

2025



Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln JUNE



LINCOLN'S QUEEN Karolina Dvorak

**June 28 - Nebraska State
Queen Pageant
Clarkson Czech Festival**

August 23 & September 27
Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln
at the Haymarket Farmers Market
Volunteers Needed!
Contact me to volunteer!
dveselyrobb@yahoo.com

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
President: Andrea Volf
Vice President: Evie Kantor
Secretary: Sinda Dux
Treasurer: Linda Taborek
Festival Chair: Iva Volf

Board Members
Patti Hust Fortik (ex. 12/31/2025)
Diane Vesely-Robb (ex. 12/31/2026)
Deb Vocasek (ex. 12/31/2027)

2025 State Delegates
Deb Vocasek
Mila Saskova-Pierce

WEBSITE
Lincolnczechs.org

FACEBOOK
<https://www.facebook.com/LNKczechs/>

NEWSLETTER
Contact lois@loisrood.com
402-570-2333

2025 Membership Meetings
Friday, September 12
Friday, October 10
Friday, November 14
Friday, December 12

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

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

JUNE AT A GLANCE

Next membership meeting September 12

June 1-7 - Lincoln

First White Elm Czech Beer Fest

June 7 - Hastings

South Central - 19th Annual Czech Festival
9:30—3:00 p.m.

June 13-15 - Verdigre
Kolach Days

June 15- Milligan
37th Annual Milligan June Jubilee
12-10:00 p.m.

June 17-ZOOM
Czech Conversation Club

June 22 - Lincoln-Lancaster County
Genealogical Society Library & Zoom
Kde Domov Můj - Where is my (Czech) home?

June 24 - ZOOM
Czech Reading Circle

**June 27, 28, 29
CLARKSON
63rd Annual Clarkson
Czech Festival**

Support our
Queen
in CLARKSON
May 28
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.



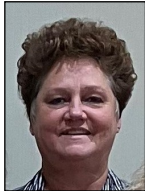
Clara Jordan, Karolina Dvorak, Sidney Davis

NEBRASKA CZECHS OF LINCOLN CLUB NEWS

Margaret Vesely was our trainer as we learned how to make rohlíky without a recipe. It was decided that she would make her batch and then we would make two additional batches for a total of 15 dozen rohlíky. Along with Margaret, Ann Volf, Diane Vesely-Robb, Connie Jean Hulinsky, Karrie Dvorak, John Woita, Deb Vocasek, Sinda Dux, Evie Kantor, Cathy Oslzly, Rich Perkins, Jan Perkins, LaVern Fortik and Patti Fortik learned how to bake rohlíky. We started at 8:00 a.m. It was about 12:45 p.m. when our last pans came out of the oven and we all left the church about 1:20 p.m. Diane Vesely-Robb took all of the rohlíky to freeze.



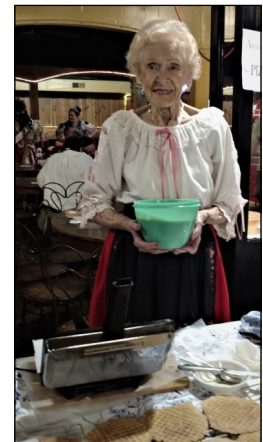
Margaret Vesely & Diane Vesely-Robb



Deb Vocasek (photo far left)

Italian Pizzelles (photo left)

**In Memory of Anne Callahan
Making Pizzelle at Lincoln Festival 2017 (photo right)**



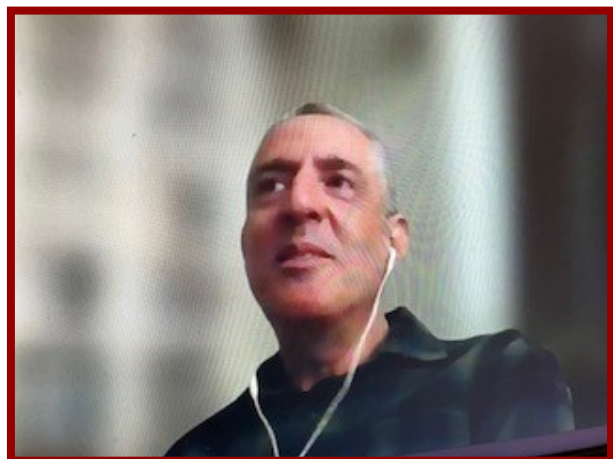
Deb Vocasek was our trainer making pizzelle, the favorite cookie of our beloved Anne Callahan. (The Czech girl with the Irish name who made Italian cookies for the Czech Festival). We learned how to use the pizzelle wafer irons. Packages of four were to be made to sell for \$2.00 at the Baked Goods Table. This was an experiment if they can be frozen and be good to sell. Diane Vesely-Robb was going to try and made more a day or two before the festival.

