

LOCATIONS
Lincoln Public Libraries

GERE: 2400 S. 56 Street, Lincoln, NE
Room 2
07/30/2019, 9/24/2019, and 11/26/19

WALT: 2670 S 14 St, Lincoln, NE
Room 2
08/27/2019 and 10/29/2019

TIME: 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Must be out of room by closing which is
8:00 p.m.

READING CIRCLE FORMAT

Leader reviews the *Book of the Month*
Leader facilitates a dialogue about the book
and related resources

Participants are also asked to contribute any relevant
information about the book, topic or author.

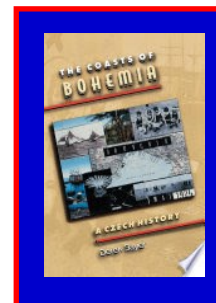
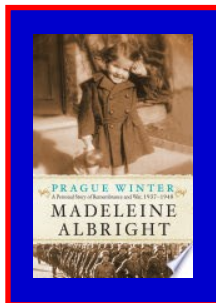
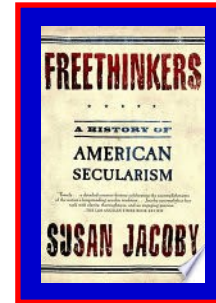
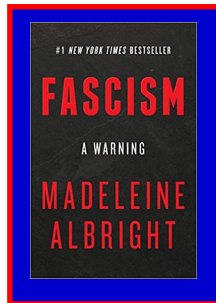
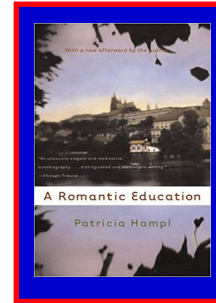
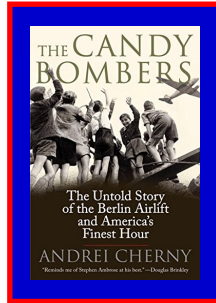
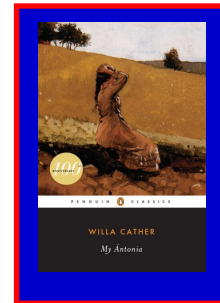
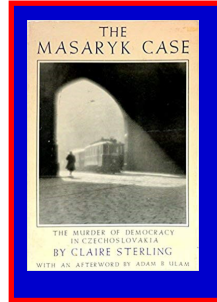
Join us for a good read!

Learn more
about our rich
Czech heritage.



Contacts:
Lois Shimerda Rood
402-570-2333; LRood2@neb.rr.com

Layne Pierce
402-770-5029; layne.pierce@yahoo.com



Nebraska Czechs of
Lincoln

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 the 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.



Czech/ American Reading Circle 2019

Pravda vítězí Truth prevails

MONTH: April 30, 2019

BOOK: *The Masaryk Case:
The Murder of Democracy in Czechoslovakia*

AUTHOR: Claire Sterling

LEADER: Layne Pierce

SUMMARY:

This book is about the murder of democracy in Czechoslovakia and the mysterious death of the Foreign Minister, Jan Masaryk. Eastern Europe after World War II belonged to the Soviet Union, something Masaryk and the Czech people could not accept. On March 10, 1948 Masaryk was found dead at Czermin Palace. The communists ruled his death a suicide. Most Czechs did not believe this and during the 1968 rebellion, in the relatively relaxed atmosphere of the Dubcek regime, they began a search for the truth. Claire Sterling, author, sifts all the explanations and builds a persuasive case for murder.

Review Source: <https://www.amazon.com/Masaryk-Case-Democracy-Czechoslovakia>

MONTH: May 28, 2019

BOOK: *My Antonia*

AUTHOR: Willa Cather

LEADER: Susan Nagle

SUMMARY:

Through Jim Burden's endearing, smitten voice, we revisit the remarkable vicissitudes of immigrant life in the Nebraska heartland, with all its insistent bonds. Guiding the way are some of literature's most beguiling characters: the Russian brothers plagued by memories of a fateful sleigh ride, Antonia's desperately homesick father and self-indulgent mother, and the coy Lena Lingard. Holding the pastoral society's heart, of course, is the bewitching, free-spirited Antonia. This is part of Cather's Prairie Trilogy: *O' Pioneers*, *The Song of the Lark* and *My Antonia*.

Review Source: Review from: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/17150.MyAntonia>

MONTH: June 25, 2019

BOOK: *The Candy Bombers! The Untold Story of
the Berlin Airlift and America's Finest Hour*

AUTHOR: Andrei Cherny

LEADER: Anne Callahan (Lois Rood)

SUMMARY:

"What an exciting, inspiring, and wonderfully-written book this is... Each page has lessons for today, and it is also a thrilling narrative to read."—Walter Isaacson, #1 New York Times Bestselling Author of *Steve Jobs*

The masterfully told story of the unlikely men who came together to make the Berlin Airlift one of the great military and humanitarian successes of American history. Written by Andrei Cherny, son of Czechoslovakian Jews who immigrated to the United States. He is the CEO of Aspiration, an author, historian, and founder and President of Democracy: A Journal of Ideas.

Leader, Anne Callahan was a Pan Am stewardess who flew on the Constellation, an aircraft serving in the Berlin Airlift. Anne participated in the 50th celebration of this event in 1998.

