

2025



## Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln JULY & AUGUST

**2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
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**Mila Saskova-Pierce**

**WEBSITE**  
**Lincolnczechs.org**  
**FACEBOOK**  
**<https://www.facebook.com/LNKCzechs/>**

**NEWSLETTER**  
**Contact** [lois@loisrood.com](mailto: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)**

**July 5**  
**Cyril & Methodius Day**  
**July 6**  
**Jan Hus Day**

***Statues of Saints Cyril and Methodius by Karel Dvorak***  
**at the north side of the**  
**Charles Bridge in Prague,**  
**Czech Republic.**

Photo left: Wikipedia

**Czech Bible of 1506** (below)  
<https://bridwell.omeka.net/>



**Monument to Jan Hus by Ladislav Jan Saloun , Old**  
**Town square , historic centre of Prague , Czech**  
**Republic** Photo above: Wikipedia

## JULY & AUGUST Month at a Glance

**July 5, 6, 7 & 8** (see page 6)  
**CZECH PERFORMANCE** by  
**Jaroslav Škuta, Clarinetist**

**July 18, 19, 20**  
**DWIGHT CZECH FESTIVAL**

**July 19 Dwight**  
**DWIGHT CZECH FUN RUN**

**July 29 - Zoom**  
**CZECH READING CIRCLE**

**AUGUST 1,2,3 - Wilber**  
**64th ANNUAL CZECH FESTIVAL**

**AUGUST 2 - Wilber**  
**CZECH LANGUAGE FOUNDATION**  
**Annual Meeting**

**August 9—Prague**  
**CZECH HERITAGE DAY**

**AUGUST 10—Lincoln**  
**WALK TO END HUNGER**



## NEBRASKA CZECHS OF LINCOLN CZECH READING CIRCLE JULY 29, 2025

**MONTH:** July 29, 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.

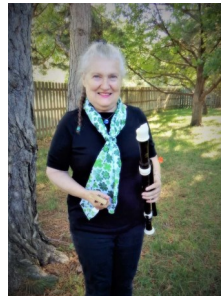
With their strong emotional ties to the land of their birth, Bohemian and Moravian Jews are closer to the Central and West Europeans than to the Jews from Eastern Europe. Although Jews are often criticized for adapting themselves easily to other countries--meaning that they have no real roots--their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



Author: 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

<b>Lois Shimerda Rood</b>	402-570-2333
<a href="mailto:lois@loisrood.com">lois@loisrood.com</a>	
<b>Layne Pierce</b>	402-770-5029
<a href="mailto:layne.pierce@yahoo.com">layne.pierce@yahoo.com</a>	
<b>Mila Saskova-Pierce</b>	402--770-4624
<a href="mailto:msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu">msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu</a>	

### CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

Řekněte to česky!



**Will Resume in September**

For information contact  
[msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu](mailto:msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu)



# NEBRASKA CZECHS OF LINCOLN CZECH READING CIRCLE AUGUST 26, 2025

**MONTH:** August 26, 2025  
**MOVIE:** *Pelíšky (Cosy Dens)* (1999)  
**AUTHOR:** Petr Šabach, Patr Jarchovský  
**LEADER:** Petr Just, Ph.D.



## SUMMARY:

Annotation: Bittersweet film comedy taking place in Prague in the years 1967-1968 characterized by short-lived attempt to reform the Communist system. The story revolves around two families living in one house and led by fathers with diametrically opposing political views. On the eve of Soviet intervention to Czechoslovakia in August 1968 the families are united by a marriage, but after the intervention the lives of both families dramatically change. The presentation will set the movie to the context of political and social development in late 1960s. (From Petr Just, Ph.D.)

## 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 Komensky Club and Nebraska chapter of the Czechoslovak Society for Arts and Sciences.

## CZECH LANGUAGE FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING

**Saturday, August 2**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Fox Hole Tavern Basement  
Wilber, NE**

CONTACT: Layne Pierce  
Layne.pierce@yahoo.com; 402-770-5029



# 2025 NE CZECH-SLOVAK QUEEN **Karolina Dvorak, Lincoln**

Runner-Up Monica Zoubek, Wilber



## NEBRASKA CANDIDATES

CLARKSON: Teagan Baumert

LINCOLN: Karolina Dvorak

OMAHA\*: Amelia Belik

PRAGUE: Christina Kavan

WILBER: Monica Zoubek

YORK: Jaylin Miller

\*Omaha Czech-Slovak Cultural Club)

## **July 5** in Czech Republic **Cyril & Methodius Day**



In an effort to limit the influence of encroaching Germanic neighbors, Czech Prince Rostislav in 863 invited Byzantine monks and brothers Cyril and Methodius of Thessalonica to come to the Czech lands to preach the gospel in the Slavonic language (a predecessor of Czech).

