

2024 OCTOBER



Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln

CZECH PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
October 28 2024
Independence Day

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2024
Reservations due by Wed. Oct. 9, 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: Ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, rolls.

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

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

TOPIC: King Wenceslas (Svatý Václav)

LEADER: Rachel Taylor (photo below, upper)

RESERVATIONS: 402-416-6390 (avolf83@gmail.com)

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

October 11 Membership Meeting
November 8 Membership Meeting
December 13 Membership Meeting

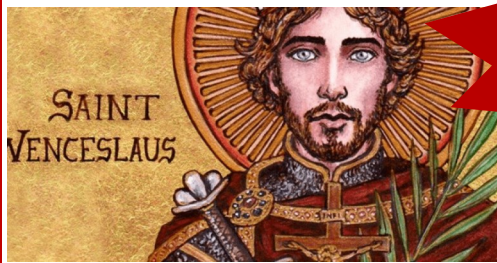
3rd Tuesday: Conversation Club (Zoom)
Last Tuesday: Reading Circle (Zoom)

MEETING LOCATION
HyVee 84 & Holdrege
5:30 Social Hour 6:00 Dinner



King Wenceslas
(Svatý Václav)
Patron Saint of Czechia

Please join us for a talk about King Wenceslas (Svatý Václav), patron saint of Czechia. He is a figure of great cultural and historic importance to the Czech people. We will talk about how he was viewed when he was alive and how he is viewed today through the lens of history. **Please join us!**



MONTH AT A GLANCE

MEMBERSHIP MEETING
October 11, 2024

CZECH LANGUAGE BANQUET
October 13, 2024

Available
January
2025!



CZECH HERITAGE
LICENSE PLATE

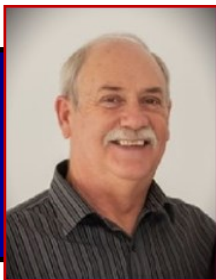


THE COURTESY CORNER

Let us know if you are aware of someone who is celebrating something very special or is in need of our support.

Connie Jean Hullnsky

Chairman, Courtesy Committee 2024
402-464-5184 (leave message)
(land line with recorder after four rings)



The Genealogy Corner

Maurice Vonasek

Sound advice & some cautions

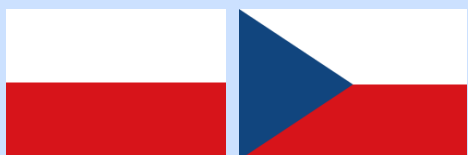
Genealogy Services such as **Ancestry.com, Family Search, My Heritage, GENI**, etc. are all great services that can provide easy linking of trees from potentially other family members/branches. However, are those connections correct? Before you hit that 'Accept' button to acknowledge this "Frank xyz" is indeed the same "Frank xyz" from another tree... **do your own due diligence first**. Do the birth/death dates line up or are they just approximate? Are the birth/death date locations correct? Who are their parents and/or siblings? Do the spelling of the names have any inconsistencies? The trick is to learn how to separate the good data from the bad, by verifying and corroborating every detail for yourself.

Be a good scout and always be prepared...meaning, don't be shocked by what you find. Sometimes the family history you find may not be all that glamorous and is potentially embarrassing, but for whom, You? Them? Us? Others? What happened many years (even centuries) ago is history and it is family history that, in this author's opinion, should be shared with other living family and future generations to come. Re-writing or suppression of certain facts relating to the family history is not fair to those wanting to know everything there is to know about their ancestors and for when/where they came from. It may even be true that your ancestors wanted their true story be told but couldn't due to causing embarrassment to "the family name" so many years ago. Please remember, whatever happened, happened in a time that will never be again...you weren't there.

Don't accept family legends as fact. However interesting they may be, legends can be misleading and this is where your validation skills will be tested. Still, it is noteworthy to keep such information, but insert the caveat that this is "family lore" according to crazy uncle so&so. Everyone wants their family to be related to someone famous or connected to some famous event. The reality of those chances are about the same as winning a sizeable lottery.

Genealogy scams exist...say it isn't so! There are people here and overseas alike that are willing to take your money in exchange for whatever information you want to hear. Some claim to be professional genealogists and will say that they have spent hours researching and it will take more hours and more dollars to do more. They will offer bits & pieces of family information based on what you have given them to start with and use that as the old carrot on a string attached to a stick as bait. Some will legitimately make mistakes, only for you to find out later this is not the ancestor you thought you were getting information on. Again, do your own due diligence when hiring "professionals".

October 28 Czech Independence Day



Flag of Bohemia (1918-1920) Flag of Czechoslovakia (1920)



The first flag of Czechoslovakia was based on the flag of Bohemia and was white over red (far left). This was almost identical to the flag of Poland, so a blue triangle was added at the in 1920 (far right). The flag was banned by the Nazis in 1939. The 1920 flag was restored in 1945. Upon the dissolution of Czechoslovakia, the Czech Republic kept the Czechoslovak flag (below left) while Slovakia adopted its own flag (below right).



