

2024 AUGUST



Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln



**Miss Nebraska Czech-Slovak Queen
Gracelyn Baumert, Clarkson
Runner-Up, Iva Volf, Lincoln**

from Deb Vocasek

The 62nd Miss Nebraska Czech-Slovak Queen Pageant was held in Clarkson, NE on June 29, 2024. There were 5 contestants competing for the title this year. Gracelyn Baumert - Clarkson, Iva Volf - Lincoln, Chritina Kavan - Prague, Mackenzie Anthony - Wilber, and Jalin Miller - York. It was a beautiful weekend with the nicest weather we have ever had for a pageant outside.

Here are the results... **Gracelyn Baumert** from Clarkson is our 2024-25 Miss Nebraska Czech-Slovak Queen. She also won Authentic Kroj Award, Oratory Award, Private Interview Award and Miss Congeniality. Our very own **Iva Volf** of Lincoln is our 2024-25 Miss Nebraska Czech-Slovak Queen Runner-Up. She also won the Heritage Award. Other winners were Makenzie Anthony-Wilber won the Talent Award. Christina Kavan-Prague won the Americanized Kroj Award.

We should be very proud of Iva representing our Lincoln Czech Club. The Heritage Involvement award was based on the candidate who has shown the most dedication in preserving her Czech/Slovak heritage and culture. The talent she performed was a beautiful ballet to "Goin Home". Iva will be attending parades and festivals so if you see her be sure to cheer her on and let her know you are there. Thank you Queen Iva!



**2024-2025
Miss Nebraska
Czech-Slovak
Queen**

**Gracelyn Baumert
Clarkson (L)**



**2024-2025
Miss Nebraska
Czech-Slovak
Queen Runner-Up**

Iva Marie Volf (R)

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Andrea Volf

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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

AUGUST AT A GLANCE

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

**August 3
Czech Language Foundation
Meeting
Wilber—Fox Hole**

**August 4
Walk Against Hunger
Pius X
Lincoln, NE**

**August 10
Czech Heritage Day
Prague, NE**

**August 24
St. Wenceslaus Brewfest
Milligan, NE**

**August 27
Reading Circle via Zoom**

DAN SANLEY

2024 WINNER—THE KUCERA AWARD

The Dr. Vladimír Kucera Award is given to individuals within our state that have promoted, and preserved our Czech heritage. Dr. Kucera was a historian for the State Historical Society, and head of the Czech language and culture department at UNL. He taught Czech language and culture at several small towns, and like the Czech pioneers, he prepared the seedbed for the seed that became the Nebraska Czechs, it's chapters, and their festivals.

From Deb Vocasek

This year our recipient is **Dan Sanley**. Dan spent his formative years in Surprise and Ulysses Nebraska. Dan's Czech heritage is from his mother, herself a daughter of a Czech immigrant. Dan created "Nebraska Bohemians" on Facebook with over 70,000 followers interested in their Czech heritage and ancestry from all over the United States, and the Czech Republic. Dan's posts include features on Nebraska towns and their history, posts also include Czech traditions and how they have evolved over the years. Language is also a topic of discussion with proper pronunciations and derivations from original linguistic intent. From his posting of the page, Dan created a book, "The Best of Nebraska Bohemians" in 2015. Dan compiled the book in honor of his Czech ancestors. Dan is a member of the Czech Language Foundation, and the Czech Culture and Education Foundation of Nebraska.



Dan Sanley (R), presented by Larry Pracheil from NE Czechs Inc. (L)



DOLNĚMČANKA



	SEP 23	PIVO BREWERY CALMAR, IOWA 6:00 - 9:00PM
	SEP 24	DUNCAN COMMUNITY HALL with Malek Fishermen DUNCAN, IOWA 6:00 - 9:00pm
	SEP 25	CLARKSON OPERA HOUSE CLARKSON, NEBRASKA 6:00 - 10:00PM with Matrk Vyhřidat
	SEP 26	BELVEDERE POLISH HOME OMAHA, NEBRASKA 6:00 - 9:00PM
	SEP 27	PARISH HALL with Prague Czech Brass Band PRAGUE, NEBRASKA 6:00 - 10:00PM
	SEP 28	VETS CLUB ORD, NEBRASKA 4:00 - 10:00PM
	SEP 29	SOKOL HALL with Milligan & David City Brass Bands WILBER, NEBRASKA 2:00 - 8:00PM

Sponsored by the Czech Culture and Education Foundation of Nebraska

2024 Wilber Czech Festival

August 2,3,4

Together We Can!

