

2024 JULY



**Nebraska Czechs
of Lincoln**



Area Festivals!



2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Vice President: Rachel Taylor
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WEBSITE
Lincolnczechs.org
FACEBOOK
<https://www.facebook.com/LNKczechs/>
NEWSLETTER
Contact lois@loisrood.com
402-570-2333

2024 CLUB CALENDAR
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

JULY 19, 20, 21 DWIGHT

64th Dwight Czech Festival
Friday: Road Rally, Free Polka Dance, Legion
Saturday: Olympic Games, Youth Czech Dancers,
Kiddie & Adult Tractor Pulls, Crowning of Royalty,
Free Polka Dance, Legion
Sunday: Pork Dinner—Assumption Parish, Bohemian Classic Auto
Show, Youth Czech Dancers, Parade, Free Polka Band—Legion
Food Served at Legion, Cy's Café & Pivo's Tavern
Facebook: Dwight Legion Post—110

**August 2, 3,4
Wilber Czech Festival**

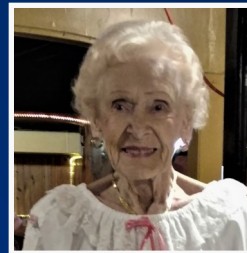
**August 10
Prague Czech Heritage Day**

**August 24
Milligan Saint Wenceslaus Brewfest**

**October 20
York Czechfest**

CZECH PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
July 5, 2024—St. Cyril & St. Methodius Day
July 6, 2024—Jan Hus Day

In Loving Memory



Anne Callahan
7/20/1920 - 6/17/2024

Anne Emelia Callahan, born Anicka Stechova in Havlickuv Brod, Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic) on July 20, 1920, died on June 17, 2024, at the age of 103. A celebration of Anne's life will be held at Butherus, Maser & Love Funeral Home on Friday, July 12, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.. Visitation one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial gifts be directed to the Czech Language Foundation for the Charles and Anna Stecha Memorial Scholarship (czechlanguagefoundation.org) or Second Baptist Church of Lincoln (secondbaptistlincoln.org). Full details and condolences online at www.bmfh.com

Anne Callahan, Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln
President: 2013, 2014, 2015
Vice President: 2004, 2009, 2010, 2011
Treasurer: 2005, 2006
Secretary: 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003
Board of Directors: 2016
Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln Delegate



Forever in Our Hearts!

Anička (Anne) Štechová Callahan
July 19, 1920 - June 17, 2024

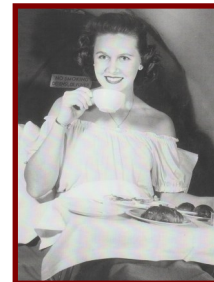
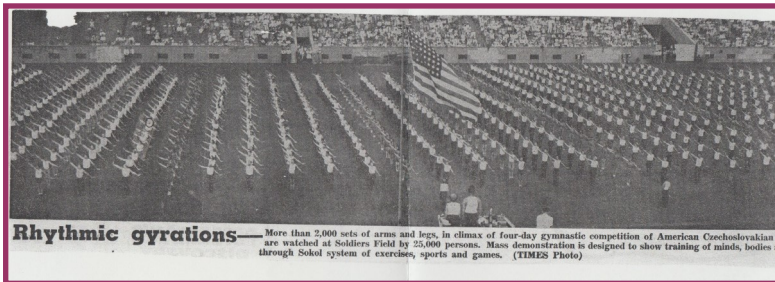


Anička (Anne) Štechová Callahan was born on July 20, 1920, in what was then called Czechoslovakia in Havlíčkův Brod, a village south of Prague.

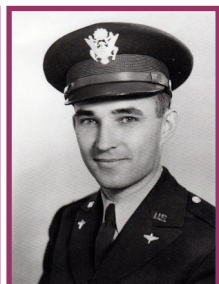
She came to America as a child. Her family settled in Sioux City, Iowa, and was sponsored by her father's brother and sister. At that time, her brother, George, was 4 ½ and Anne was 3. Soon they relocated and spent a year in a log cabin on a river near Park Falls, WI. She attended a country school. (Photo right: Anne age 3, with brother George and their aunt in Sioux City, Iowa.)