To spread the Gospel among the Slavs, they created the Cyrillic alphabet and translated the Bible and liturgical books into Slavonic, which at that time had no written form. The two brothers are considered the founders of Slavic literature and are sometimes known as the “apostles of the Slavs.”

The holiday is observed on July 5 because it coincides with the date of the Catholic feast day of Cyril and Methodius that was created by the Pope in 1880. On this day every year thousands of Czech Roman Catholics gather at the Basilica of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and Saints Cyril and Methodius in the south Moravian town of Velehrad, once the seat of the Great Moravian Empire, where they arrived in 863.

Source: <https://cz.usembassy.gov/holiday>



**Jan Lipavský**  
**Minister of Foreign Affairs**  
**Czech Republic**  
 Presents the Gratias Agit Awards  
 June 26, 2025 at the  
 Czernin Palace in Prague to...  
**Major General Daryl L. Bohac**  
**Former Commander**  
**The Nebraskan National Guard**



Source: [https://mzv.gov.cz/jnp/en/issues\\_and\\_press/press\\_releases/minister\\_lipavsky\\_presented\\_the\\_gratias\\_1.html](https://mzv.gov.cz/jnp/en/issues_and_press/press_releases/minister_lipavsky_presented_the_gratias_1.html) (photo above); [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czernin\\_Palace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czernin_Palace); (<https://rfpb.defense.gov/Board-Biographies/bohac/> (photo of Maj. Gen. Bohac))

This award is presented to those individuals throughout the world who have contributed to spreading the good name of Czechia abroad. The Czech Embassy honors people who “are building bridges between different nations and cultures which is particularly difficult these days,” Minister Jan Lipavský told the 9 winners.

Major General Daryl L. Bohac served as The Adjutant General, Nebraska National Guard, Lincoln, Nebraska and was active in Czech community life. He was the guest speaker for the Czech Language Banquet in Lincoln in 2024.

Nine awards were presented. The other individuals were from Switzerland, North Macedonia, Czechia/Norway, Canada, Uganda, Poland, Sweden and Australia



## July 6 in Czech Republic Jan Hus Day

Jan Hus, a predecessor of Martin Luther, was an early 15th century Czech theologian and scholar. He advocated church reforms, such as using Czech as the liturgical language, aligning the church's practices with teachings contained in the Bible, limiting the power of the church to spiritual matters, and stopping the sale of indulgences.

Consequently, he was excommunicated from the Catholic Church in 1412 for insubordination. He was summoned to the ecclesiastical Council of Constance in 1414, where he was ordered to recant his teachings. Refusing to comply, Hus was burnt at the stake on July 6, 1415.

Over the centuries Jan Hus has become a powerful symbol of an independent Czech national identity.

Source: <https://cz.usembassy.gov/holiday>





Brush Creek  
Hall 1920-30



Brush Creek  
Hall Today



# BRUSH CREEK SOKOL HALL UP FOR SALE!

From Lois Shimerda Rood

This article is close to my heart. I grew up on a farm between Swanton and Wilber, Nebraska. Nearly every month we would go to Brush Creek to dance in this little building standing all alone out in the country. It was a joyous place for me! There was always a live band. As a small child I learned to dance the polka, the waltz, and the schottische. I can still hear them playing *The Flying Dutchman Polka* and *The Bunny Hop* and remember whirling around to the music with people of all ages circling the interior of this small building. In fact, my good memories were so strong that recently when some of us formed an acoustic trio, we decided to name it *Brush Creek Revival* in honor of that little building.

I made an appointment with **Doris Koll**, a volunteer at the wonderful Saline County Museum and Historical Society, to do a story about Brush Creek for the newsletter. It was at that time that I learned that **Brush Creek will be sold by auction at a sheriff's sale July 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the Saline County Court House in Wilber due to unpaid taxes.** So, below is a summary of information Doris has collected from a variety of sources including Wikipedia, the Wilber Republican, the National Historical Society and local Saline County records. Here's what I learned.

