

2025



Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln NOVEMBER



November 11,
St. Martin's Day
November 17
Struggle for Freedom Day

MEMBERSHIP MEETING FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025

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: Oven roasted turkey breast
Mashed potatoes and Gravy
Buttered Corn; Rolls and Butter

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

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

RESERVATIONS: 402-416-6390 (avolf83@gmail.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](https://www.lincolnczechs.org)

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/LNKCzechs/>

NEWSLETTER

Contact lois@loisrood.com

402-570-2333

2025 Membership Meetings

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)

TRAVELING TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Diane Vesely-Robb

Travel with me as three generations of our family embark on a memorable adventure through the Czech Republic! This presentation shares highlights from our trip—from wandering the cobblestone streets of Prague to exploring majestic castles, centuries-old churches, and peaceful cemeteries that tell stories of the past. Along the way, we'll visit charming towns, enjoy traditional Czech meals in local restaurants, and discover the country's rich culture and welcoming spirit. Through photos and stories, we'll reflect on the special experience of seeing history, heritage, and family come together across generations.

CZECH LICENSE PLATES



**GET YOUR...
Czech Heritage Specialty Plate
at the Nebraska Department
of Motor Vehicles
in your county today!**

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

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

NOVEMBER

**ALL SAINTS & LITTLE SOULS DAY
November 1 & 2**

**ST MARTIN'S DAY
November 11**

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING
November 14**

**STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM
& DEMOCRACY DAY 1989
November 17**

**CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB
November 18, 2025**

**READING CIRCLE
November 25**

**THANKSGIVING
November 27**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
November 30**

ANNUAL ELECTION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025

From Susan Nagle, Nominating Committee Chairperson

Any member running for an office for 2026 is asked to have their intention in writing by November 7, 2025 for our November 14th Election meeting. Offices included are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Festival Chairperson(s) and Board Member whose term expires 12-31-2028 (a 3-year term).

Nominations may also be taken from the floor with the nominee's consent.

Please email me at susan.nagle317@gmail.com or mail me at 1930 Teal Circle, Lincoln, NE 68506. You may contact me at 402-440-2835 or Committee Members Shalla Young at 402-483-2121 or Mike Nagle at 402-890-5020 if you have any questions.

Milligan Brass Band



FRIEND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SUNDAY, MARCH 1—Sandwich Supper
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
511 2nd Street, Friend, NE

In Loving Memory...

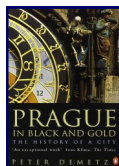


Thomas S. Drbal, Jr., age 89 from Lincoln, Nebraska passed away on September 18, 2025. He was born on September 2, 1936, in Garland, Nebraska, to Thomas Sylvester Drbal, Sr. and Lydia May Hoffman. Tom's father was born in what is now the Czech Republic. Tom joined the Navy and proudly served on the Ocean Tugboat Fleet aboard the USS Airakair (ATA-398). He was stationed at Pearl Harbor and after active duty he continued his service in the Naval Reserves until 1962. He founded Central Heating and Air Conditioning, which later became Drbal Heating and Air Conditioning in 1987. Tom and his wife Jan were active in Czech cultural events and attended festivals in Wilber, Prague and Lincoln. They had planned to visit the Czech Republic together but were never able to do so. Tom was an outdoor enthusiast and a member of several Lincoln car clubs. He owned classic cars for most of his life. His Celebration of Life was held on Friday, October 3, 2025 at the Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home Chapel in Lincoln. He is survived by his wife, Jan Drbal; children Tim, Tamm; stepchildren Teresa, Jessie, Jason; sister Betty; 14 children 11 great-grandchildren



NEBRASKA CZECHS OF LINCOLN CZECH READING CIRCLE & CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

MONTH: November 25, 2025
BOOK: Prague in Black & Gold (1997)
AUTHOR: Peter Demetz
LEADERS: Maurice & Beverly Vonasek



Maurice & Bev Vonasek (left) Peter Demetz (right)

SUMMARY:

The author, **Peter Demetz**, does an excellent job of telling the somewhat obscure history of Prague. It may appear to be a bit like a history book on the surface, but it is not, as it provides for more of a deep explanation of what made Prague. The book provides an intellectual, artistic, and literary history of the city and tells the story of the three major communities: Czech, German, Jewish with some Italian influence. The collaborations and conflicts of these communities are exposed to the reader to better understand the large number of languages and their dialects being problematic...as is with any melting pot society. In the early years we are reminded there was no true "Czech" language. The author stated, "Prague has always been a dual or triple city, and its topography has changed with the language that was spoken and the religion that was espoused." The effects of Jan Hus and the Hussite revolution and the impact of the Thirty Years War are covered as well as the various rulers such as Ottokar II, Charles IV, Rudolf II and the roles they played in the Holy Roman Empire and the role of the Habsburgs. Prague (Praha) is a most unique, beautiful and loving city to experience firsthand. Reading this book will make you want to go back for another visit...join us as we explore the true background of this fascinating city. (by Maurice & Beverly Vonasek)

LEADERS:

Maurice and Beverly (Genrich) Vonásek have been married for 52 years. They live on an acreage in Southwest Lincoln and have two sons and three grandchildren. In 2022, Maurice and Beverly spent almost a month in the Czech Republic and were able to find many of his ancestral villages and discovered several ancestral homes still standing. They also took a side trip into Germany where Beverly's ancestors came from. Planning is underway for a repeat trip in June of 2026.

