

2025



Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln

SEPTEMBER



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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)

MEMBERSHIP MEETING FRIDAY,

Reservations due by Wednesday,

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: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, buttered corn, rolls & butter; iced tea and water.
BUSINESS MEETING: 6:30 to 6:45 p.m.
PROGRAM: 6:45 to 7:30 p.m.
RESERVATIONS: 402-416-6390 (avolf83@gmail.com)

PROGRAM

Carmelee Tuma of Roca and sister Lorelei Edwards of Geneva will give a program at the September meeting about their Czech family heirlooms and related stories.

**Photo (right) from
2018 Lincoln Czech Festival**



SEPTEMBER Month at a Glance

ST WENCESLAS BREWFEST
September 7

MEMBERSHIP MEETING
September 12

CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB
September 16

MORAVIAN BUS TOUR
September 19-24

READING CIRCLE
September 30

NOTICE!
**SEPTEMBER FARMERS MARKET
BOOTH IS CANCELLED**

"The most important political office is that of the private citizen"

Louis Brandeis

LAUNCHING CZECH BOOKS AT WORLDCON

There are three important Czech speculative fiction writers to launch their new books in English at Worldcon.

Martin Vopěnka will present his latest novel, 500+ pages long *The New Planet*, **Julie Novakova** will launch her anthology of contemporary Czech science fiction *From the Land of Robots and Golems*, and **Jan Kotouč** will promote his latest novel.



CZECH LANGUAGE FOUNDATION BANQUET

October 12, 2025

By Sinda Dux

The Czech Language Foundation in Lincoln has announced plans for its Annual Banquet Sunday, October 12 2025. Save the date for this evening of Celebration of the Love of the Czech Language and Culture. Guest Speaker will be Dr. James D. Le Sueur.

Dr. Le Sueur is a scholar and award-winning filmmaker who came to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2001 and has taught courses on world intellectual history, decolonization, modern European history, the history of terrorism, the history of Radical Islam, and filmmaking. He is currently working on three documentary films. His first film in 2020 won international film festival awards and celebrates the resilience and power of artistic engagement in Czechoslovakia before and after the 1968 Soviet invasion.

Le Sueur owns Fox Hollow Films in Lincoln, an investigative and historical documentary film company. Read more at his website: history.unl.edu/person/james-d-le-sueur

Tickets will go on sale **online** soon. Check the CLF website: www.czechlanguagefoundation.org

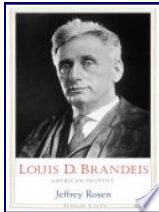


Guest Speaker
Dr. James D. Le Sueur



NEBRASKA CZECHS OF LINCOLN CZECH READING CIRCLE

MONTH: September 30, 2025
BOOK: *Louis D Brandeis: American Prophet* (2016)
AUTHOR: Jeffrey Rosen
LEADER: Lois Shimerda Rood



Jeffrey Rosen



Lois Rood

SUMMARY:

According to Jeffrey Rosen, Louis D. Brandeis was “the Jewish Jefferson,” the greatest critic of what he called “the curse of bigness,” in business and government, since the author of the Declaration of Independence. Published to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of his Supreme Court confirmation on June 1, 1916, *Louis D. Brandeis: American Prophet* argues that Brandeis was the most far-seeing constitutional philosopher of the twentieth century. In addition to writing the most famous article on the right to privacy, he also wrote the most important Supreme Court opinions about free speech, freedom from government surveillance, and freedom of thought and opinion. And as the leader of the American Zionist movement, he convinced Woodrow Wilson and the British government to recognize a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Combining narrative biography with a passionate argument for why Brandeis matters today, Rosen explores what Brandeis, the Jeffersonian prophet, can teach us about historic and contemporary questions involving the Constitution, monopoly, corporate and federal power, technology, privacy, free speech, and Zionism. (Source: World of Books Summary)

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, LOIS SHIMERDA ROOD, was born to a German mother and Czech father before the end of World War II. She is a member of Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln and started the Czech/American Reading Circle with Layne and Mila Pierce in 2019 to learn more about her Czech culture and heritage. She has served as the newsletter editor since January 2023 and previously served as secretary. Lois grew up on a farm between Swanton and Wilber and graduated from Wilber High School the same year as Wilber's first Czech festival.

