn't raised in a ballet family. She was born in Prague, where she was a gymnast. She started taking ballet lessons once a week and her teacher advised her parents that ballet might offer her a longer career. Daria didn't much care but changed her mind once she set her heart on dancing at Prague's National Theatre. She became a soloist there at 18, and then spent three years with the Scottish Ballet before joining the ENB in 1996. Her innate tenacity has seen Daria through some tough times. Her father, a factory mechanic and her greatest fan, died from lung cancer when she was newly arrived in London and didn't have many friends. When her only brother Radek was killed in a motorcycle accident, she cried all day then had to go on stage to dance Giselle. That was the greatest pain she has ever known, she says. It gave her a determination to enjoy life and keep ballet in perspective. In her wonderful and insightful autobiography Daria reveals what life is like behind the scenes and how you really can have it all. (Amazon.com)

MONTH: April 30, 2024
BOOK: *Reflections of Prague: Journeys through the 20th Century* (2006)
AUTHOR: Ivan Margollis
LEADER: Hana Waliserová, Ph.D.
SUMMARY:

Reflections of Prague is the story of how a Czech Jewish family become embroiled in the most tragic and tumultuous episodes of the twentieth century. Through their eyes we see the history of their beloved Prague, a unique European city, and the wider, political forces that tear their lives apart. Their moving story traces the major events, turmoil, oppression and triumphs of Europe through the last hundred years – from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to the First World War; from the vibrant artistic and intellectual life of Prague in the times of Kafka, the Capek brothers and Masaryk to years of hunger in a Polish ghetto and the concentration camps of Hitler; from the tyrannous rule of Stalin to the rekindled hopes of Dubcek and the subsequent Soviet occupation to liberation under Havel. Told from Ivan's perspective, it is a poignant but uplifting tale that tells of life lived with purpose and conviction, in the face of personal suffering and sacrifice.

MONTH: May 14, 2024
BOOK: *Pearls of Wisdom: Little Pieces of Advice* (2020)
AUTHOR: Barbara Bush
LEADER: Susan Nagle
SUMMARY:

Pearls of Wisdom-Little Pieces of Advice (That Go A Long Way) is a biography of First Lady Barbara Pierce Bush, 1925-2018. She served as First Lady from 1989-1993 and was the loving wife of George H.W. Bush, 41st President, for 73 years. Her family and staff members add memories and advice that Barbara shared with them including son George W. Bush who served as 43rd President. (Source: written by Susan Nagle)

MONTH: June 25, 2024
BOOK: *In the Shadow of the Empress: The Defiant Lives of Maria Theresa, Mother of Marie Antoinette, and Her Daughters* (2021)
AUTHOR: Nancy Goldstone
LEADER: Lorraine Duggin, Ph.D.
SUMMARY:

"Brilliant, delightful, and fun! Centered on the remarkable Austrian empress Maria Theresa and her diverse brood of daughters, this book reveals events engineered by these intelligent and powerful women in all their complexity, ingenuity, and ultimately, fatal error. Chock full of penetrating modern insights into the psychological failings that bedevil the human condition." Kirstin Downey Nancy Goldstone is the prolific author of many books of historical fiction, including "Daughters of the Winter Queen," which the Czech Reading Circle reviewed a couple of years ago. She has also written and co-authored man, books of non-fiction... (Source: written by an author, Kirstin Downey)

MONTH: July 30, 2024
BOOK: *The Trial* (1925)
AUTHOR: Franz Kafka
LEADER: Layne Pierce
SUMMARY:

The Trial (original German title: Der Process) is a novel written by Franz Kafka from 1914 to 1915 and published in 1925. One of his best-known works, it tells the story of a man arrested and prosecuted by a remote, inaccessible authority, with the nature of his crime revealed neither to him nor to the reader. Heavily influenced by Dostoyevsky's Crime and Punishment and The Brothers Karamazov, Kafka even went so far as to call Dostoyevsky a blood relative. Like Kafka's other novels, *The Trial* was never completed, although it does include a chapter which brings the story to an end. After Kafka's death in 1924 his friend and literary executor Max Brod edited the text for publication by Verlag Die Schmiede. The original manuscript is held at the Museum of Modern Literature, Marbach am Neckar, Germany. The first English language translation, by Willa and Edwin Muir, was published in 1937. In 1999, the book was listed in Le Monde's 100 Books of the Century and as No. 2 of the Best German Novels of the Twentieth Century. (Source; Amazon.com)

MONTH: August 27, 2024
BOOK: *The Phenomenon of Jára Cimrman* (1960s)
AUTHOR: Created by Jiří Šebánek, Zdeněk Svěrák, and Ladislav Smoljak
LEADER: Petr Just, Ph.D.
SUMMARY:

