

2024 JUNE



Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln

Area Festivals!



2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
President: Andrea Volf
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Secretary: Sinda Dux
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Patti Hust Fortik (ex. 12/31/2025)
Diane Vesely-Robb (ex. 12/31/2026)

WEBSITE
Lincolnczechs.org
FACEBOOK
<https://www.facebook.com/LNKCzechs/>
NEWSLETTER
Contact lois@lolsrood.com
402-570-2333

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



May 25 In ORD

Join us for a wonderful day of everything you love about Polka music and the local arts culture at The Fabulous Accordion Festival on Saturday, May 25th! The event will kick off with Polka music by **Eugene Michalski and the Polkaholics** at **noon**, Laddie Bruha's authentic accordion display, Tillie's Treasures-Czech & More by Andrea and Iva Volf, Valley County Museum Tours, and Brats and Dogs on the grill in front of the theatre. Next, join the jam session with lead caller, **Brad Husak** along with **Laddie Bruha and Mike Chelewski**. from **2:00-4:00 p.m.** All are welcome at the jam sessions so grab your accordion and play with some of the best musicians in the area on the stage, or join us as patrons for all of the fun. Jam session accordion players may register for free admission to the event by contacting 308.730.2294. At 4:00 pm, we will offer a meal featuring brats, sauerkraut and dumplings, sides, and homemade kolaches, along with a cash bar by Jubilee Events & Catering, while you enjoy more Polka music. Other concessions available throughout the day include kolaches, popcorn, cookies, candy, root beer floats and more. **At 4:30 pm, welcome the Mark Vyhldal Orchestra** to the stage and dance your hearts out to the best Polka music around! Tickets are on sale now at The Golden Husk, 308.730.8133, Ord Area Chamber Office 308.728.7875, and on our website at: www.goldenhuskarts.org. \$12/jam & dance ticket and \$40/ family pass for the full event. Families are welcome and youth ages 5 years & under may attend the event free of charge. Learn more about the event by visiting ... www.goldenhuskarts.org or call 308.730.8133. Join in the fun and celebrate the rich arts culture of the Loup Valley at The Golden Husk Theatre.

June 1

HASTINGS **South Central Nebraska** **48th Annual Czech Festival**

9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Hastings Eagles Club, 107 N. Denver

FREE Admission—9:30—11:00 Accordion Jam

Kolace Bake Sale, Vendors, Auction, Flag Presentation, Royalty, Dance & Kolace eating contest

11:30—1:00 (until sold out) Authentic Czech Meal

1:15—3:00 Brad Husak Band

Facebook: Nebraska Czechs of South Central Nebraska

JUNE 9

MILLIGAN **36th Annual Milligan June Jubilee**

Milligan Centennial Garden 12-10:00 pm

Czech Food, Music, Parade 1:00 p.m.

Facebook: Milligan NE Community (402-629-4446)

JUNE 28, 29, 30

CLARKSON **62nd Annual Clarkson Czech Festival**

Friday—Comedian 7:30 p.m.

Saturday—Wine tasting in beer garden 3:00 pm

Miss NE Czech-Slovak Queen Pageant 6:00 p.m.

Sat & Sun—Cooking Demo's at Opera House 1:00 p.m.

All weekend—Accordion Concerts, Music & Dancing

Dinners: Saturday at New Zion Presbyterian Church

Sunday at St. Cyril Methodius Catholic Church

Sunday—Parade 4:00 p.m.

Current Info: clarksonczechdays.org



**May 5, 2024
Lincoln Czech Festival
Pla Mor Ballroom—Lincoln**



Thanks to all the festival volunteers!

It was a great success because of you!

We know we have not mentioned many of the others that helped to make this festival a success.
Know that you are greatly appreciated!