Newsletter Correction: The April 2025 Newsletter listed the volunteers that helped bake 1300 kolache for the May 4th Lincoln Czech Festival. The names of **LaVern and Patti Fortik** were accidentally omitted from the list. They were very helpful volunteers on our April 12th Baking Day!

Sharing the Experience - What a great evening! Translator Alex Zucker joins Lincoln Czechs April Reading Circle!

On April 29, 2025 **Hana Waisserova, Ph.D.**, associate professor of Czech and Central European Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, led our Reading Circle with a discussion of **Tomáš Zmeškal's** international award winning book, **Love Letter in Cuneiform**, translated by **Alex Zucker**. Alex Zucker is currently the most prominent translator of Czech literature.

Alex Zucker attended our Zoom Circle meeting and shared his experience translating Zmeškal's book, his challenges and process of translating the Czech language into English, and some of his views on Czech literature. He was vibrantly engaged with our participants. He congratulated us on our unique Reading Circle, encouraged us to broaden our participation nationally and internationally, and vowed that he would join us again.



Reading Circle Leader, Hana Waisserova Ph.D. (left); Author, Tomáš Zmeškal' (middle); Translator Alex Zucker (far right)



NEBRASKA CZECHS OF LINCOLN CZECH READING CIRCLE & CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

MONTH: June 24, 2025
BOOK: *The Jews of Bohemia & Moravia*
AUTHOR: Wilma Iggers
LEADER: Lorraine Duggin, Ph.D.

While much has been written about East European and German Jewry, relatively little attention has been given to the Jews of Bohemia and Moravia, although they played an important role in the industrial, economic, and cultural life of central Europe. This book examines the social and cultural history of the Jewish community in Czechoslovakia from the Age of Enlightenment to the middle of the twentieth century.

From family histories, newspaper and magazine articles, wills, and letters, Wilma Iggers has culled descriptions of life, customs, and local color; portrayals of important individuals and families; stories of individuals depicting the transition of a culture and a people from the Middle Ages to modern times; an examination of complaints about the deterioration of the religious communities and of religious instruction; and the history of anti-Semitism. Practically all reports reflect the difficult struggle for survival as Jews. The texts also address special legislation regarding the Jews, industrialization and urbanization, changes in religious and familial structures, growing involvement in the culture and politics of the worldly communities, cultural assimilation, changes in stereotypes about the Jews, and the effects of political forces from outside.

The Jews of Bohemia and Moravia begins with the expulsion of the Jews from Prague by Empress Maria Theresa in 1744, an event which caused a shock that remained in the Jewish consciousness for a long time. The book concludes with texts from the middle of the twentieth century dealing with the most recent generation of Bohemian and Moravian Jews. Despite fluctuations and radical breaks, the time span from 1744 to 1952 constitutes a single unit that encompasses striking cultural and economic developments as well as anti-Semitism and cynicism unmatched even in the Middle Ages.

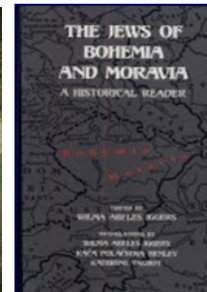
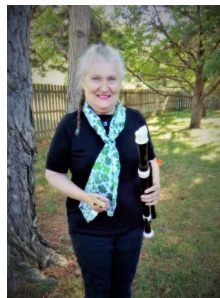
With their strong emotional ties to the land of their birth, Bohemian and Moravian Jews are closer to the Central and West Europeans than to the Jews from Eastern Europe. Although Jews are often criticized for adapting themselves easily to other countries--meaning that they have no real roots--their strong emotional ties to their countries of origin are clearly expressed in a number of documents included in this book.



Wilma Iggers



OUR LEADER: Lorraine Duggin, Ph.D.



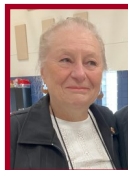
Dr. Lorraine Duggin is a published poet, fiction writer, and memoirist, who has been teaching English/Writing on the College level since 1974. She was a long-time member of the Omaha Czech Cultural Club, served as its secretary, and with the Omaha International Folk Dancers did many folk dancing performances at Czech Festivals. She is on the Speaker's Bureau of the Nebraska Humanities Council, presenting a program on "Growing Up Czech in Nebraska."