At that time, both Omaha and Chicago had the largest stock yards. Anne's father was a butcher, so he moved his family to Cicero, a suburb of Chicago. Back then, Cicero had a huge Czech population. Many of the businesses were Czech owned, the town's mayor was Czech and many of the streets had Czech names. Anne was happy to live among Czech people again. She was very active in Sokol, a Czech gymnastics association. She competed in 1934 at Soldier's Field in Chicago when she was 14 years old. She also loved typing and shorthand and graduated from J. Sterling Morton High School in nearby Berwyn, Illinois. She attended Crane Tech College in Chicago and then left for Long Island, NY, to live with her aunt and uncle. (Photo left below: Soldier's Field, Chicago—Sokol)



In New York, she got a job with American Airlines and was promoted to an international agent. A friend gave her the idea to apply for a stewardess job with Pan American Airlines. At that time, Pan Am required the stewardess to speak a foreign language. Because she had never forgotten her language and had the opportunity to speak it in her community in Cicero, Illinois, she got the job two weeks later. At that time, Pan Am Airlines had Atlantic, Pacific, and South American routes. Anne flew both the Atlantic and Pacific flights. She loved the company and her job. She got to see half the world with Pan Am. Pan Am was a pioneer in new innovations for international travel, including sound proofing and private sleeping quarters for long flights. They asked Anne to do some modeling for their new comfort flights and she was even used in one of their ads in International Life Magazine. (Photos above right and below left)



Anne met her husband, Air Force Captain Leslie Callahan, a soldier who had come from Nebraska, and married him at 29 in 1949. That was late for women in her day, but she was having the time of her life flying with Pan Am. Her husband took a job with Eastman-Kodak. They had three children, Robert, Carol and Barbara and were happily married and lived in Rochester for 49 years.

After her husband died in 1991, Anne moved to Lincoln where her son lives. "Having been born in the Czech Republic, I knew I wanted to be by his family for the rest of my life," she said.

Anne became active in Lincoln volunteering at St. Elizabeth's Hospital and at the Community Blood Bank. She learned there were many Czech people in Lincoln and heard of a singing group called The *Czech Corraliers*. She decided to "Czech it out" and loved it. It was a chance for her to speak and sing in her native language. That experience led her to the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln. That's when many of us met Anne.

(Written by Lois Shimerda Rood for an article previously published in Summer 2017—Lincoln 55 Plus Newspaper).

Anne Callahan

Leader, Mentor, Friend

The Czech gal with the Irish name that baked Italian cookies
by Lois Shimerda Rood



See news video at: <https://www.newschannelnebraska.com/story/42393174/lincoln-woman-gets-surprise-100th-birthday-party>

Anne Callahan passed away on June 17, 2024. It saddens me so to know that Anne is no longer with us.

But Anne, I know you are within all of us and always will be. We miss you and we are better people because we have known you. May you rest in peace.

All of us who knew Anne experienced her loving spirit, her joy, her positive attitude, her strength, her kindness, and her gentle wisdom.

Anne Callahan joined the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln shortly after joining the **Czech Corraliers**. She was elected to every position in the **Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln** including **President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Board Member** and **Delegate to the Nebraska Czechs, Inc.**

She attended the **Lincoln Czech Festivals** but also other area festivals well into her 90s and stood the entire day at the festivals baking her famous Italian cookies called **Pizzelles**. She mentored many of our **queens** teaching them how to sing in Czech or pronounce Czech words correctly. She made certain that everyone who wanted a **kroj** (Czech costume) had one. She made skirts, blouses, vests and aprons. She taught young people how to embroider so they could have authentic Czech designs. She also provided free **translation services** to those who wanted letters, songs, poems or other writings translated from Czech to English or from English to Czech.