A feminist, civil rights advocate, and champion for people with disabilities, Lois attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the 1960s, joining others during the Civil Rights Movement to register black voters in the South. Later she was named Omaha of the Year by the Sun Newspapers for her work as chairperson of the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women.

Lois was director of vocational services and planning director for ENCOR, a regional agency serving people with disabilities, and the state training coordinator for the Nebraska Network of Training Services at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. As several federal class-action lawsuits compelled state governments to deinstitutionalize and take steps to improve the lives of people with disabilities, she provided planning, training and consulting in 29 states, as well as Puerto Rico, England and Canada who were also improving their services.

A mother of three, Lois provided training and instructional design at West Corporation and Nestle Purina later in her career, while teaching social science and English as a Second Language. She is currently a licensed, independent insurance agent. A singer-songwriter, she now plans in two bands, High Street Irish and Brush Creek Revival.

The right to be let alone is the right most valued by civilized man.
 Louis Brandeis

CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

Řekněte to česky!

Via ZOOM

Month @ 7:00 p.m.

September 16– září:

Layne Pierce: Rodokmen - Genealogie

Layne Pierce: Family Tree - Genealogy

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



2025 Kucera Award Winner Janet Jeffries

By Sinda Dux



Dr. Vladimir Kucera, early 1960s
Source: UNL Alumni Association

Member, Nebraska Humanities Council Speakers Bureau. Advisor to regional Czech queen candidates. Director/Facilitator of Tours to the Czech Republic. These are just a very few of the accomplishments of the 2025 Kucera Award Winner Janet L. Jeffries of Crete Nebraska. She is honored by the Nebraska Czechs Inc.

Dr. Vladimir Kucera taught Czech language classes at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as well as being an historian working for the Nebraska State Historical Society for 38 years. He published 14 books of Czech heritage and was a board member of the Nebraska Czechs Inc.

Janet Jeffries descends from Bohemian and Moravian immigrants who settled in Nebraska in the late 19th century. Her Speakers Bureau programs include "Czech Folk Costumes (*Kroje*)" and "Czech Wall Clothes." She coordinated the Doane University, Crete, annual celebration of Czech folk and classical music. She has planned and led tours of Nebraska Czech counties since 2010. Janet entertains in Czech costume with Czech songs and plays the button accordion and other instruments.

Janet has helped put 8 Czech-related Nebraska sites on the National Register of Historic Places. She is the Administrator of the "Czech Heritage" Facebook page. Taking all her accomplishments in total, Janet Jeffries has made significant contributions to the preservation, enhancement and development of the Czech heritage in Nebraska. Congratulations, Janet, on earning the Kucera Award from the Nebraska Czechs Inc.



**CZECH HERITAGE
LICENSE PLATES**

**Message Plates: \$40.00
Alpha/Numeric Plates: \$5.00**

**Get your Czech Heritage Specialty Plate
at the Nebraska Department
of Motor Vehicles**

Go to: <https://dmv.nebraska.gov/dvr/czech-heritage>

New Lincoln Czech Queen A Royal Change

By Deb Vocasek



The Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln have a new Queen. It's not all bad, other than the chaos it forced us into undertaking. Here's what happened. Karolina "Lina" Dvorak who was our 2024-25 Lincoln Queen and then was recrowned to be our clubs 2025-26 Lincoln Queen. But then she competed in the Miss Nebraska Czech-Slovak Queen Pageant in Clarkson on June 28th and she was sooooo good that she won the title and now cannot fulfill the Lincoln Czech-Slovak Queen title through next May 2026. So, we could either find a new Queen to replace her or not have a Queen to represent the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln and we could not have that. So, we have chosen a wonderful young lady to represent us, and her name is Josephine Davis from Beatrice. If that name sounds familiar you are correct. Her younger sister, Sidney Davis, was crowned in May as one of our two Princesses. The other Princess crowned is Clara Jordan. Confused yet? Trust me, I have never had to deal with this situation before but keeps things interesting.