and thanks to DEB VOCASEK, FESTIVAL CHAIRPERSON

**From Connie Jean Hulinsky
Our Baked Goods Table Coordinator
Thanks to our bakers, greeters and sellers!**

A big thank you again to the 19 individuals that helped bake kolace on April 13, 2024. Also, a thank you for any of you that had freezer space available and were able to freeze the kolace until the festival. About 107 dozen were baked and they all sold at our Czech Festival on May 5, 2024. Poppy seed was still our number one seller and sold out first with apricot coming in second. We had baked 13 different flavors. The cottage cheese kolace were the last to sell, but we had made quite a number of them. **Karen Moritz** was the official greeter during the peak hours that people were coming to the festival. Right at 175 people signed the guest book from over 27 different towns and four states! About 29 of our members attended so I am guessing the total number of attendees at 250+. I wish to especially thank **Gwen Belden, Cathy Osizly, Evie Kantor, Diane Vesely-Robb, Mary Anne Juricek, Phyllis Baughman, Rick and Janet Perkins, Tom Zumpfe, Garrett Dickey, Jacqueline Schoonover, Rachel Taylor, Rani Taborek-Potter, Linda Taborek, Michael and Susan Nagle, Deb Vocasek and Margaret Vesely** that assisted in some way at the festival at the baked goods sales table. The sales were \$2,440.25 (net sales not known yet due to all expenses not turned in) of kolace and the other items (potato dumplings, banana nut bread, dilly bread, rhubarb muffins, rhubarb cream cheese pie, Health brownies, sunflower seed cookies, lemon cake, poppy seed cake, stalks of fresh rhubarb, lemon poppy seed muffins, fudge brownies white cakes, chocolate cakes and **Margaret Vesely's** rohlicky). An additional thank you to the **Omaha Czech-Slovak Cultural Club** for donating 95 kolace to sell at the sales table.

**From Maurice Vonasek
Thanks to the servers of the
Wilber Wieners Meal**

Deb Vocasek, Bev Vonasek, Maurice Vonasek & our helpers Liam and Somara

**From all of us in the Lincoln Czech club
Silent Auction Coordinators**

Thanks to the **York Czech Club** for taking charge of the Silent Auction. Approximately \$800 was received.

Flag Ceremony

Thanks to **LaVerne Fortik** and **Ken Dolezal** who presented the U.S. and Czech Republic flags in the opening ceremony.





CZECH PROVERB

Bez práce nejsou koláče.
 “Without work,
 there are no koláče.”



Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln
2024 Czech/Slovak

Queen
 Karolina Dvorak

Prince
 Howard Senft

Princess
 Eleanor Senft

2023 Princess
 Eizley Martinsen

Congratulations!

Česká kulturní a vzdělávací nadace Nebrasky” (Czech Cultural & Educational Foundation of Nebraska)

From Steve Steager (photo left)



It is truly an exciting time for anyone that has Czech Ancestry, living in or from the state of Nebraska. The formation of the Czech Culture & Education Foundation of Nebraska began in June of 2023 and achieved 501 C3 status in January. “Česká kulturní a vzdělávací nadace Nebrasky” is a non profit organization with the following goals.

Goals

Create cooperative networking between Nebraska Czech cultural groups, institutions of higher learning and the general community for sharing and promotion of cultural events throughout the state.

Create web based informational resources for cultural activities, accessible to all entities.

Promote, raise, retain, facilitate and perpetuate Czech cultural and educational events.

Create an endowment to provide matching grants to support Czech educational and cultural activities in NE.

Raise awareness, empower entities and promote cohesion between all interested parties for the preservation of Czech culture.

Mission Statement

“The Czech Culture and Education Foundation of Nebraska strives to promote Czech cultural and educational events, through an endowment fund, in order to facilitate cooperation, awareness and cohesion among all Czech entities or persons with Czech interest.”

Donations are welcome

CCEFN is currently seeking donations to fund current and future projects, more information can be found on the website: czechcultureandeducationfoundationofnebraska.org or you can email for further information at ccefnebraska@gmail.com

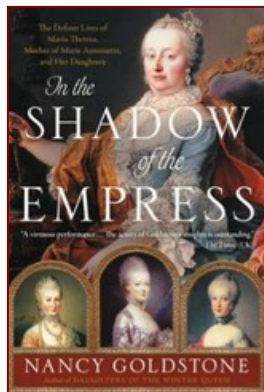
Founding Members

Steve Steager-President
Marvin Polacek-Vice President
Debra Polacek-Secretary
Colleen Kurlmel-Treasurer
Michaela Ging-Publicity
John Kotouc
Layne Pierce
Mila Saskova-Pierce
Debbie Steager
Joe Stehlik



NEBRASKA CZECHS OF LINCOLN CZECH READING CIRCLE

MONTH: June 25, 2024
BOOK: *In the Shadow of the Empress* (2021)
AUTHOR: Nancy Goldstone
LEADER: Lorraine Duggin, Ph.D.