TALES OF THE CZECHS
Friday, 9:30 pm—Outdoor Theater

PARADE
Sat. & Sun. 2:00 p.m.

RACHEL TAYLOR PRESENTATION
Good King Wenceslaus; Sat. 10:00 a.m.

NAT'L QUEEN PAGEANT
Sun 7:00 p.m.—Outdoor Theater

<http://www.nebraskaczechsofwilber.com/czech-days/>

The goal for the 2024 Walk to End Hunger is 35,000 pounds of food or dollars combined.

August 4, 2024
5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Pius X High School

6000 A Street, Lincoln, NE
Sponsored by
BetterLife & Knights of Columbus



NEBRASKA CZECHS OF PRAGUE

Czech Heritage Day 2024
Saturday, August 10th
During Beer Barrel Days

Downtown Prague, NE - Prague Parish Hall
Free Admission

Vítáme vás do Prahy!

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Cold Beverages, Koláče & More!
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Accordion Jamboree! Led by Brad Husak
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Czech Dinner; Roast Pork, Dumplings & Kraut or Wahoo Weiner Prague Czech Brass Band
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Opening Ceremonies
1:00 PM	Prague Czech Brass Band
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Prague Czech Dancers
3:00 PM	Beer Barrel Days Parade
4:00 PM	

Follow us on Facebook: Nebraska Czechs of Prague
Cash only please, 2 ATM's located in Prague
Interested in Joining the Nebraska Czechs of Prague?
Contact any chapter member.

4th Annual St. Wenceslas BREWFEEST

August
24th
11:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.



Admission
FREE
Food & Vendors
Available

Milligan Centennial Garden
Fundraiser for Auditorium Operations and HVAC Unit

Featured Beer, Spirits & Wine
Czechvar, Lev, Praga Dark, Pilsner Urquell, R Jelinek, Becherovka,
Spěváč Wine (Vinařství Spěváč), Lindr Tap Your Keg Dispenser

Enjoy Live Music
Milligan Czech Brass Band, Wilber-Clatonia Alumni Band,
Leo Lonnie Orchestra

Special Performances
Czech Queens, Wilber Junior Czech Dancers, Dwight Czech Dancers,
Tarokey Card Lessons, Czech Food Demonstration

More Information
Marvin Polacek Scott Oliva
402-462-0572 402-428-4446
stweneslaskrewfest@gmail.com

CZECH LANGUAGE FOUNDATION

2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, August 3

11:00 a.m.

Fox Hole

Wilber, Nebraska



Dr. Hana Waisserová



PRAGUE to BERLIN

UNL Students visit Czech Republic and Germany

From Hana Waisserová, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor of Practice, Czech and Central European Studies,
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Affiliate of the Harris Center for Judaic Studies
University of Nebraska–Lincoln*

Here are a few pictures from UNL students visiting Czech Republic and Germany taking a course on Czech and Central European History and Culture: Prague to Berlin. The students taking the course visited Prague, Plzen, Konopiste, Krivoklat, Krkonoše highlands and former Sudetenland, Theresienstadt, and also Moravia and Silesia - Olomouc and Svaty Kopecek, Ostrava and ended in Berlin.

The course examined Czech and Central European History and Culture, its medieval and imperial past, and its complex transition from being the conflicted Soviet buffer zone into being a modern Central Europe with its differences. Via a series of lectures, experiential learning, and excursions, the course examined this central European country, and region; it explored geopolitical aspects, culture, history, including its medieval history, Nazism, Communism and Holocaust, or the story of US liberation of the western Bohemia, studied Prague culture and subculture or visited an opera and Roma musical festival. The course was to demonstrate that by learning of culture, history, language, and about its people one can grasp the story of Europe.

