

2024 NOVEMBER



Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln

CZECH PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
November 17, 2024
Freedom & Democracy Day

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
President: Andrea Volf
Vice President: Rachel Taylor
Secretary: Sinda Dux
Treasurer: Linda Taborek
Festival Chair: Deb Vocasek
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Connie Jean Hullnsky (ex. 12/31/2024)
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@loisrood.com
402-570-2333

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2024

Reservations due by Wed. November 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: Herb roasted pork loin, oven roasted potatoes, glazed baby carrots, roll & butter

PROGRAM: 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING: 7:15 to 7:30 p.m.

Brad Husak & Addie Heji

The program this month will feature two talented accordion players who will regale us with some music! **Brad Husak** and **Addie Heji** will join us for the November club meeting and play some songs and speak about the accordion. It will be a fun night for all!



TICKETS
If you have signed up for symphony tickets, bring \$31.20 to the November meeting to get them from Linda Taborek!

NOVEMBER MONTH AT A GLANCE



November 8, 2024
MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 17
Freedom & Democracy Day
Time to Remember

November 19, 2024
Czech Conversation Club
via ZOOM

November 26, 2024
Czech Reading Circle
via ZOOM

November 28, 2024
šťastné díkůvzdání
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

CZECH HERITAGE LICENSE PLATE

Available January 2025!



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!



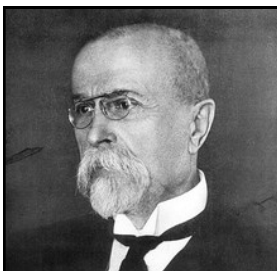


November 17

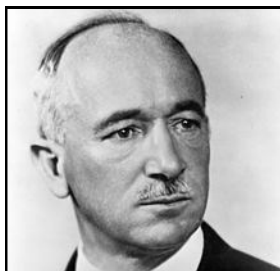
Struggle for Freedom & Democracy Day



On November 17th, the Czech Republic commemorates two historically significant events. On **November 17, 1939**, which was eventually declared **International Student Day**, the Czech universities were closed by the Nazi occupiers and patriotic students were executed. On **November 17, 1989**, on the 50th anniversary of the events of the occupation period a demonstration took place, which grew into a protest against the communist regime of the time and, as a result, marked the beginning of the **Velvet Revolution** and, with it, the return of Czechoslovakia to the family of European democracies. Source: Wikipedia



Tomáš Masaryk
1st President Czechoslovakia
1918-1935
(Founding Father of Czechoslovakia)



Edvard Beneš
President Czechoslovakia
1935-1938 & 1939-1948
(government-in-exile 1939-1945)



Emil Hácha
President Czechoslovakia
11/1938—3/1939



Václav Havel, President
Czechoslovakia 1989-1992
Czech Republic 1993-2003

“Czechoslovakia is...the godchild of the great and glorious Republic of the United States.”

Edvard Beneš

“Keep the company of those who seek the truth- run from those who have found it”

Václav Havel

NEBRASKA CZECHS OF LINCOLN CZECH READING CIRCLE & CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

READERS...

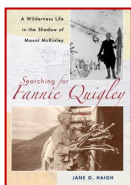
Do you have a book for
the 2025 Reading Circle?
Do you want to be a
leader? Contact Lois,
Mila or Layne today!

MONTH:
BOOK:

November 26, 2024
***Searching for Fannie Quigley: A Wilderness Life in the Shadow of Mount McKinley* (2007)**

AUTHOR:
LEADERS:

Jane G. Haigh
Tom Zumpfe & Cathleen Oslzly



SUMMARY:

At the age of 27, Fannie Sedlacek left her Bohemian homestead in Wahoo, Nebraska to join the gold rush to the Klondike. From the Klondike to the Tanana, Fannie continued north, finally settling in Katishna near Mount McKinley. This woman, later known as Fannie Quigley, became a prospector who staked her own claims and a cook who ran a roadhouse. She hunted and trapped and thrived for nearly forty years in an environment that others found unbearable. Her wilderness lifestyle inspired many of those who met her to record their impressions of this self-sufficient woman, who died in 1944. To many of the 700,000 annual visitors to Denali National Park she is a symbol of the enduring spirit of the original pioneers. ***Searching for Fannie Quigley: A Wilderness Life in the Shadow of Mount McKinley*** goes beyond the mere biographical facts of this unique woman's journey. It also tells historian Jane G. Haigh's own story of tracking and tracing the many paths that Fannie Quigley's intriguing life took. Uncovering remote clues, digging through archives, and listening to oral accounts from a wide array of sources, Haigh has fashioned this rich lode into a compelling narrative. In *Searching for Fannie Quigley*, Haigh separates fact from fiction to reveal the true story of this highly mythologized pioneer woman.

