

# 2024 MARCH



## Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2024

Reservations due by **Wed., Mar. 6 2024**

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:** Pasta Bar  
meatless sauce or grilled chicken, salad & garlic rolls

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

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

### CZECH PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

March 29, 2024

Good Friday

March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

**2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**President:** Andrea Volf  
**Vice President:** Rachel Taylor  
**Secretary:** Sinda Dux  
**Treasurer:** Linda Taborek  
**Festival Chair:** Deb Vocasek  
**Board Members**  
 Connie Jean Hulinsky  
 Diane Vesely-Robb  
 Pat Hust Fortik

### WEBSITE

[Lincolnczechs.org](http://Lincolnczechs.org)

### FACEBOOK

[https://](https://www.facebook.com/LNKCzechs/)

[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/LNKCzechs/)

[LNKCzechs/](https://www.facebook.com/LNKCzechs/)

[NEWSLETTER](https://www.facebook.com/LNKCzechs/)

Contact [lois@loisrood.com](mailto:lois@loisrood.com)

402-570-2333

### 2024 CLUB CALENDAR

March 8 Membership Meeting

April 12 Membership Meeting

**May 5 Lincoln Festival**

May 10 Membership Meeting

September 13 Membership Meeting

October 11 Membership Meeting

November 8 Membership Meeting

December 13 Membership Meeting

3rd Tuesday: Conversation Club (Zoom)

Last Tuesday: Reading Circle (Zoom)

### MEETING LOCATION

HyVee 84 & Holdrege

5:30 Social Hour 6:00 Dinner



### Raising Our Spirits! A Brief History of Rudolf Jelinek Presented by Rachel Taylor

**Description:** Please join us to learn about the centuries-long history of the Jelinek Distillery in Czech Republic and the legacy of the distillery's namesake, Rudolf Jelínek. We will explore the timeline of this culturally and commercially important business within CZ and the evolution of the products they created. The story of the Jelinek Distillery begins in the renaissance and traverses both world wars, the communists, and continues through our modern era. We will discuss the products they produced at various points in history along with their current production of fruit brandies, kosher spirits, fruit liqueurs, herbal liqueurs, slovácká borovička gin, and limited edition spirits.

### MONTH AT A GLANCE MEMBERSHIP MEETING March 8, 2024

### Lincoln Czech Festival Sunday, May 5th Pla Mor Ballroom

6600 W O St, Lincoln, NE 68528

### Be a part of it!

How you can help...

- Donate items to the Silent Auction
- Bake kolache on April 13 (date changed)
- Bake rohlíky on April 27
- Serve food at the festival
- Sell baked goods at the festival
- Help set up or tear down

Contact:

Andrea Volf at: [avolf83@gmail.com](mailto:avolf83@gmail.com)  
Deb Vocasek at: [dvocasek@hotmail.com](mailto:dvocasek@hotmail.com)

**Omaha Czech/Slovak Cultural Club Festival**  
**Saturday, April 20, 2024**  
**12:00—4:30 p.m.**  
**St. Nicholas Community Center**  
**5050 Harrison St, Omaha, NE 68157**



## Celebrating Heritage with Dance



### **Iva Marie Volf** *I love to dance!*

Iva has studied ballet since the age of two. She has competed in a National Ballet Competition, Youth American Grand Prix. She has performed in Lincoln Midwest Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* for 8 years. She was a member of a competitive dance team for True Dance and Company, and the Norris High School Dance Team. She was the dance captain of the Norris Varsity Show Choir Dance Team.



## CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

### **Plán Českého konverzačního klubu**

**Březen: Míla Pierce Média a internet**  
**Duben: Linus Voves: Typické (české?) jídlo**

### **Plan of the Czech Conversation Club**

**March: Míla Pierce Media and the Internet**  
**April: Linus Voves: Typical (Czech?) food**

### **CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB**



### **Řekněte to česky!**

**Via ZOOM**  
**March 19 @ 7:00 p.m.**  
**Březen: Míla Pierce**  
**Média a internet**  
Media and the Internet

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](mailto:msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu)

# NEBRASKA CZECHS OF LINCOLN CZECH READING CIRCLE

**DATE:** MARCH 26, 2023  
**BOOK:** *DARIA KLIMENTOVÁ* (2013)  
**AUTHOR:** DARIA KLIMENTOVÁ & GRAHAM WATTS  
**LEADER:** ANDREA VOLF & IVA VOLF

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.