The course was co-sponsored by Czech Chab fund and History Belousek Fund, and students of Czech had their flights sponsored. One graduate student, who studies Czech and specializes in Central European History, had his trip fully sponsored. The course was led by Dr. Hana Waisserova, Czech and Central, European Studies and Dr. Alex Vazansky, History.





NEBRASKA CZECHS OF LINCOLN CZECH READING CIRCLE



MONTH: August 27, 2024
BOOK: *The Phenomenon of Jára Cimrman* (1960s)
AUTHOR: Created by: Jiří Šebánek, Zdeněk Svěrák, & Ladislav Smoljak
LEADER: Petr Just, Ph.D.



Dr. Petr Just
Photo Left

SUMMARY:

The seminar will introduce participants to a phenomenal Czech fictional polymath Jára Cimrman, whose "work" has been played by the "Jára Cimrman Theatre" for more than 50 years. The theatre's performances have been sold out for most of the time of its existence and even today it is quite challenging to get the tickets to it. Despite the setting of most of the plays is in the 19th and early 20th century, they are able to depict even today's mentality and characteristic features of the Czech nation...and that all is achieved via plays "written" by fictional author Jára Cimrman. So if you wonder who Jára Cimrman is, what his accomplishments in (not only) literary field are, and why he was voted the Greatest Czech (despite being fictional person), tune in on 27 August 2024. (From Petr Just, Ph.D.)

There is no book for this session. Copyrighted materials for attendees only, upon request from Petr Just. Contact Lois, Layne or Mila for details if you plan to attend. (phone & emails listed below)

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

OUR LEADER: Dr. Petr Just (b. 1978) obtained his Ph.D. in Political Science at the Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, where he has served as part-time Assistant Professor of Political Science since 2005. In 2006 he joined the Metropolitan University Prague (MUP), Czech Republic, as full-time Assistant Professor. He also served as MUP's Vice-Rector for Student Affairs in 2007-2013 and since 2013 he has been the Chair of MUP's Department of Political Science. His teaching engagements have included more than 20 short-term visiting teaching positions at universities in Iceland, Slovakia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovenia, Cyprus, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Turkey.

His professional interests include mainly comparative politics (forms of government, coalitions, bicameralism, presidency) and political systems of the Czech Republic and Slovakia (and Czechoslovakia). He has authored or co-authored 9 monographs, 40 chapters in collective monographs and 40 scientific articles. He has actively participated at more than 80 scientific conferences, both international and domestic. Since 2015 Petr has served both as Vice-President of the Czech Political Science Association (CPSA) and member of Executive Committee of the Central European Political Science Association (CEPSA). In 2018 he was elected CEPSA's Secretary General. He is also member of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) and the American Political Science Association (APSA). Since 2006 he has provided almost 2000 political analysis, commentaries, and interviews for both Czech and foreign media.

His Nebraska connections date back to 1994 when he came as an exchange high school student to Lincoln, Nebraska. Since then he has visited Nebraska several times. During his 1999 stay he conducted research for the purpose of his Bachelor thesis on Nebraska unicameralism. During his 2018 and 2019 visits he gave guest lectures at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln within the UNL's Czech Program sponsored by the UNL's Department of Modern Languages and Literature, UNL's Komenky Club and Nebraska chapter of the Czechoslovak Society for Arts and Sciences.



The Genealogy Corner

By Maurice Vonasek

There are many genealogy resources available to help aid you with your search. The best being your family members...talk to them and be a pest about it before it becomes too late. Over time, memories fade, so write down everything that you hear and find. Write on the back of family photos the names of those whose images appear and the date and location, even if it is approximate. Voice and/or video recordings of family members will become precious with time. Libraries, online databases, digitally scanned newspaper services & physical newspapers, research organizations, county records, family bibles, census records, birth, marriage & death records, land plats, church & cemetery records, ship manifests are all out there to aid you in your research. Also, do find a safe place to keep those dusty family scrapbooks from that one crazy old aunt...you'll be surprised what you find in there. Above all, be patient in your research and the rewards will be fascinating.