Podzim 2024 Program 2024

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

LEADERS

TOM ZUMPF AND CATHLEEN OSLZLY, live on an acreage east of Lincoln, Nebraska with their dog Bella. **Cathleen Oslzly**, graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University in Education. She worked 30-plus years as an Academic Advisor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. **Tom Zumpfe**, is a Registered Professional Engineer in Nebraska. He is owner of R. T. Zumpfe Engineering, Inc. in Lincoln. Both are 100% Czech and have each discovered several generations of ancestors from Bohemia. They are active in The Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln, and support many Czech activities. Together, they celebrate and promote their Czech heritage with family and friends. Cathleen is an amateur genealogist tracing the Zumpfe family back to the 1640's. They have visited the Czech Republic 13 times and are ready to go again! They are most proud of their inception of the **Czech Language Foundation Scholarship Partnering Program** which allows organizations and individuals to sponsor scholarships for students of Czech Language at UN-L. At the time, Czech Language classes were in peril of being discontinued after being taught for 100 years. Enrollment is now at an all-time high.

READING CIRCLE CONTACT

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

CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

Řekněte to česky!



Via ZOOM
NOVEMBER 19 @ 7:00 p.m.

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



The National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library

...adds Orloj, a Prague-style astronomical clock, to its clock tower

In 2024, NCSML is celebrating its 50th anniversary of fulfilling its mission to "engage the global community with unique Czech, Slovak, and American stories to inspire individuals with universal themes of culture, freedom, democracy, and immigration."

(from: <https://ncsml.org/ncsml-orloj-clock-tower>)

By Sinda Dux

Orloj (Czech for astronomical clock, pronounced or' loy) -- Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln members traveled to Cedar Rapids, Iowa on Friday, September 27, 2024 for the dedication of the only astronomical clock in North America. Patti and LaVern Hust; Andrea, son Johnny, and daughter Iva Volf; Linda Taborek, daughter Rani, and husband Bob Potter; Diane Vesely-Robb, son Hunter Robb, and father Dennis Vesely; and Sinda Dux went to the northeastern Iowa city for the Noon dedication. Iva Volf in her beautiful *kroj* represented the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln. Iva was also the state runner up. Gracelyn Baumert, the Nebraska state queen and Miss Czech-Slovak US 2024-2025 Trinity Pesko were present, also.

Incorporated into an existing 61-foot-tall 4-sided clock tower and modeled after the Prague orloj (the oldest still-functioning astronomical clock in the world), the Midwestern orloj was built by a Prague firm with fully-digitized inner workings. The clock-face graphics are gilded with 24-karat gold.

Wooden statues turn on two carousels and music by Antonín Dvořák and Bedřich Smetana plays on the hour. The \$1.6M project was funded with money raised through donations after the project was jump-started by a \$250,000 down payment from Cedar Rapids retired banker and philanthropist Ernie Buresh before his death in 2022. The clock tower is now called the Buresh Immigration Tower.

The orloj tells the time with a 24-hour clock using Roman numerals, the month and day, the zodiac sign for each day, and phases of the sun and moon. Twelve wooden statues, each almost 4 feet tall, hand-carved by Andrej Harsany of Slovakia, touch on themes of immigration, freedom and democracy. While the figurines in the Prague orloj are the 12 apostles, Cedar Rapids' orloj displays statues of a farmer, bee keeper, a family, coal miner, meat-packer, mother with infant in her arms — all representing traditional Czech and Slovak immigrants in the United States.

In her speech at the dedication ceremony, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds said Cedar Rapids is home to [more people of Czech and Slovak heritage than any other city in the world](#) outside of Prague. Honored guests and dedication speakers were Czech Republic President Petr Pavel and Slovakia President Peter Pellegrini, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, Iowa congressional representatives, and Cedar Rapids Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell.



Patti's reaction: "It was a good day! The event reminded me of the struggles of my immigrant ancestors and brought to mind the character and strength I inherited. It was an amazing event! Well planned, organized, and paced well for those of us who were standing! I was impressed by the speakers and the national Czech Queen's beautiful singing!"

Diane said, "We had a great day at the dedication of the Buresh Immigrant Clock Tower, getting the opportunity to see and hear Petr Pavel and Peter Pellegrini! Spending this time with my son and dad celebrating our Czech heritage was priceless."

Rani Taborek: "It was great to see such a large turnout at the unveiling of the Orloj. It will serve as an excellent monument to not only Czech and Slovak heritage and the continued partnership between our three countries, but also to the grit, ingenuity, and collaboration demonstrated by the immigrants who built the foundation for our communities."

As well as the clock tower, Cedar Rapids also honors its heritage with the National Czech-Slovak Museum and Library, the Czech Village, and New Bohemia.

In Loving Memory....

Memories from Connie Jean Hulinsky



Arlene Marie Houser (84)

DECEMBER 16, 1939 – SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

Arlene and her husband, Bob, were very involved with genealogy classes at Saint Paul United Methodist Church, which included our members always being invited and attending. Bob and Arlene were one of the first couples that introduced themselves to my husband and I at a meeting, and we always looked forward to seeing them at the next meeting. Also, enjoyed watching volleyball games at Northeast High School when their granddaughter, Molly, was playing. Another sweet lady will be remembered by our memories.