Author, Nancy Goldstone
 Photo Source: <https://nancygoldstone.com/biography/>

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 many, books of non-fiction.. (Source: written by an author, Kirstin Downey)

OUR LEADER:
LORRAINE DUGGIN



Dr. Lorraine Duggin
 Photo used with permission

Lorraine a published author of poetry, fiction, articles, and memoir, has been teaching writing of various genres on the college level since 1974. Recognition of her work includes First Prize from the Academy of American Poets; the Mari Sandoz/Prairie Schooner First Prize for a short story; nomination for a Pushcart Prize for a short story; the Vreeland Award at UN-L for a portfolio of writing; a Maude Hammond Fling Dissertation Fellowship; a Stanislav Serpan Scholarship for studies in Czech language and culture; an Individual Artist Award in Poetry from the Nebraska Arts Council; honorable mention for a poem in the Museum of the Fur Trade Poetry Contest (Chadron, NE); the Spirit Award for teaching from Literacy Council of the Midlands; and an Excellence in Teaching Award from Metropolitan Community College, where she currently fosters the writing skills of English language learners. Her B.A. in English/Journalism and M.A. in English are from UNO, and her Ph.D. in English/Creative Writing is from UN-L. She was Secretary for the Omaha Czech Cultural Club, where she was a longtime active member, and she sang with the River City Czech Singers for several years. She's been a member of four folk dance groups, performing at Czech Festivals many times and at various folk festivals throughout Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Kentucky, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Colorado, and Massachusetts, as well as on a boat on the Yangtze River in China in 2016. She's on the Speakers Bureau of the Nebraska Humanities Council and a Master Artist in the Writers in Schools/Communities programs with the Nebraska and Iowa Arts Councils. Much of her writing concerns the experience of growing up as the granddaughter of Bohemian and Moravian immigrants, and she greatly enjoys learning more about Czech culture and history through the Czech Reading Circle.

READING CIRCLE CONTACTS
Contact us for the Zoom link

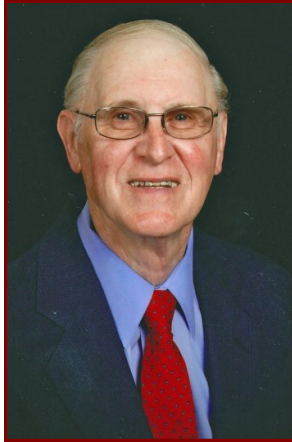
Lois Shimerda Rood	402-570-2333;
lois@loisrood.com	
Layne Pierce	402-770-5029;
layne.pierce@yahoo.com	
Mila Saskova-Pierce	402--770-4624
msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu	



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



In Loving Memory....
Gene R. Niebuhr
November 10, 1936 - April 30, 2024

Gene and his wife Sherill were very dedicated members of Lincoln Czechs in the 90's and 00's. They joined the Lincoln Czechs, invited by their neighbors Ray and Betty Soukup.

A celebration of life was held on Friday, May 3, 2024, at Roper and Sons South Chapel.

MAY 30, 2024
GIVE TO
LINCOLN DAY!

Now you can donate to the
Czech Language Foundation
supporting UNLs Czech Language Program

The Genealogy Corner
The Bohemian Cemetery

Submitted by...
Maurice Vonasek

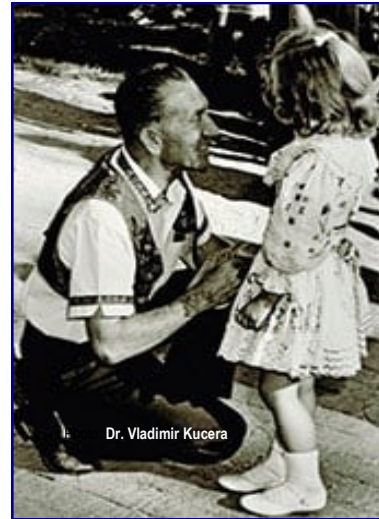


Photo: Maurice Vonasek

I took the attached snapshot of this poem, 'The Bohemian Cemetery' from the 1972 book, '*Czech Cemeteries in Nebraska*' written by Vladimir Kucera & Alfred Novacek. (Photo right)

As I read this, it spoke to me in a multitude of visions. Most were reflections of visits to cemeteries with my parents at Memorial Day when I was quite young.