From Doris Koll

## Czech Immigration

During the revolts in Europe in the 1840s and '50s, many people seeking freedom came to America. The Czech immigrants brought with them the idea of Sokol. Nearly every Czech community built its own Sokol Center which included lodge halls, libraries, foreign language schools, and large gymnasiums. Their goals were to train the mind and body of their young people. Sokol is an organization dedicated to the physical, mental and cultural advancement of its members. The first Czech immigrants settled in Nebraska in 1854 and numbers grew rapidly with the passage of the Homestead Act. Saline County became a popular destination for Czech settlement. At the turn of the century, it was claimed that there were more Czechs in Nebraska than any other state and that 1/3 of Saline County was of Czech origin.

## Sokol (falcon)

Sokol (falcon) was formed in 1862 in what would become the Czech Republic. The falcon was considered to be a strong and noble bird fitting to be a symbol of this group. It was chosen because "it flies really high in the sky and has good eyesight and endurance." An American branch followed in 1865 in St. Louis. Wilber established a Sokol in the town's Opera House and later built their large hall in 1891.

**Brush Creek** (Address: 1698-1680 Co Rd 1800, Wilber, NE 68465)

Brush Creek Sokol Hall (Telocvična Jednota Sokol) was built at the intersection of two county roads in eastern Saline County near Wilber and was built by Frank Houser and Mr. Ruzicka. Brush Creek Hall was originally called Turner Hall. The name changed around 1922. The 40 X 46 foot structure was completed in 1888. From 1888 to 1900 it was for men only, and from 1924 on for men and women. The Brush Creek Sokol girls team took first place in the Western Division of the American Sokol Organization in 1926. The hall was used for community events, dances, 4-H clubs, extension clubs, and elections until the 1990's. Dances were held every month until the 1960s. Regular meetings were held there until 1984. On January 18, 1985 it was officially listed in the **National Register of Historic Places**. On November 6, 1988 a 100-year celebration took place. Accounts were opened at both Wilber banks to accept donations for the restoration of the Brush Creek Hall. In 1991 the outside hall was painted. By 1994 meetings were no longer held in the hall, but elections were still held at Brush Creek until 2000. Since then, the building has declined. There are no longer any active members of Brush Creek Sokol.

## Sale

Brush Creek Sokol Hall will be sold at a Sheriff's Sale on July 10th at the Saline County Court House in Wilber, NE at 2:00 p.m. The back taxes are 2022 (\$118.20), 2023 (\$115.72) and 2024 (\$79.86).

**BRUSH CREEK SOKOL HALL**  
**A "Sheriff's Sale" will be held on July 10th, for unpaid taxes**  
**Built 1888, Oldest Standing Sokol Hall in Nebraska**



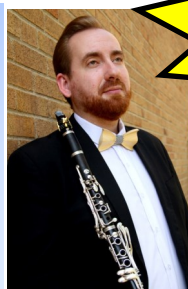


## WATCH FOR LINCOLN CZECHS AT THE HAYMARKET FARMERS MARKET AUGUST 23 & SEPTEMBER 27



We'll be there telling folks about everything we do!  
Contact me to volunteer!  
dveselyrobb@yahoo.com

**July 7  
EVENT!  
Lincoln**



**Jaroslav Škuta, Professional Clarinetist  
Bohemia Symphony Orchestra, Prague  
In Wilber, Omaha, Lincoln & Fremont**

**Walk to End Hunger  
Sunday, August 10  
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Pius X High School  
Donate food, money  
or volunteer  
Contact: Mike Hosek  
mikehosek72@gmail.com**

## St. Wenceslas Brewfest Sunday, September 7, 2025

It will be an indoor event at the Milligan Auditorium, Milligan, NE. There will be Czech food, Czech pilsner beer and musical entertainment. The auditorium is now air-conditioned, so it will be a cool place if the day is warm. More information will be available later for the Brewfest.



The Czech Culture and Education Foundation of Nebraska is sponsoring concerts featuring Jaroslav Škuta, a professional with the Bohemian Symphony Orchestra in Prague, and pianist Šárka Stehnová. There will be a free will donation at the door.

### PERFORMANCES

**Saturday, July 5, Wilber Cultural Center**  
110 W. 3rd Street, Wilber, NE, 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, July 6, Omaha– Trinity Episcopal Cathedral**  
113 N. 18th Street, Omaha, NE, 4:00 p.m.