## OUR LEADERS:

**Andrea Volf** is the President of the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln. She has a Masters Degree in mathematics and is a professor of mathematics at Southeast Community College. She is an active member of the Hickman Presbyterian Church.

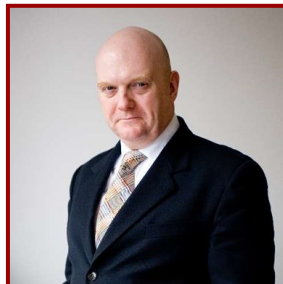
**Iva Marie Volf** is our 2023-2024 Lincoln Czech Queen. She is currently attending the University of Nebraska at Lincoln majoring in biochemistry. She is a member of the National Honor Society, and an Eagle Scout. Iva's passion is dance. She will be our youngest Reading Circle member. **Welcome, Iva!**

Watch Daria Klimentová performing in Giselle at the State Opera Prague 2011 on YouTube!

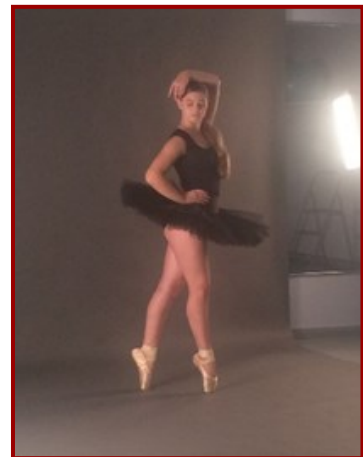
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtLkdcde\\_6IA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtLkdcde_6IA)



**Left: Daria Klimentová  
Below: Graham Watts**



**Right: Iva Volf  
Below: Andrea Volf**



## READING CIRCLE CONTACTS

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

## 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 )  
[Luconnie@windstream.net](mailto:Luconnie@windstream.net)





# LB 140 PASSED!

Provide for Czech Heritage License Plate  
Passed by the Nebraska Legislature  
Thursday, February 8, 2024  
Sent to the Governor's Office for Signature

## Delegation testifying for the Czech Heritage License Plate on January 23, 2023

Photo from Linda Taborek



**Save this date!**  
**April 28, 2024**

Let's Help Omaha Celebrate

## The new **Sokol Museum**

3636 S 144th Street  
Omaha, NE



## **CZECH BAKING**



**for our Lincoln Festival**

### **April 13 - Kolache Baking**

8:00 a.m. Dough Makers; 9:00 a.m. Other Volunteers

### **April 27—Rohliky Baking**

9:00 a.m. All Volunteers

#### **Donations Needed!**

Write checks to the Lincoln Czech Club (memo: bake sale)

Send to Linda Taborek, Treasurer

524 S 53rd St., Lincoln, NE 68510

Location for Both Events

#### **Hickman Presbyterian Church**

300 E 3rd St , Hickman, NE 68372

Contact:

**President, Andrea Volf**

@ Avolf83@gmail.com or 402-416-6390

# It's time for Masopust!

From Maurice Vonasek's friend, Vladimir, from Prague



The traditional and rich-in-concept **Roztoky Carnival (Masopust)** is one of the most significant cultural events in the Czech Republic, the fame of which goes beyond the city of Roztoky. Every year, the festival is attended by several thousand participants. Let's visit Masopust 2024!

Masopust in Roztoky u Prahy is a special phenomenon. It started as a small local event by a small group of people, and in twenty years, it has grown into a unique living event attended by people from far and wide. It's photographed by great photographers, written about by journalists, and studied by folklorists - because it's supposedly the only carnival this big that is real and alive - fed from within by the energy and imagination of a community of local people and their friends. And 2017 was its twentieth year, which isn't a small number either.

