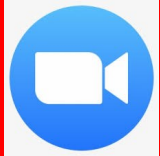


READING CIRCLE FORMAT

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:

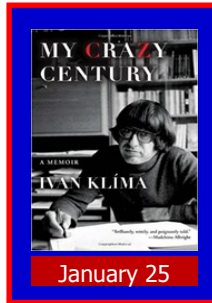
lois@loisrood.com
layne.pierce@yahoo.com
or
msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu



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

Contacts

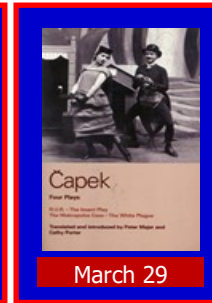
Lois Shimerda Rood
402-570-2333; lois@loisrood.com
Layne Pierce
402-770-5029; layne.pierce@yahoo.com
Mila Saskova-Pierce
402-770-4624 msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu



January 25



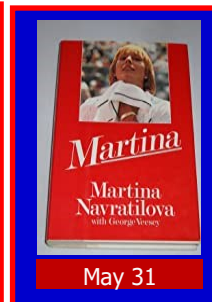
February 22



March 29



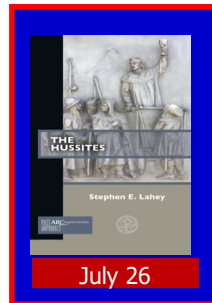
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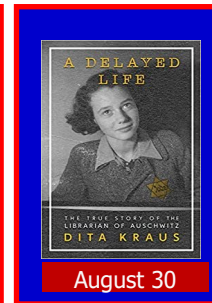
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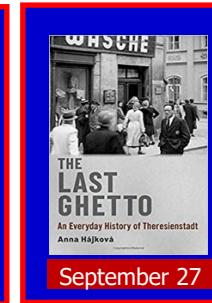
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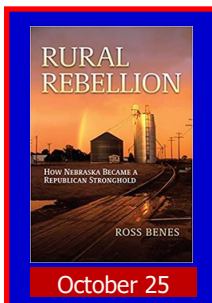
July 26



August 30



September 27



October 25



November 29



December 27



**Nebraska Czechs of
Lincoln
2022**

*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 25, 2022
TOPIC: *My Crazy Century* (2009)
AUTHOR: Ivan Klíma
LEADER: Deb Polacek, M.S.
SUMMARY:

Klíma's story begins in the 1930s on the outskirts of Prague where he grew up unaware of his concealed Jewish heritage. It came as a surprise when his family was transported to the Terezín concentration camp—and an even greater surprise when most of them survived. They returned home to a city in economic turmoil and falling into the grip of Communism. Against this tumultuous backdrop, Klíma discovered his love of literature and matured as a writer. But as the regime further encroached on daily life, arresting his father and censoring his work, Klíma recognized the party for what it was: a deplorable, colossal lie. The true nature of oppression became clear to him and many of his peers, among them Josef Skvorecký, Milan Kundera, and Václav Havel. From the brief hope of freedom during the Prague Spring of 1968 to Charter 77 and the eventual collapse of the regime in 1989's Velvet Revolution, Klíma's revelatory account provides a profoundly rich personal and national history. (Review Source: <https://www.amazon.com>)

MONTH: February 22, 2022
BOOK: *Gerta* (2021)
AUTHOR: Kateřina Tučková
LEADER: Layne Pierce, MA, MLS
SUMMARY:

The award-winning novel by Czech author Kateřina Tučková—her first to be translated into English—about the fate of one woman and the pursuit of forgiveness in a divided postwar world. 1945. Allied forces liberate Nazi-occupied Brno, Moravia. For Gerta Schnirch, daughter of a Czech mother and a German father aligned with Hitler, it's not deliverance; it's a sentence. She has been branded an enemy of the state. Caught in the changing tides of a war that shattered her family—and her innocence—Gerta must obey the official order: she, along with all ethnic Germans, is to be expelled from Czechoslovakia. With nothing but the clothes on her back and an infant daughter, she's herded among thousands, driven from the only home she's ever known. But the injustice only makes Gerta stronger, more empowered, and more resolved to seek justice. Her journey is a relentless quest for a seemingly impossible forgiveness. And one day, she will return. Spanning decades and generations, Kateřina Tučková's breathtaking novel illuminates a long-neglected episode in Czech history. One of exclusion and prejudice, of collective shame versus personal guilt, all through the eyes of a charismatic woman whose courage will affect all the lives she's touched. Especially that of the daughter she loved, fought for, shielded, and would come to inspire. (Review Source: <https://www.amazon.com>)