In order to get Josephine Davis crowned so she could start representing our Lincoln Chapter we were invited to crown her during the Czech Language Foundation Annual Meeting in Wilber so that she could participate in the parade and activities. She was crowned by her predecessor Lina Dvorak and one of her Princesses Sidney Davis (her sister). So in summary this is our new Royal Court shown in photo directly above.

Karolina "Lina" Dvorak - Miss Nebraska Czech-Slovak Queen 2025-26 (left)

Josephine Davis - Lincoln Czech-Slovak Queen 2025-26 (center)

Sidney Davis - Lincoln Czech-Slovak Princess 2025-26 (right)

Clara Jordan - Lincoln Czech-Slovak Princess 2025-26 (not shown above) (in small photo top left)



Texas Takes the Crown

Madelyn Karstedt (Texas)
Miss Czech-Slovak US Queen

Isabel Sherman (Iowa)
Miss Czech-Slovak US 1st Runner-Up

Megan Moucha (Wisconsin)
Miss Czech-Slovak US 2nd Runner-Up

Sent from the National Pageant Board of Directors

Madelyn Karstedt, representing Texas, of LaGrange, TX was crowned the **Miss Czech-Slovak US Queen 2025-2026**; she is the fifth Texas queen to wear the national crown. She also received the Sokol Talent Runner-Up and Kroj Merit Award. She has received a special educational scholarship donated by Dr. Cecelia Rokusek, Slovak Honorary Consul of Florida. Dr. Rokusek dedicates this scholarship to her parents John and Alicia "Fiala" Rokusek.

Isabel Sherman, representing Iowa of Cedar Rapids, IA was crowned the **Miss Czech-Slovak US 2025-2026 1st Runner-Up**. She received the **Grand Talent and Kroj Merit Award**.

Megan Moucha, representing Wisconsin of Eau Claire, WI was crowned **Miss Czech-Slovak US 2025-2026 2nd Runner-Up**. She also received the Kroj Merit Award. As members of the Royal Court, both Isabel and Megan received a special educational scholarship generously sponsored by the Kotouc Family.

Denisa Pecen, representing Illinois of Bloomingdale, IL received the Oratory, Kroj - Accuracy and Sokol Talent Awards.

Katie Rozen, representing Michigan of St. Johns, MI received the Kroj - Family Story Award.

Kate Rex, representing Oklahoma of Yukon, OK the Gruntorad-Stastny Heritage Involvement Award. This award recognizes the contestant who exhibits outstanding involvement as presented on her application. She also received the Cultural Preservation Award. This award recognizes the contestant who exhibits a passion and dedication to creating the next generation of cultural ambassadors.

Gracelyn Baumert representing Nebraska of Clarkson, NE received the Božena Award. This was awarded to the contestant who strives to make the world a better place, aids those around her, and inspires others to do the same. This award is given in Marie (Božena) Root's memory by her daughter, Kimberly Horikoshi, Marie's sister, Kathy Pagnatta, and Marie's sister-in-law, Patti Turik. She also received the Kroj - Knowledge award.

Ella Ingwersen representing New York of Ransomville, NY received the John & Lois Fiala Spirit of the Czech-Slovak Heritage Award. This award recognizes the contestant who is passionate and dedicated to her heritage.

Sarah Langridge representing Minnesota of Savage, MN was named Miss Congeniality; this award is voted on by her fellow contestants. She also received the Talent Runner-Up and Kroj - Poise awards.