Some other resources are right at your fingertips...starting with your very own Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln website.... <https://www.lincolnczechs.org/> If you go to the "Links" page, and scroll down, here you will find a category listed for 'Genealogy'... within there, you will find links to a plethora of valuable sites/resources.

Back in November 2023, our club held a presentation on, 'Genealogy - For Beginners & Experts Alike'. You may download the PowerPoint presentation from our club website. On our 'Archives' page, there is a category for 'Meetings/ Programs'....where you will find an entry for 'November 10, 2023 [Agenda / Program / Photos](#)'. Click on the [Program](#) and you will be able to download and view at your leisure. I wish the voice presentation & audience participation were recorded as it was enlightening. If you click on the [Agenda](#) link, listed below the meeting agenda is a complete screenshot listing of the Genealogy category from our website and a blank family tree layout that you may use to get started with building your family tree.

SOKOL IS STRONG!

The (XVII) 17th World Gathering of Czech Sokol Organizations in Prague 2024

from Dr. Mila Šašková-Pierce

The rally week took place in Prague from June 30 to July 5, 2024. It celebrated 162 years since the founding of the Sokol organization. More than 20,000 trainees and more than 40,000 spectators arrived from all corners of the Czech Republic and from abroad. The Sokol Parade through Prague had more than 15,000 uniformed participants.

Sokol operates in 18 countries around the world. It was the Sokol in foreign countries that kept the tradition of gatherings at a time when the Sokol association was banned by the Communists after 1948.

The 2024 gathering was accompanied by other events such as a gala evening in the National Theater; the Sokol Gala in the O2 arena; a show of Sokol performance of sports; and dance performances by Sokol folklore ensembles.

A total of 12 collective compositions were performed. You can find the videos on the Youtube channel of the Czech Sokol Community at <https://www.slet2024.cz/> and <https://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/16418944281-xvii-vsesokolsky-slet/224471291472101/>

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-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 2024

402-464-5184 (leave message)

(land line with recorder after four rings)

The Czech Genealogical Cemetery Project

Update from Maurice Vonasek

In a previous newsletter, we talked a little about the CGSI Cemetery Project and said we would follow up with more information....well, here's the follow up we promised.

First, a little about the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International organization. As the name implies, CGSI provides educational, cultural, historical, and genealogical resources and opportunities for its members to discover and enhance their heritage knowledge. Members can attend conferences, quarterly program webinars, regional meetups, and other benefits. With over 2,000 current members, you can learn more about joining this wonderful organization here: CGSI.org

Czech and Slovak Cemeteries in North America

We can learn a lot about our ancestors and their history by studying or visiting the cemeteries near where they settled in North America. Finding these cemetery locations can sometimes be difficult and this is why CGSI is working diligently to help locate these honored places of rest. Thus, you now have an opportunity to see these locations on a map and also help add a location that is currently not known/listed. There are websites such as Findagrave and Billiongraves that provide many cemetery locations & memorials, however through the efforts of CGSI, there is much more information available from a defined heritage perspective.

About the CGSI Czech and Slovak Cemetery Project....

Currently, there is a small group of volunteers that have been diligently searching and adding cemetery information for each state known to have Czech/Slovak interments, even if there is but one individual. We do this in honor of those ancestors passed and to aid those seeking to know their ancestors. Up until three months ago there were zero of these like cemeteries listed in Texas, today that state is on its way to being duly represented. Not surprising, Nebraska has and still does lead the nation in its Czech/Slovak cemetery representation...the mapping is truly amazing.

The goal of the Cemetery project is to create a list of cemeteries across North America that have significant Czech, Slovak, Rusyn, or German-Bohemian populations. This information and more is recorded on a spreadsheet that is then made into a map that is available to all CGSI members on the CGSI.org website.