Masopust in the Czech Republic: Masopust, or the time of carnivals, used to be in the past from the Twelfth Night until Ash Wednesday. A Lenten period begins on Ash Wednesday before Easter. A fancy dress fun held as a rule on Lenten Tuesday is the culmination of Masopust. The name carnival is synonymous with masopust, but masopust is currently used to mark the carnival festivity. Masopust, and especially the few last days of this period (fašank, končiny), was an official holiday of feasting for people in the past. During these days, people were supposed to eat their fill. Therefore, substantial dinner parties were held. Then, the forty days long Lent followed, and primarily lentils, baked potatoes, eggs, cheese, and boiled semolina were consumed. In some regions, a ceremonial procession of masks is a part of the festivity, which goes through a village with music. In many places, liquor, eggs, ham, or doughnuts are collected and consumed later in a pub during a village party. In identical processions, serious attention is given to dance, mainly to the ceremonial dances of young men called "bobkovníci" or "Turci." During the party, other ceremonial dances are performed. These are called "na len" or "žabská." In many other localities, the festivity is made without these formal components. There is only the presentation of masks left, and it is a form of popular rural amusement connected with one particular date. The word fašank is created by mangling the German word Fasching, which has the same meaning. The word carnival comes from Roman languages, precisely from a connection between carne (meat) and vale (leave). This word formation describes when the meat is already eaten, and nothing is left. Another interpretation might be hidden behind the Latin words "Carrus Navyis," which means a ship of Fools.

See this video which is linked to our club's website: [lincolnczechs.org](https://www.lincolnczechs.org) (click on LINKS and scroll way to the bottom, under *Fascinating Videos...*, click on *Walking Tour*)

<https://youtu.be/tTSAv5u8OV0>

Photo above from: <https://www.progetto.cz/maschere-balli-e-slivovice-il-masopust/?lang=en>



## Pat Hust

Newly Elected Board Member  
(Left photo)

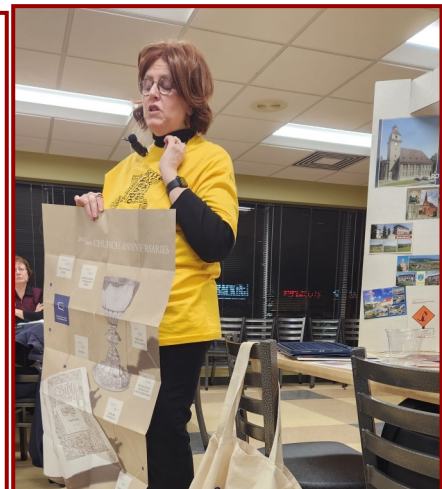
Congratulations & welcome to  
the Board of Directors!

## Rev. Karen Moritz

Out-going Board Member  
(Right photo)

Thank you for your service!  
Best wishes in your retirement!

Photo from Maurice Vonasek







## Sharing the Art of Jim Cantrell

### **Jim Cantrell with his very talented wife and “cheerleader” for over 60 years, Jeannette**

As editor of our club's newsletter, it gives me great pleasure to share with you a bit about the life and work of Jim Cantrell. Jim was born in Oklahoma but grew up in Wilber. At the age of 4 he came down with polio and spent a lot of his youth in hospitals. Although I was just a little kid at the time, I remember Jim as my brother's classmate and good friend who came to our farm frequently to go pheasant hunting. I can still see the two of them flushing out pheasants with our dogs, Ike and Mike. The older I get, and the more biographies I read of successful people, I have come to believe that perhaps greatness emerges more from the process of overcoming adversity than the result of privilege. Today, Jim is one of the most respected artists in our nation and our times. So, in honor of my brother Lt. Col. John Shimerda, who died on February 11, 2023, and their lifelong friendship, I bring you this issue. Thanks Jim and Jeannette for your warmth, assistance and generosity. Lois Shimerda Rood