The seminar will introduce participants to a phenomenal Czech fictional polymath Jára Cimrman, whose "work" has been played by the "Jára Cimrman Theatre" for more than 50 years. The theatre's performances have been sold out for most of the time of its existence and even today it is quite challenging to get the tickets to it. Despite the setting of most of the plays is in the 19th and early 20th century, they are able to depict even today's mentality and characteristic features of the Czech nation. And that all is achieved via plays "written" by fictional author Jára Cimrman. So if you wonder who Jára Cimrman is, what his accomplishments in (not only) literary field are, and why he was voted the Greatest Czech (despite being fictional person), tune in on 27 August 2024. (From Petr Just, Ph.D.)



Český čtenářský kroužek

MONTH: September 24, 2024
BOOK: *The Gardener's Year* (1929)
AUTHOR: Karel Čapek
LEADER: Carter Hullinsky
SUMMARY:

From the internationally acclaimed Czech writer Karel Čapek comes this beautifully written and marvelously apt account of the trials and tribulations of the gardener's life. First published in Prague in 1929, *The Gardener's Year* combines a richly comic portrait of life in the garden, narrated month by month, with a series of delightful illustrations by the author's older brother and collaborator, Josef. Čapek's gardeners—all too human, despite their lofty aspirations—often look the fool, whether they be found sopping wet, victims of the cobralike water hose, or hunched over, hands immersed in the soil, "presenting their rumps to the splendid azure sky." In their repeated folly, Čapek gives us not only cause for laughter but also, in the end, "testimony of the imperishable and miraculous optimism of the human race." (Source: Amazon.com)

MONTH: October 29, 2024
BOOK: *Dreams of a Great Small Nation* (2016)
AUTHOR: Kevin McNamara
LEADER: Maurice & Bev Vonasek
SUMMARY:

This book is a summary of the chain of political and military events that led to the formation of the Czechoslovak state. In the early 1900's the Austro-Hungarian Empire was deeply troubled. Many were dissatisfied with the direction of the empire and began to seek independence. Among those were the Czechs and Slovaks. With the collapse of the Hapsburg dynasty, Czech leaders (Masaryk and Beneš) declared war on Austria Hungary from Prague and proceeded to create a national political movement to build the new nation. With the chaos of 1918 Siberia (Russian Revolution), where Red & White armies, American, French, Japanese, German and Hungarian POWs all fought for control over the Trans-Siberian railroad, the Czech-Slovaks managed to prevail. And so were born the Czech Legions. The Czech-Slovak Legion took control of the Trans-Siberian railway for most of its length following the Russian Revolution. The Czech Legions suffered large numbers of casualties. In the end, with western support, the Czech and Slovak people finally regained their rightful homeland from the Austro-Hungarian Empire. (Written by Maurice & Beverly Vonasek)

MONTH: November 26, 2024
BOOK: *Searching for Fannie Quigley: A Wilderness Life In the Shadow of Mount McKinley* (2007)
AUTHOR: Jane G. Haigh
LEADERS: Tom Zumpfo & Cathleen Oszly
SUMMARY:

At the age of 27, Fannie Sedlacek left her Bohemian homestead in Wahoo, Nebraska to join the gold rush to the Klondike. From the Klondike to the Tanana, Fannie continued north, finally settling in Katishna near Mount McKinley. This woman, later known as Fannie Quigley, became a prospector who staked her own claims and a cook who ran a roadhouse. She hunted and trapped and thrived for nearly forty years in an environment that others found unbearable. Her wilderness lifestyle inspired many of those who met her to record their impressions of this self-sufficient woman, who died in 1944. To many of the 700,000 annual visitors to Denali National Park she is a symbol of the enduring spirit of the original pioneers. *Searching for Fannie Quigley: A Wilderness Life in the Shadow of Mount McKinley* goes beyond the mere biographical facts of this unique woman's journey. It also tells historian Jane G. Haigh's own story of tracking and tracing the many paths that Fannie Quigley's intriguing life took. Uncovering remote clues, digging through archives, and listening to oral accounts from a wide array of sources, Haigh has fashioned this rich lode into a compelling narrative. In *Searching for Fannie Quigley*, Haigh separates fact from fiction to reveal the true story of this highly mythologized pioneer woman. Book is available through Amazon and other sources for a reasonable cost.

No Reading Circle in December
Veselé Vánoce design by Diane Vesely-Robb & Maurice & Beverly Vonasek
 From our December Membership Meeting, 12 08 2023