**Monday, July 7, Lincoln - First Lutheran Church**  
1551 S. 70th Street, Lincoln, NE, 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, July 8 Fremont Opera House**  
541 N. Broad Street, Fremont, NE 7:00 p.m.

### Our newsletter welcomes Sinda!



**Lois Rood** served the club previously as Secretary and has been acting as the club's newsletter editor since the first issue in February of 2023. Many people throughout the Czech community contribute to it every month making the newsletter a wonderful record of our many and diverse activities. Their input is greatly appreciated!

### Sinda Dux

Recognizing the talent and skills of our club's current secretary, Sinda Dux, Lois asked Sinda if she would consent to being the official proofreader of our publication. She graciously accepted. Glad to have you on board, Sinda. 8



## DWIGHT FESTIVAL July 18, 19, 20

Friday: Road Rally, Polka Dance— Legion  
Saturday: Youth Czech Dancers  
Tractor Pull, Crowning of Royalty; Polka Dance—Legion  
Sunday: Pork Dinner, Bohemian Classic Auto Show,  
Youth Czech Dancers, Parade, Polka Band-Legion

## WILBER FESTIVAL AUGUST 1,2,3

**64th Annual Czech Festival**  
**Themes: Cheers to 10 Year—Alumni Band**  
Czech Dancers, Czech Food, Vendors, Museum, Bands  
Historial Pageant, Accordion Jam  
Kids Parade: Fri 7 pm; Grand Parades Sat & Sun 2 pm  
Miss Czech-Slovak US Queen Pageant Sat & Sun 7 pm

**JULY 19TH**  
**DWIGHT CZECH**  
**FESTIVAL 2025**  
**FUN RUN/ WALK**

*Bikes welcome this year*

*Start 8:30am*

*Fees include a shirt!*

*All proceeds go to the*  
**Dwight Community Library**

**REGISTER HERE**

*Find paper forms at the Dwight Library, Pivo's, Cy's Cafe, and Dwight post office*

*\$20 per participant*

*Registration due July 2nd*

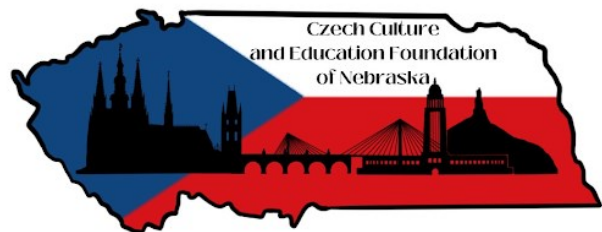
*For more information search for our event: Dwight Community Library 2025 Fun Run*




## PRAGUE CZECH HERITAGE DAY AUGUST 9 During Beer Barrel Days

10: am—12 pm Accordion Jamboree, Coffee/Kolace  
11 am—3 pm Pork, Dumplings, Kraut meal  
1 pm—Opening Ceremonies; Royalty Introduction and Coronation. Prague Czech Brass Band, Czech Dancers  
4 pm—Parade 5-8 pm Mark Vyhldal Trio

# What's there to do?



## MORAVIAN DAYS BUS TOUR



Friday 9/19 through Wednesday 9/24, 6 days, 5 nights, Deluxe Motorcoach transportation, Moravian Days entry fee, Bily Clock Entry Fee, Hotel Accommodations 2, 3 and 4 person occupancy available, breakfast at each hotel, all other meals on your own. Locations for Departure include: Lincoln, Wahoo and Omaha. Possible Itinerary:

9/19-Travel to Spillville, Calmar, Iowa, visit Bily Clocks, visit St Wenceslaus Church (Antonin Dvorak performed there), Calmar Brewery, Overnight Decorah

9/20-Travel to Lemont Illinois, afternoon excursion in Chicago, Moravian Festival 6:30 P.M. Overnight Lemont.

9/21-Moravian Day Festival all day, Overnight Lemont

9/22-Chicago excursions guided tours of Czech Consulate, Bohemian Cemetery, Czech and Slovak neighborhood, overnight Lemont

9/23-Travel to Cedar Rapids, National Czech Slovak Museum, Overnight Cedar Rapids

9/24-Travel back Nebraska.

Based on current itinerary price would be \$625/person double occupancy, \$600/person quadruple occupancy . Interested individuals may send an email to [ccfnebraska@gmail.com](mailto:ccfnebraska@gmail.com)