### **Renowned artist, Jim Cantrell reflects on his youth in Wilber**

*Growing up in Wilber in the '50s was much different than the present. The town played a major role in the upbringing of most young people. Most of the Wilber folks knew nearly everyone in the town. We youngsters had the run of the town with the blessing of our parents. If we got into trouble, the word would get back to our folks before we got home. The towns people looked after us. They all had pretty much the same values as their neighbors. Most of our school teachers grew up in Wilber or nearby towns.*

*The merchants were friendly to the youth of the town. I can remember spending hours in Kenny Mariska's clothing store and Leo Billesbach's jewelry store learning things about a great many subjects. The schools not only had the same values as our parents, and the teachers reflected those values while teaching us the basics in reading, writing and math. Some, particularly Mr. Klasek, the superintendent, also taught a few classes when short a teacher. He would find out our interests and encourage us to pursue them. We did not have an art instructor for a number of years. Mr. Klasek found art competitions for me to enter. I was able to win a number of awards. This encouragement I am sure is why I ended up making art my career.*





**Kentucky Derby Artist (2017)  
Jim Cantrell**

**In 2017 Jim Cantrell was the first ever Kentucky artist commissioned by Churchill Downs to create the official artworks of the Kentucky Derby**



**University of Nebraska Calendar**  
(Photo above) Centennial Mall—Capitol Building  
Watercolor by Jim Cantrell

In 2012 Cantrell was awarded Alumnus of the Year for Creative Achievement from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln where he received his BFA in Fine Art Education. Photo above is one of his paintings from a calendar he created for UNL.

In 2000 he received the Alumnus of the Year for Creative Achievement from the University of Northern Colorado where he received his Masters Degree.

**Art in Embassies Winner**

Cantrell's painting (below) *Time is Running Out* was selected to be exhibited in the U.S. Embassy in Riga, Latvia as part of the Art in Embassies program. (Photo below)

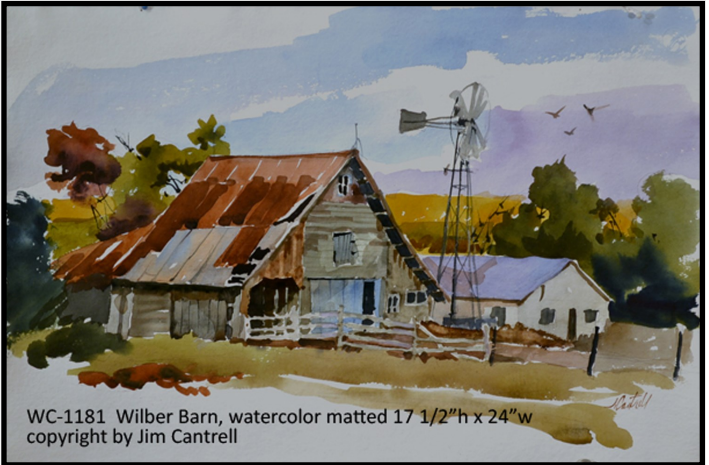


# 476 "Time is Running Out" by Jim Cantrell oil 72"h x 60"w  
Embassy website: [https://art.state.gov/personnel/jim\\_cantrell/](https://art.state.gov/personnel/jim_cantrell/)





**Places  
and faces  
in and near  
Wilber  
Nebraska**



WC-1181 Wilber Barn, watercolor matted 17 1/2" h x 24" w  
copyright by Jim Cantrell



**Artist**





**Jim Cantrell** says he gained his earliest artistic recognition in a first grade art show in Wilber when he won a Snickers candy bar for a Halloween picture. He credits Bernard Klasek, Superintendent of Schools, and his art teacher, Sidney Broz, for encouraging him to compete and become a gold medal winner in a regional scholastic art competition. He graduated from UNL and initially taught art. He received his masters degree from the University of Northern Colorado. He became a full time artist after 14 years of teaching both public school and college levels. He initially focused mostly on ceramics, but later in life, the majority of his time has been devoted to painting oils and watercolors. His subjects are generally people, still lifes, and cityscapes.