NOTE: Club member, Maurice Vonasek and Jason Cadek from Omaha are currently working on a project: *Czech and Slovak Cemeteries of North America for the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International*. Watch for more information on this project in the future.



Dr. Vladimir Kucera

This poem (left) was written in 1905 by **Professor Jeffrey Hrbek**.

The **Department of Slavonic Languages and Literature** was established at **UNL** in 1907. Its first professor was Iowa-born Czech **Jeffrey D. Hrbek**. He caught typhoid fever and died at age 25 on Dec. 4, 1907 — just five months after his hiring.

THE BOHEMIAN CEMETERY
 Jeffrey Doležal Hrbek

Yonder, the southward hills rise, fair,
 And pleasant green fields bask in the sun.
 The view is broad and lovely there,
 Where the dusty road doth upward run.

On the very crown of the highest hill
 Where the tallest oaks lift their arms toward God
 Above the clatter and din of lathe and mill
 White marbles gleam atwart the sod.

'Tis the burial ground of a foreign race,
 A race from the heart of Europe sprung,
 Men and women of open face
 That speak in the strange Bohemian tongue.

Down in the city that gleams below
 With its streets and lanes and its roofs and domes,
 In its southern corner row on row
 They have built their garden-bordered homes.

But here on the hill is the burial ground
 Where the sainted dead in their last long sleep
 Neath many a verdant, flowery mound
 The eternal watches keep.

Snowy marble and granite brown
 And blooming urns of bronze and stone,
 Carved and graven with cross and crown
 And with soft green moss o'ergrown.

And the epitaphs and wreathed rhymes
 In the Czechish tongue are writ,
 That the men and women of future times
 May muse and wonder a bit.

The Czech Language Foundation
Submitted by Layne Pierce
President CLF

The Czech Language Foundation has been working to promote and preserve Czech language classes at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, since 1993.

The foundation also gives \$300 scholarships to every eligible student for each Czech class they take. Recently the foundation gave 20 such scholarships. The hard work is paying off because, under Dr. Hana Waisserova, **UNL has the largest undergrad Czech program in the United States**. For example, both of the beginning classes have 25 students enrolled and even students on a waiting list.

The Czech Language works close with the Nebraska Czech community to keep those classes which were founded by the Czech community in 1907 alive and well.

CZECH NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA COMING TO THE LIED February 26, 2025



Czech National Symphony Orchestra, Feb. 26, 2025, 7:30 p.m. — Recognized as one of Europe's first-rank symphonic ensembles, the Czech National Symphony Orchestra has been praised by The New York Times for its "brilliance and infectious exuberance." American pianist Maxim Lando will open with Franz Liszt's virtuosic "Piano Concerto No. 1," and violinist Sandy Cameron will follow with Samuel Barber's "Violin Concerto No. 1." The concert concludes with Antonin Dvorak's triumphant Symphony No. 9, "From the New World." (Ticket information to follow soon).

Out of State Festivals

June 7 & 8, 2024 SUGAR CREEK SLAVIC FESTIVAL
Mike Onka Community Hall, 11520 Putnam Street, Sugar Creek, Missouri 64054
<https://www.slavicfest.com/>

June 14 & 15 CZECH SLOVAK FESTIVAL
Phillips, Wisconsin
<http://www.czech-slovak-festival.com/>



June 14 & 15 75th TABOR CZECH DAYS CELEBRATION
Tabor, South Dakota
<https://www.taborczechdays.com/>

From Nebraska Honorary Consul, Míla Šašková-Pierce, Ph.D

Dr. Míla Šašková-Pierce informed the attendees of the festival about her function as a representative of the Czech government in Nebraska that is helping Czech citizens with administrative needs, such as certifications of signatures and authentication of documents. The same service is available to American citizens when dealing with the administration in Czechia. She also explained the steps that two generations of descendants of Czechoslovak citizens need to undertake when applying for Czech citizenship. **The Czech Parliament voted recently that American citizens whose (grand)parents emigrated from the Czech part of Czechoslovakia can receive Czech citizenship that provides rights to reside, study and work in the Czech Republic and indeed in the European Union of which the Czech Republic is member.**

CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

Řekněte to česky!

Via ZOOM



**NO MEETINGS IN:
JUNE
JULY
AUGUST
2024**

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-pierce1piece1@unl.edu