READING CIRCLE CONTACTS

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	

CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

Řekněte to česky!
Via ZOOM



Meets again September 16



Maureen Halama sings the anthems

The Czech National Anthem

Kde domov můj, kde domov můj,
 "Where my home is, where my home is,"
voda hučí po lučinách,
 "Streams are rushing through the meadows,"
bory šumí po skalinách,
 "Midst the rocks sigh fragrant pine groves,"
v sadě skví se jara květ,
 "Orchards decked in spring's array,"
zemský ráj to na pohled!
 "Scenes of paradise portray."
A to je ta krásná země,
 "And this land of wondrous beauty,"
země česká domov můj,
 "Is the Czech land of my home,"

Capturing the Moment! Maureen Halama

I am sure many of you were taken by surprise as I was when I heard **Maureen Halama** sing both **The Star Spangled Banner** and **Kde domov můj (Where is My Home?)**, the national anthem of the Czech Republic. The anthems were sung so freely, strong and brave! What a lovely voice! It was one of those magical moments! I had no idea who belonged to that beautiful voice. So, after she finished, I introduced myself and asked her if she could tell our membership a little more about her. Here is her response.

My name is Maureen Halama, I'm a Wilber native, who has always enjoyed listening to, supporting, and creating music, especially polka! Growing up, I enjoyed taking piano lessons, and later learned how to play the button accordion from my dad, Galen Beck. My first polka music adventures were singing with Bob Blecha and the Bouncin' Czechs and participating in the Czech Concerts held at Doane in the late '90s and early 2000s with my dad. I currently enjoy playing drums, piano, saxophone, clarinet, and occasionally the accordion in area polka bands with my husband, Jon and our friends. I have been an instrumental and vocal music teacher for 13 years, and currently teach K-12 Vocal Music at Tri County Public Schools.



Festival Fun!— May 4, 2025



Kde Domov Můj Where is my (Czech) home?

Jason Cadek will explain how to locate your ancestral village and navigate the Czech Archives and other valuable genealogical resources. The talk will focus on resources and methods to locate and research your ancestral Czech village, its history and your family's origins. A variety of resources are available online and in print to help identify, locate and research the village, parish and estate that your Bohemian and Moravian ancestors called home.

Jason Cadek is a semi-professional genealogist from Omaha, NE, and the current president of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International. Jason has had a passion for genealogy for more than 30 years, researching his own family, as well as communities in Central Nebraska and Omaha. His paternal grandfather's family came to Nebraska from three regions of the Czech lands in the 1880s. He is a member of the Great Plains Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists, Greater Omaha Genealogical Society, and LLCGS, as well as the Bohemian Cemetery Association, Sokol Omaha, and Omaha and Lincoln Czech Clubs.



JASON CADEK

Sunday, June 22, 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm
Lincoln-Lancaster County

Genealogical Society Library & on Zoom

Website: llcgs.info (to get Zoom link)

2900 O Street, Lower Level, Lincoln NE

Photo used with permission: produced by A.I.



Deb Vocasek

Crowned Honorary Lincoln Czech Queen

Deb joined the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln in 2004 when her daughter Stefanie represented the Lincoln Chapter as Queen and later won the Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. Queen title in 2010. Deb served the club as Vice President, President, Festival Chair and State Delegate. She started as Festival Chair in 2010 and retired this year. She is now mentoring our new Festival Chair, Iva Volf.

Honorary Queen Deb

Deb Vocasek first Honorary Lincoln Czech Queen crowned by Iva Volf (photo left)

2025 Lincoln Royalty!

Back row: Andelka Cerny (So Central Queen), Gracelyn Baumert (2024-25 Miss NE Czech-Slovak Queen), Karolina Dvorak (2024-25 & 2025-26 Lincoln Queen), Iva Volf (2024-25 NE Runner-up), Monica Zoubek (Wilber Queen), Kenna Boggs (Wilber Princess)
Front row: Eleanor Senft 2024-25 Lincoln Princess), Clara Jordan (2025-26 Lincoln Princess), Sidney Davis (2025-26 Lincoln Princess), Howard Senft (2024-25 Lincoln Prince).





HOUBY DAYS 2025



Lincoln
Czech
Queens
In
Houby
Days
Parade



Cedar Rapids
Iowa



Photos: <https://www.czechvillagecedarapids.com/>; Lincoln Queen photos from Andrea Volf & Cindy Hadish



May 17 & 18



Photos by
Andrea Volf & Cindy Hadish



**Houby Days celebrates the use of mushrooms in Czech & Slovak food.
Held annually in Cedar Rapids, IA.**