MONTH: March 29, 2022
BOOK: *The White Plague* (1937)
AUTHOR: Karel Čapek
LEADER: Mila Sasková-Pierce, Ph.D.
SUMMARY:

Also translated into English as *White Disease; Power and Glory* Karel Čapek (1890-1938) is one of the most famous Czech writers. He introduced French literature to Czech readers through his translations, and modern literary movements such as surrealism and relativism, in his writings. He was the speaker and interpreter of the Czechoslovak democracy to the world. He became the intellectual leader of the antifascist movement in Central Europe. The play *The White Plague* deals metaphorically with authoritarian power grabs, comparing it to a pandemic. (by Dr. Mila Saskova-Pierce)

"There was no writer like him...prophetic assurance mixed with surrealistic humour and hard-edged social satire: a unique combination" (Arthur Miller)
The White Plague is a savage and anguished satire against fascist dictatorship and the virus of inhumanity. (<https://www.alibris.com>)
Also See the Preview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rr30pzTVorQ>
Movie on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJMUIBEzYnI> (In Czech with English subtitles)



"Truth Prevails" (Czech: Pravda vítězí, Slovak: Pravda víťazí, Latin: Veritas vincit) ... is the national motto of the Czech Republic.

MONTH: April 26, 2022
BOOK: *Aaron's Leap* (2006)
AUTHOR: Magdaléna Plátzová
LEADER: Hana Walsserová, Ph.D.
SUMMARY:

Based on the real-life story of Bauhaus artist Friedl Dicker-Brandeis, *Aaron's Leap* is framed by the lens of a twenty-first-century Israeli film crew delving into the extraordinary life of a woman who taught art to children in the Nazi transport camp of Terezín and died in Auschwitz. Aided by the granddaughter of one of the artist's pupils, the filmmakers begin to uncover buried secrets from a time when personal and artistic decisions became matters of life-and-death. (Review Source: <https://www.amazon.com>)

MONTH: May 31, 2022
BOOK: *Martina* (1985)
AUTHOR: Martina Navrátilová with George Vecsey
LEADER: Lols Shimerda Rood, M.A.
SUMMARY:

There's never been an athlete like her. Born and raised in Czechoslovakia, Martina Navrátilová knew by the age of ten that she wanted to be a Wimbledon champion -- and a U.S. citizen. She would attain her goals and so much more -- but not before her incredible life unfolded in ways not even she could have dared imagine. *Martina* is more than the thrilling story of an unparalleled career in the tough, sexy world of women's tennis. It is a startling tale of love (with famed novelist Rita Mae Brown), tragedy (her father "disappeared" when Martina was eight, and only later did she learn the true cause of his death), and personal as well as professional triumph. ... an autobiography only a champion could write. (Review Source: www.amazon.com)

MONTH: June 28, 2022
BOOK: *Daughters of the Winter Queen: Four Remarkable Sisters, the Crown of Bohemia and the Enduring Legacy of Mary, Queen of Scots* (2018)

AUTHOR: Nancy Goldstone
LEADER: Lorraine Duggin, Ph.D.
SUMMARY:

Have you ever wondered what was happening with the Bohemian throne at the time of the 1620 catastrophe?
The thrilling family saga of five unforgettable women who remade Europe From the great courts, glittering palaces, and war-ravaged battlefields of the seventeenth century comes the story of four spirited sisters and their glamorous mother, Elizabeth Stuart, granddaughter of the martyred Mary, Queen of Scots. Upon her father's ascension to the illustrious throne of England, Elizabeth Stuart was suddenly thrust from the poverty of unruly Scotland into the fairy-tale existence of a princess of great wealth and splendor. When she was married at sixteen to a German count far below her rank, it was with the understanding that her father would help her husband achieve the kingship of Bohemia. The terrible betrayal of this commitment would ruin "the Winter Queen," as Elizabeth would forever be known, imperil the lives of those she loved, and launch a war that would last for thirty years. (Review Source: www.thriftbooks.com)

MONTH: July 26, 2022
BOOK: *The Hussites* (2019)
AUTHOR: Stephen Lahey, Ph.D.
LEADER: Stephen Lahey, Ph.D.
SUMMARY:

The Hussite movement was a historical watershed, in which popular and scholastic theology combined with a nascent Czech nationalism to produce a full-scale social revolution that presaged the Protestant Reformation and the birth of the modern nation state. The Hussites defeated the forces of the Empire and the Pope, and their king George Podebrady was the first to advocate a trans-national European state. Jan Hus is remembered as a martyr for church reform, but his colleagues formulated a theology that scholars are now recognizing to have had influence on Luther and the birth of Protestantism. Another Bohemian associated with the movement, Petr Chelčický, was the first to advocate a radical pacifist Christian anarchism. This survey introduces the reader to the events, people, and ideas that define this remarkable movement. (Amsterdam University Press) (ReviewSource:<https://www.aup.nl/en/book/9781641891622/the-hussites>)



Český čtenářský kroužek

MONTH: August 30, 2022
BOOK: *A Delayed Life: The True Story of the Librarian of Auschwitz* (2020)
AUTHOR: Dita Kraus
LEADERS: Carter Hullinsky, Library Science Graduate Student
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

SUMMARY:
Born in Prague to a Jewish family in 1929, Dita Kraus has lived through the most turbulent decades of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Here, Dita writes with startling clarity on the horrors and joys of a life delayed by the Holocaust. From her earliest memories and childhood friendships in Prague before the war, to the Nazi-occupation that saw her and her family sent to the Jewish ghetto at Terezín, to the unimaginable fear and bravery of her imprisonment in Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, and life after liberation, Dita writes unflinchingly about the harsh conditions of the camps and her role as librarian of the precious books that her fellow prisoners managed to smuggle past the guards. But she also looks beyond the Holocaust – to the life she rebuilt after the war: her marriage to fellow survivor Otto B Kraus, a new life in Israel and the happiness and heartbreaks of motherhood. (Review Source: <https://www.goodreads.com>)

MONTH: September 27, 2022
TOPIC: *The Last Ghetto: An Everyday History of Theresienstadt* (2020)
AUTHOR: Anna Hájková
LEADER: Louls Reith, Ph.D., MDiv
SUMMARY:

Terezín, as it was known in Czech, or Theresienstadt as it was known in German, was operated by the Nazis between November 1941 and May 1945 as a transit ghetto for Central and Western European Jews before their deportation for murder in the East. Terezín was the last ghetto to be liberated, one day after the end of World War II. *The Last Ghetto* is the first in-depth analytical history of a prison society during the Holocaust. Rather than depict the prison society which existed within the ghetto as an exceptional one, unique in kind and not understandable by normal analytical methods, Anna Hájková argues that such prison societies that developed during the Holocaust are best understood as simply other instances of the societies human beings create under normal circumstances. Challenging conventional claims of Holocaust exceptionalism, Hájková insists instead that we ought to view the Holocaust with the same analytical tools as other historical events. (Review Source: <https://www.amazon.com>)

MONTH: October 25, 2022
BOOK: *Rural Rebellion: How Nebraska Became a Republican Stronghold* (2021)
AUTHOR: Ross Benes
LEADER: Susan Nagle, B.A.
SUMMARY:

After Ross Benes left Nebraska for New York, he witnessed his polite home state become synonymous with "Trump country." Long dismissed as "flyover" land, the area where he was born and raised suddenly became the subject of TV features and frequent opinion columns. With the rural-urban divide overtaking the national conversation, Benes knew what he had to do: go home. In *Rural Rebellion*, Benes explores Nebraska's shifting political landscape to better understand what's plaguing America. He clarifies how Nebraska defies red-state stereotypes while offering readers insights into how a frontier state with a tradition of nonpartisanship succumbed to the hardened right. (Review Source: <https://www.amazon.com>)

MONTH: November 29, 2022
BOOK: *Little Mole and Mother* (2004)
Little Mole and the Space Ship (2004)
AUTHOR: Zdeněk Miler
LEADERS: Tom Zumpfe, P.D. & Cathleen Osizly, B.A.
SUMMARY:

Czech author and illustrator Zdeněk Miler created Krtek, the "Little Mole." The original story was created to help children understand how flux is processed. From this strange beginning, several Krtek books and videos followed. Fashioned after Disney's mouse, Krtek has achieved parallel prominence and importance among Czechs. Krtek's popularity expanded and includes publications in all European countries, UK, Russia and China. Our leaders will review and compare two of Miler's children's books, "Little Mole and Mother" and "Little Mole and the Space Ship." Participants can Google "Krtek videos" to enjoy a preview of Krtek. (By Cathleen Osizly & Tom Zumpfe)

No Reading Circle in December



Veselé svátky a šťastný Nový rok!!!