This is a national holiday celebrated in the Czech Republic. The day commemorates the establishment of Czechoslovakia in 1918. The Declaration of Independence was drafted in Washington, D.C. and published on October 18, 1918. The Declaration was a response to the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire which ruled the Czech and Slovak lands for nearly 400 years. Czechoslovakia was one of Europe's first successful multi-party democracies. It lasted until the Nazis occupied the Czech lands in 1938 – 1939. Czechoslovakia was dissolved when the Czech Republic and Slovakia became two independent countries on December 31, 1992. The holiday is still celebrated today.

NEBRASKA CZECHS OF LINCOLN CZECH READING CIRCLE & CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

MONTH: October 29, 2024
BOOK: *Dreams of a Great Small Nation* (2016)
AUTHOR: Kevin McNamara
LEADER: Maurice & Bev Vonasek



SUMMARY:

This book is a summary of the chain of political and military events that led to the formation of the Czechoslovak state. In the early 1900's the Austro-Hungarian Empire was deeply troubled. Many were dissatisfied with the direction of the empire and began to seek independence. Among those were the Czechs and Slovaks. With the collapse of the Hapsburg dynasty, Czech leaders (Masaryk and Benes) declared war on Austria Hungary from Prague and proceeded to create a national political movement to build the new nation. With the chaos of 1918 Siberia (Russian Revolution), where Red & White armies, American, French, Japanese, German and Hungarian POWs all fought for control over the Trans-Siberian railroad, the Czech-Slovaks managed to prevail. And so were born the Czech Legions. The Czech-Slovak Legions took control of the Trans-Siberian railway for most of its length following the Russian Revolution. The Czech Legions suffered large numbers of casualties. In the end, with western support, the Czech and Slovak people finally regained their rightful homeland from the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

(Written by Maurice & Beverly Vonasek)

LEADERS: Maurice Vonasek served as Vice President and our Website manager during the previous term. He provides the monthly newsletter column, *The Genealogy Corner*. His wife Bev, has German roots and was born and raised in Beatrice, NE. The two have presented at club meetings and have participated in the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln Reading Circle. In 2022 they visited the Czech Republic and Germany.

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



CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu

Invitation to Nebraska Czech Conversation Club

From: Mila Saskova-Pierce

Our conversation group is organized and hosted by the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln. **The Czech Conversation Club** is a group that assembles once a month on ZOOM (except during June, July, and August on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM). The participants do not have to be from Lincoln, any state is good.

We are a group of people who have some knowledge of the Czech language (heritage speakers, former students of Czech language, etc.). For each session, one of the participants volunteers and prepares a subject we converse about, makes a list of relevant vocabulary and questions that might be entertained. In this sense it is a participatory club. The material is sent to the Club members, if possible, ahead of the relevant meeting.

People interested in the Conversation Club can get in touch with me at msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu

Podzim 2024 Program 2024

říjen: Brianna Tichý	Téma: České legendy
October: Brianna Tichy	Topic: Czech legends
listopad: Ryan Range	Téma: Můj dokumentární
November: Ryan Range	Topic: My Documentary
prosinec: Garret Scholberg:	Téma: Ant. Dvořák
	Biblické písně
December: Garret Scholberg	Topic: Ant. Dvorak
	Biblical Songs

Řekněte to česky!
Via ZOOM



Annual Czech Language Banquet October 13, 2024 Lincoln Firefighters Reception Hall 241 Victory Lane, Lincoln, NE

The annual Czech Language Foundation banquet will be held on the 13th of October 2024 at the Lincoln Firefighters Reception Hall, 241 Victory Ln, Lincoln, NE. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Dinner is served at 6:00. The keynote speaker will be retired Nebraska Adjutant General Daryl Bohac, who will talk about the 75th anniversary of NATO, and the 25th anniversary of the accession of Czechia, Slovakia, Poland, and Hungary to the alliance. He will underline the geopolitical role of NATO.

→ **Tickets are \$30.00 and must be purchased by October 3, 2024.** They may be picked up at the door. Information about tickets and their availability can be accessed on the Czech Language Foundation website: www.czechlanguagefoundation.org.



Photo Sources: <https://firefighterhall.com/>; Layne Pierce, used with permission; NATO Flag, wikipedia
Nebraska National Guard <https://www.nationalguard.mil/portals/31/features/ngbgomo/bio/2/2164.html>

The 2024-2025 Season at the Lied Center, Lincoln!
February 26, 2025 at 7:30 PM
THE CZECH NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Praised by The New York Times for "brilliance and infectious exuberance"
See an officer or board member for tickets!