She was very supportive of the **Robitschek Scholarship Program** at the University of Nebraska Lincoln and took a personal interest in each young student from the Czech Republic who studied at UNL. She welcomed them into her home, cooked them Czech meals, made sure they were introduced to others in the Lincoln Czech community, helped them with English and let each of them know they had a friend and a home away from home in Lincoln. When the students returned to the Czech Republic she kept up her correspondence with them for years in the future. Some of them returned as dignitaries with the Czech government and attributed their success to knowing Anne. Some of them referred to her as their *American grandmother*.

Anne also supported the **Czech Language Foundation** and was one of the first people to sponsor a Czech Language Scholarship which she continued to support year after year.

Anne loved the Czechs in Nebraska but never forgot her homeland and visited her family and friends in the **Czech Republic** regularly as long as she was able.

Anne celebrated her 100th birthday during COVID through a “social distancing” celebration. Her family, friends and many club members were able to celebrate her 103rd last year at Gateway Vista. On July 20, 2024, Anne would have been 104 years old. This year on July 20, let’s all take time to remember Anne Callahan, our leader, mentor and friend.





JULY HOLIDAYS

in the Czech Republic



July 5, 2024 St. Cyril & St. Methodius Day



In 863 the brothers Cyril and Methodius of Thessalonica, who were also Byzantine monks, arrived in Velehrad, a south Moravian town which was once the seat of the Great Moravian Empire. They came at the invitation of Czech Prince Rostislav.

These two brothers created the Cyrillic alphabet and translated the Bible into Slavonic so they could spread the Gospel among the Slavs. In 1880, the Pope created the Cyril and Methodius Feast Day.

Today this day is celebrated by Catholics throughout the Czech lands and many come to the Basilica of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and Saints Cyril and Methodius in Velehrad.

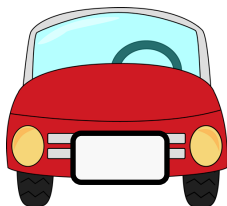


July 6, 2024 Jan Hus Day

July 6 is a national holiday in the Czech Republic. This is the day when Jan Hus was executed. He was a 14th century theologian who was born in rural Bohemia. He moved to Prague when he was a boy to prepare for the priesthood. He translated religious texts into Czech and preached to the people in their own language. He criticized the Catholic church for many moral failings but primarily for selling forgiveness through indulgences.

In 1415 he was invited to the church council in Constance, Germany. He was promised safety for his journey. However, when he arrived he was imprisoned and put on trial for heresy. He was asked to recant for his criticisms of the church. When he did not, he was put to death by burning at the stake.

After his death, his followers became known as the Hussites. His ideas spread throughout the world and influenced later reformers like Martin Luther



CZECH HERITAGE NEBRASKA LICENSE PLATE From Linda Taborek

Time is running short as our Honorary Consul continues the search for just the right artwork for Nebraska's new Czech Heritage license plate. The final design must be turned in to the DMV by early August to allow folks to put them on their cars in January. If you have that great idea, get it in right away. If you have questions, Linda will try to answer them. lstaborek@gmail.com

It is better to die well than to live badly.
Jan Hus



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 2024

402-464-5184 (leave message)

(land line with recorder after four rings)

NEBRASKA CZECHS OF LINCOLN CZECH READING CIRCLE & CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

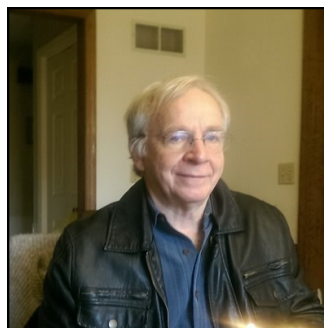
MONTH: July 30, 2024
BOOK: *The Trial* (1925)
AUTHOR: Franz Kafka
LEADER: Layne Pierce



Photo: Franz Kafka

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)

OUR LEADER:



LAYNE PIERCE, M.A., MLS

Born and raised in Kansas. Graduated from Emporia St. University with minor in Spanish. Veteran of the United States Army, graduate of the Defense Language Institute in Monterey California, with an emphasis on Czech language. Master's degree in German Languages and Literatures from the University of Kansas. Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from Emporia State University. Worked as reference Librarian at Bellevue University, and Reference and Community Outreach Librarian with the Lincoln City Libraries in Lincoln, Nebraska. Co-authored Czech language textbook with Dr. Miluse Saskova-Pierce. He has taught Czech classes and tutored students in Czech at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. At present he is retired from the library, but continues to work as Czech translator. He is currently translating František Vavák's 18th Century Chronicle together with Dr. Mila Saskova-Pierce. He is retired but continues to be active in American and Nebraska Czech organizations. He is President of the Czech Language Foundation, which supports the teaching of Czech language and culture classes at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Board Member of the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln, and Treasurer of the Czech and Slovak Educational Center and Cultural Museum; and secretary of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, Nebraska Chapter.



CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

Řekněte to česky!

**Via ZOOM
NO MEETINGS
JULY
AUGUST**

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-pierce1pierce1@unl.edu

READING CIRCLE CONTACTS

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

THE GENEALOGY CORNER

Ancestral Mathematics

Submitted by...**Maurice Vonasek**



The Genealogy Corner is here to provide insights, tips and techniques to help you build that precious family tree. Each month, we will try to provide a little something of interest, depending upon the available space of the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln Newsletter.

If you are asking yourself, *how do I start building my family tree?*, The 'Golden Rule of Genealogy' states: start with yourself and work backwards adding one generation at a time. This is what the folks at 'Family Search' calls, "Work from the known to the unknown." By starting with yourself and those family members closest to you, you're building a family history foundation on correct information. Then, it becomes very interesting from this point forward. On the surface this may seem somewhat simple as you have two parents, four grandparents, eight great grand parents and sixteen great-great grandparents.... mathematically it is simple, finding information for each of these folks is where you will question your sanity. Do you know your grandmother or great-grandmother's maiden names? This itself can be an eye opening wonderment for many folks because many just always thought of their grandmother as "Grandma". We'll talk more about "maiden names" another time. For now, we'll keep with some of the basics.

You may or may not have seen this list of Ancestral Mathematics before....it is truly amazing when you really think about it!

Ancestral Mathematics

In order to be born, you needed:

- 2 parents
- 4 grandparents
- 8 great-grandparents
- 16 second great-grandparents
- 32 third great-grandparents
- 64 fourth great-grandparents
- 128 fifth great-grandparents
- 256 sixth great-grandparents
- 512 seventh great-grandparents
- 1,024 eighth great-grandparents
- 2,048 ninth great-grandparents

For you to be born today from 12 previous generations, you needed a total of 4,094 ancestors over the last 400 years.

Think for a moment – How many struggles? How many battles? How many difficulties? How much sadness? How much happiness? How many love stories? How many expressions of hope for the future? – did your ancestors have to undergo for you to exist in this present moment...

SAVE THE DATE: May 24, 2025! THE FABULOUS ACCORDION FESTIVAL

From: Dahn M Hagge, Director; Golden Husk Theatre
The Fabulous AccORDion Festival is a wonderful day of Polka music and dancing, a beautiful accordion display, storytelling, delicious Czech meals, lots of kolaches, and cultural art and craft vendors! Enjoy an accordion jam session, dance lessons, multiple polka bands, and fellowship throughout the day! Save the date for next year's Fabulous Accordion Festival on Saturday, May 24, 2025 in Ord, Nebraska. Learn more about the event by visiting www.goldenhuskarts.org or call 308.730.8133.



CZECHS COMPETING IN SOCCER EUROPEAN CUP

From Rachel Taylor, Vice President, Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln
I'm in Belgium right now and all of Europe is currently occupied with the European Cup (like the world cup for soccer but just for Europe). For countries who made it into the tournament, the cities/towns will all have places where people can watch it together (biertgartens, parks with giant TVs set up, restaurants, etc) but since the tournament is being played next door in Germany, a lot of Czech fans will travel to the matches. It's fun to see the oceans of fans dressed in the national colors pouring into the stadiums. Anyway, I don't know if soccer would be that interesting to our members but it's definitely what the big focus will be in Czechia for the next month. (See related video below)



EUROPEAN CUP SCOREBOARD

- June 18: Czechia 1 Portugal 2
- June 22: Czechia 1 Georgia 1
- June 26: Czechia)___ Turkey ___