You can click on the map of North America and pull up information about a given cemetery. Some of the information that is recorded for each cemetery on the map: the cemetery's various names over the years, the cemetery website, the year it was founded, whether it is an active cemetery, the address and longitude and latitude, whether it is affiliated with a church, as well as many other interesting facts not available anywhere else. Links to Find-A-Grave are provided for researching specific graves/memorials of those cemeteries.

Note, you do not need to be a CGSI member to look at or add cemeteries, however you will not be able to see in-depth details unless you are a member. Please keep in mind this is all work-in-progress.

Current cemeteries map: <https://cgsi.org/czech-and-slovak-cemeteries>

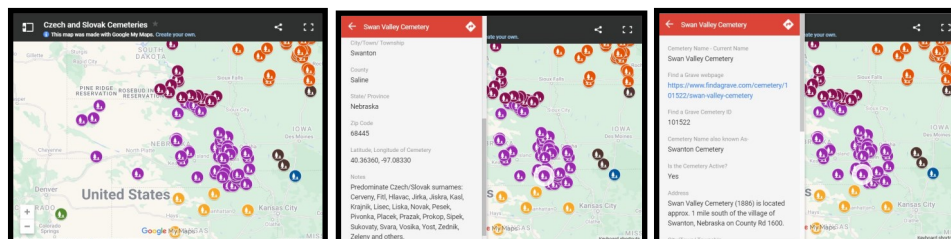
If you would like to help with this project, please contact cemeteries@CGSI.org. We would love to have you be part of our group! You will get to meet other CGSI members and help by your appreciated contributions!

Do you have a cemetery to add to the map? [Complete this submission form](#). Thank you!

Please contact [Maurice Vonasek](mailto:Maurice.Vonasek@CGSI.org) should you have any questions regarding this CGSI project.



Maurice Vonasek, Photo



RUNNING WITH CZECH PRESIDENT PETR PAVEL

Reprinted directly from American Friends of the Czech Republic (AFoCR)

Shortly after the preparations were kicked off for the NATO 75th Anniversary Summit in Washington, DC, we, at American Friends of the Czech Republic (AFoCR) knew it will be a busy week, meeting and supporting the Czech government dignitaries visiting the nation's capital. This is another small step in AFoCR's more than 25 year history of initiatives to strengthen NATO and the relationship between the US and Czechia.

Then came a call that the Czech President Petr Pavel would like to invite few local runners, mainly members of the Czech athletic association Sokol, to join him for a morning run. How quickly can one respond?

Instructions were simple, meet at the lobby at 6:15 am. It's going to be hot and humid morning.

About 15 runners, together with the security detail and the press corp, ran by Potomac River, enjoyed the views of Georgetown, the Mall, Arlington Cemetery and other landmarks.

Thank you, the Czech Embassy Team and Sokol friends for including me and organizing this extraordinary experience. I am still processing how it all happened.

This is yet another small example of President Pavel's style. Being "normal", such picking someone's sweater from the ground or making sure napkins do not fly all over (which I witnessed myself during a reception a couple of days ago).

Mr. President, wishing you a successful trip to Texas and a safe journey back home. Looking forward to welcoming you back soon.



Photo credit: Tomáš Fongus, the Office of the President Pavel



Submitted by: Dr. Mila Šašková-Pierce



CZECH PRESIDENT VISITS TEXAS

Petr Pavel, president of the Czech Republic, visited Texas Czech community La Grange, on July 13th, 2024.

The Czech president addressed several hundred people gathered in the Czech capital of Texas with these words. "For us Texas has the perfume of distance and freedom. Additionally it has a large Czech community. Today I came on a motorcycle to this meeting with countrymen in La Grange, the capital of the Czech Texas communities. It is very touching to hear Czech language in the United States, to eat the pastry, to see our costumes, and to observe American Czech traditions in the local environment. Eva and I thank you for the warm welcome and for keeping your Czech roots alive for future generations. This is very meaningful for us."

Petr Pavel has been Czechia's president since 2023. Before the presidency, he was the Chief of the General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces until 2015, and after he represented Czechia's in NATO.

There are wonderful photos of this event . Czech out the Facebook page below.
https://www.facebook.com/prezidentpavel/posts/1000447665419551?ref=embed_post