Review Source: <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books>



MONTH: July 30, 2019 at Gere Library, Room 2

BOOK: *A Romantic Education*

AUTHOR: Patricia Hampf

LEADER: Dr. Lorraine Duggin

SUMMARY:

Golden Prague seemed mostly gray when Patricia Hampf first went there in quest of her Czech heritage. In that bleak time, no one could have predicted the political upheaval awaiting Communist Europe and the city of Kafka and Rilke. Hampf's subsequent memoir, a brilliant evocation of Czech life under socialism, attained the stature of living history, and added to our understanding not only of Central Europe but also of what it means to be engaged in the struggle of a people to define and affirm themselves. Reissued now, during the tenth anniversary of that astonishing upheaval known as the Velvet Revolution, *A Romantic Education* includes an extensive updated afterword based on Hampf's annual return trips to Prague and the Czech countryside. Here is an excellent introduction to what was once the unknown "other Europe" behind the Iron Curtain and is now the continent's hottest new travel destination. Once again, as she did in a darker time, Hampf sees the texture beneath the surface of things and intuits the changing life of one of Europe's most bewitching cities.

Review Source: https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/274210.A_Romantic_Education

MONTH: August 27, 2019 at Walt Library, Room 2

BOOK: *Fascism: A Warning*

AUTHOR: Madeline Albright

LEADER: Dr. Mila Saskova-Pierce

SUMMARY:

#1 New York Times Bestseller ; Best Books of 2018 --The Economist

A personal and urgent examination of Fascism in the twentieth century and how its legacy shapes today's world, written by one of America's most admired public servants, the first woman to serve as U.S. secretary of state

A Fascist, observes Madeleine Albright, "is someone who claims to speak for a whole nation or group, is utterly unconcerned with the rights of others, and is willing to use violence and whatever other means are necessary to achieve the goals he or she might have."

The twentieth century was defined by the clash between democracy and Fascism, a struggle that created uncertainty about the survival of human freedom and left millions dead. Given the horrors of that experience, one might expect the world to reject the spiritual successors to Hitler and Mussolini should they arise in our era. In *Fascism: A Warning*, Madeleine Albright draws on her experiences as a child in war-torn Europe and her distinguished career as a diplomat to question that assumption.

Review Source: Review from: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/35230469-fascism>

MONTH: September 24, 2019 at Gere Library, Room 2

BOOK: *Freethinkers: A History of American Secularism*

AUTHOR: Susan Jacoby

LEADER: Lois Shimerda Rood

SUMMARY:

At a time when the separation of church and state is under attack as never before, *Freethinkers* offers a powerful defense of the secularist heritage that gave Americans the first government in the world founded not on the authority of religion but on the bedrock of human reason. In impassioned, elegant prose, celebrated author Susan Jacoby traces more than two hundred years of secularist activism, beginning with the fierce debate over the omission of God from the Constitution. Moving from nineteenth-century abolitionism and suffragism through the twentieth century's civil liberties, civil rights, and feminist movements, *Freethinkers* illuminates the neglected achievements of secularists who, allied with tolerant believers, have led the battle for reform in the past and today.

Rich with such iconic figures as Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Paine, and the once-famous Robert Green Ingersoll, *Freethinkers* restores to history the passionate humanists who struggled against those who would undermine the combination of secular government and religious liberty that is the glory of the American system.

Review Source: <https://www.amazon.com/Freethinkers-American-Secularism-Susan-Jacoby>

MONTH: October 29, 2019 at Walt Library, Room 2

BOOK: *Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance
and War, 1937-1948*

AUTHOR: Madeline Albright, 2012

LEADER: Ken Dolezal

SUMMARY:

From former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright comes a moving and thoughtful memoir of her formative years in Czechoslovakia during the tumult of Nazi occupation, World War II, fascism, and the onset of the Cold War. An intensely personal journey into the past that offers vital lessons for the future, *Prague Winter* combines the intimacy of an autobiography with the drama of an exciting and well-told story - all underpinned by the gravity and intelligence of a serious work of history. The result is a highly readable and incisive work filled with tragedy and triumph, a resonant narrative informed by Albright's remarkable life experience and her characteristic candor in speaking hard truths.

Review Source: https://www.bookbrowse.com/bb_briefs/detail/index.cfm?ezine_preview_number/7178/prague-winter

MONTH: November 26, 2019 at Gere Library, Room 2

TOPIC: *An Evening with Czech History*

LEADER: Shalla Young

SUMMARY:

"*The Coasts of Bohemia: A Czech History* (by Derek Sayer) draws on an enormous array of literary, musical, visual and documentary sources..." This book is one of the few books available through the Lincoln Public Library system exclusively focusing on the history of the Czech lands. Rather than a review of just one book, our leader, Shalla Young, will give us a short history of the key events and figures in Czech history at the circle meeting. During the time of year when we take time for gratitude of our family roots and heritage, circle members are invited to bring their favorite books on Czech history to this meeting including those on our shared rich literary, artistic and musical heritage. The result of the meeting will be to create a list of possible additions we may want to recommend to the Lincoln Library system's collection of Czech-related resources. We will also create our reading calendar for 2020.

MONTH: December 31, 2019
NO CIRCLE MEETING

Šťastný nový rok Happy New Year



TRUTH PREVAILS

Truth prevails" (Czech: *Pravda vítězí*; Slovak: *Pravdavitazi*; Latin: *Veritas vincit*) is the national motto of the Czech Republic.