Obituary:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/lincoln-ne/arlene-houser-11983288>



Dale R. Ruhl (94)

MAY 10, 1930 – SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Dale was a long time member of the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln. He came into our Czech family when he married his wife, Erma. They were always very involved with our Club and especially our annual Czech Festival. Erma probably made thousands of kolache over the years and Dale helped selling them at our sales table. Dale led a very colorful and wonderful life and our memories of him will live on.

Obituary:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/lincoln-ne/dale-ruhl-12006184>

ANNUAL CZECH LANGUAGE BANQUET

The **Czech Language Foundation** kicked off their annual banquet on Sunday, October 13 at a new location this year, the Lincoln Firefighters Hall at 241 Victory Lane. There was a silent auction to raise money for the Foundation. The USA and Czech national anthems were led by **Stefanie-Vocasek-Procatina**. A delicious Czech meal was served which was catered by **Abie's Place** in Abie, NE. Following opening remarks from LCF President, **Layne Pierce** and Honorary Czech Consul, **Dr. Mila Saskova-Pierce**, Czech language students and students from the Czech Republic were recognized by **Dr. Hana Waisserova**, Czech Language Professor. Donors were recognized by **Dr. Joseph Swoboda**. The **Fiala Award** was presented to engineering student, **Jacob Sykora**. Keynote speaker, **Daryl Bohac**, **Major General, USAF** (retired) gave a very interesting presentation on **NATO, 25 Years and Counting** which explained how the Czech Republic entered NATO and how Nebraska & Texas National Guards created their formal partnership with the Czech Republic. The evening ended with an American folk song sung in both Czech and English led by **Janet Jefferies**.



**Maj. General USAF
Daryl Bohac** (retired)



**2024 Lincoln Queen
Lina Dvorak**



**Fiala Award Winner
Jacob Sykora**



**Mark Nemecek (l)
Steve Steager (r)**



Janet Jefferies (far right with singers)



The Genealogy Corner

From Maurice Vonasek

How many generations back can one expect to go when working on a family tree?

The simple answer is, as far back as there is information to be found. However, according to the Guinness book of world records, the descendants of Confucius have the longest documented genealogy. That is 86 generations going back to over 2,500 years....that is most impressive. In our real world, some royal families and nobility can trace their ancestry 500 - 1000 years ago with documented evidence. But, unless you come from a famous lineage though, it will be really hard to trace your ancestry back more than two or at most three hundred years with certainty because ordinary folks just don't show up in archived records all that much. This is especially true for our Czech and Slovak peoples. While there was nobility in our descendant's "old country", chances are slim that you will find that kind of connection. Not that the connection didn't happen, but the information validating that connection just may not exist. Further still, kingdom, country and empire boundaries have changed over the centuries and along with those movements, unfortunately, so did some of the records. In the US, it is often possible to trace your ancestors back to 1850 through the use of census records. Those, whose ancestors may have traveled on the Mayflower, may be able to find their ancestry back to the 1600s...one has to wonder if there were any Bohemian/Austro-Hungarians onboard (maybe as crew) at the time? Many European countries (including the Czech lands) have common parish records going back hundreds of years. Asian countries do hold the number one spot as they have records that go back thousands of years as ancestry is an important part of their life. So, in the end what does all of this mean? Don't give up the search! Remember, we're all in this together!

Nebraska State Historical Society

**James E Potter Research Room
Expands Hours**

From Connie Hulinsky

The **James E Potter Research Room** at the Nebraska State Historical Society, 1500 R Street, Lincoln, has expanded its hours to open on weekdays, except Tuesdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This will give the public more access for research purposes.

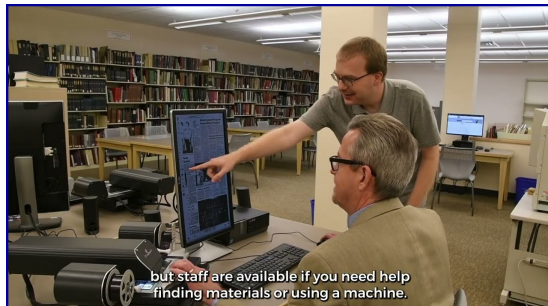
The recently named interim director, Cindy Drake stated in a press release, that while many of the society's history and genealogy materials are online, "a very large portion is only available in person. ... These new hours better serve researchers students, and the public as a whole."

Judi Cook, from the Lincoln-Lancaster County Genealogical Society, stated that "Books, maps and newspapers, as well as the Nebraska State Archives, which include unpublished manuscripts, photographs, film/audio and public records, are available at the research room. Trained staffers are available to direct researchers to materials.

Learn more about the James E Potter Research Room by watching this video!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L379n3HtugM>

For more information also visit <https://history.nebraska.gov>



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)