### Paintings by Jim Cantrell

Page 8 (Previous Page)

Far Left: Ken Kreshel

Left: Tiger Zoubec

Center Far Left: Tractor

Center Left: Wilber Barn with Windmill

Lower Far Left: Cantrell Barn in Town

Lower Left: Carousel Horses

Page 9 (Current Page)

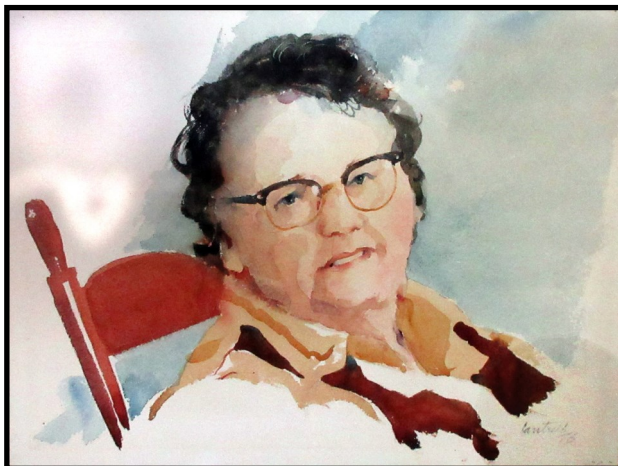
Right: Wilber Courthouse

Center Left: Ourecky Home

Center Right: Wilber Power Plant

Lower Left: Marie Cantrell

Lower Right: Sandhill Cranes







### **Maker's Mark Distillery Competition**

Maker's Mark Distillery sponsored a competitive event, in 2008, "The Mark of Great Art". Cantrell's oil, "Maker's 'Round the World,'" won first place, and it now hangs in England in the four star London Bridge Hotel's Borough Bar.

(Photo left) "Makers 'Round the World" painting (Jim Cantrell in kilt)

### **30th Kentucky Bourbon Festival**

In 2021 Cantrell was the first studio artist to be selected to create the artwork for the Kentucky Bourbon Festival's 30 Year Anniversary.

(Photo below) First study for the 30th Kentucky Bourbon Festival.

### **Where to see Cantrell's art**

- Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, St. Joseph, Missouri
- Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tennessee
- Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art, David City, NE
- Butler Institute of Art, Youngstown, Ohio
- Capital University Shumach Gallery Collection, Ohio
- Evansville Museum of Arts & Science, Evansville, Indiana
- Huntington Museum of Art, West Virginia
- Indiana University Art Museum, Bloomington, Indiana
- International Bluegrass Music Museum, Owensboro, Kentucky
- Kentucky Railway Museum, New Haven, Kentucky
- Lafayette Art Museum, Indiana
- Mississippi Museum of Fine Art, Jackson, Mississippi
- Museum of Nebraska Art, Kearney, Nebraska
- Owensboro Museum of Fine Art, Owensboro, Kentucky
- Richmond Art Museum, Indiana
- Sheldon Art Museum, Lincoln, Nebraska
- Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky

Cantrell's work has been exhibited in Ireland, Scotland, England, France, Japan and Latvia in addition to the United States. Cantrell's paintings can be seen in major public, private, and now over 20 museum collections, around the country. He has participated in over 300 solo, group, and juried exhibitions, and is the recipient of numerous awards. His work has been represented by galleries in major cities such as New York City, Chicago, IL, Cincinnati, OH, Washington, DC, Ogunquit, ME, Louisville, KY, St. Louis, MO, New Orleans, LA, and Santa Fe, NM.

**Bardstown for the Arts Gallery & Cantrell Studio**  
 214 W Stephen Foster Ave., Bardstown, KY 40004 (502-348-6488) or (502-294-0665—cell)



### **Art & Performance Jim Cantrell Exhibition**

### **Kentucky Center for the Arts**

Hal Holbrook portraying "Mark Twain Tonight" from Bingham Endowed Series (oil) (photo right)