61st Annual Czech Festival Wilber, NE

Aug 1,2,3

Czech Language Foundation Float

Layne Pierce (front)
Connie Jean Hulinsky (back)
John Brejda (right)

Photo from Linda Taborek

5th Annual St. Wenceslaus Czech Brewfest September 7th Milligan, NE



12:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Milligan Auditorium

Czech food, music, beer, wine & liquor

Visit with Czech Embassy personnel & vendors

Facebook: Milligan NE Community (402-629-4446)

St. Wenceslas Day September 28

Prince Václav I – known to the English-speaking world as 'Good King Wenceslas' – was one of Bohemia's first Christian rulers. On 28 September in the year 929 (some say 935) he was murdered by his brother Boleslav the Cruel while attending a church service just outside Prague. Almost immediately there grew up a cult which remains to this day one of the strongest aspects of Czech national identity.

In 1879, the sculptor Josef Václav Myslbek began work on a memorial to the saint at the upper (south-east) end of the 500-year-old Horse Market, recently renamed 'Saint Wenceslas Square'. Replacing a much earlier Wenceslas, Myslbek's version was first unveiled in 1913, but not completed until 1924, two years after the sculptor's death.

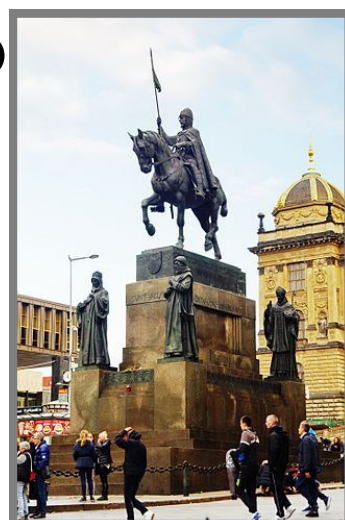
Taken directly from: <https://pragitecture.eu/vaclavske-namesti-statue-of-sain/>

Statue of
St. Wenceslaus

St. Wenceslaus
Square

Prague
Czech Republic

Source: Wikipedia



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.

Chairman, Courtesy Committee 2025

MORAVIAN DAYS BUS TOUR

September 19 - 24

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 Decora-

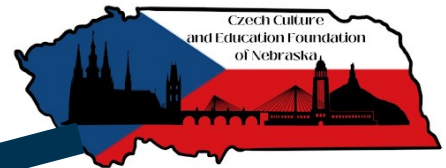
9/20-Travel to Lemont Illinois, afternoon excursion in Chicago, Moravian Festival 6:30 P.M. Overnight Lemont.

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.



**LUNCHEON LECTURE ON
MONDAY SEPT
29th@12:30-2pm**

**Dr. David
Cooper:
Forging the
Czech Nation:
The Czech
Manuscripts in
the National
Movement**



Join us in person in BURN 301 or
via zoom@
<https://unl.zoom.us/j/482968109>

The medieval manuscripts forged in the 1810s were perfect vehicles for the expanding Czech national movement of that time. A number of the qualities the manuscripts presented were particularly valuable to the nationalist entrepreneurs, "awakeners" bringing the Czech nation to the consciousness of their fellow Czech speakers and soliciting their engagement. This talk will examine some of these important qualities, including the (supposed) age of the manuscripts, their artistic qualities, their representation of Czech nationhood, and their modeling of Czech patriotic behavior.

David Cooper is Professor and Head of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He is a specialist in Czech and Russian literatures. He published translations of Slovak folktales and poetry and a critical edition of the poems of the Czech 19th-century forged manuscripts, *The Queen's Court and Green Mountain Manuscripts with Other Forgeries of the Czech Revival* (Ann Arbor, 2018). His latest monograph, *The Czech Manuscripts: Forgery, Translation, and National Myth*, was published by Cornell University Press in 2023.

Sponsored by: UNL CZECH STUDIES,
Depts of MODERN LANGUAGES AND
LITERATURES, and HISTORY, UNL

2025 FRANK A. BELOUSEK LECTURE IN CZECH HISTORY

*A European Family's Odyssey Through the Hot
and Cold War*

Feat. Daniela Spenser

CIESAS (Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en
Antropología Social), Mexico City

View the complete description:



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2025

4:00 – 5:30 PM

**Nebraska Union – Platte River Room South
1400 R St Lincoln, NE 68508**