Beverly was born and raised in Beatrice, Nebraska. She has a degree in Business Administration and retired in 2018 having been a dedicated civil servant with the State of Nebraska for 48 years. She was previously Railroad Liaison Manager at the Nebraska Department of Transportation for many years.

Maurice, a native of southeast Nebraska, was a Journeyman Ironworker with Local #21, Omaha, NE until a work-related accident in 1982 forced him into a career change. He has a dual degree in Computer Science/Business Administration and later obtained a B.A. in Business Administration/Business Management from Doane College. As an IT/Business professional, he has worked for numerous companies/industries and multiple state(s) agencies both in Nebraska and surrounding states. In 1998, he incorporated his own IT consulting business and finally joined Beverly with retirement in 2019.

CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

Řekněte to česky!



**Via ZOOM
November 25 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Charles Rompotl: Bohuslav Martinů: Nejslavnější český skladatel, o kterém jste nikdy neslyšeli. (Bohuslav Martinů: The most famous Czech composer you have never heard about)

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

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 Language Foundation Banquet

by Sinda Dux

The Czech Language Foundation presented an interesting and fun-filled evening Sunday, October 12, at its Annual Recognition Banquet held in Lincoln. Beautiful versions of the American and Czechia national anthems were sung by Garrett Scholberg of Lincoln with many audience members singing along.

Abie's Place in Abie catered the delicious Czech-inspired meal of pork, dumplings, gravy, sauerkraut, and kolache. Musicians **Steven Steager**, tuba, and **Mike Breaka**, accordion, entertained with toe-tapping tunes throughout the evening. (photo right)

Leading the evening's program was Layne Pierce, CLF President. He introduced Dr. Mila Šaškova-Pierce who spoke of her work as Honorary Czech Consul in Nebraska. UNL Professor Dr. Hana Waisserová presented a hilarious *pivo* (beer) trivia contest.



Speaker James LeSueur PhD is an award-winning filmmaker, UNL Professor, and Chair of the UNL Department of History. He spoke of the importance of continuing Czech language and culture in Nebraska. He celebrated the non-violent resistance teachings of Václav Havel, last President of Czechoslovakia, 1989-1992, and first President of the Czech Republic, 1993-2003. (photo left)

Wonderful and colorful *kroje* (Czech native costumes) were worn by Miss Nebraska Czech-Slovak Queen **Karolina Dvorak** of Lincoln, Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln Queen **Josephine Davis** of Beatrice, and Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln Princess **Sydney Davis** of Beatrice. (photo: left to right below)



UNL Czech Language Students



FIALA AWARD WINNER

by Trevor Jenkins

The Lois and John Fiala Spirit Award is presented by the Czech Language Foundation each year to the contestant who displays the most passion and spirit for their Czech heritage.

I am taking Czech because it is part of my Czech studies minor and part of my language requirement for my degree in Philosophy: Ethics and Law. I am on the Pre-Law track which efficiently prepares me for law school at Masaryk University in Brno to continue my studies there to become a defense and prosecuting attorney at law. Taking Czech classes is really a great experience for me because I am very eager to assimilate into the Czech culture, and to speak the Czech and Slovak language fluently. I am also doing what it takes to acquire Czech citizenship by naturalization in the future.

My love for learning the Czech language grows every day and I am honoured to be learning the Czech language at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I plan to live in Brno, Czech Republic in the future working as an attorney for the EU and work for the International Criminal Court as well to uphold the values of the law and to hold those accountable with my future and current knowledge of the international legal system.

I give all the credit to Hana Waisserova for teaching me the Czech language, history and culture at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Because of her wonderful instruction of the Czech language, I am on a great path to speaking Czech fluently. I am very honoured to be your student Hana, and I have learned so much from you and I am glad that I took Czech as part of my studies. I am eternally grateful for everything! Dekuji!

NEW LEADERS UNL KOMENSKY CLUB

The **University of Nebraska Komensky Club** has new officers. They are excited to lead the club into another year of its centennial plus tradition!

Lina Dvorak
President

Miroslava Sredl
Primary Programmer

Trevor Jenkins
Treasurer

Good luck to all of you from our club!



The Czech Komensky Club, named for Jan Amos Komensky (1592-1670) the pioneer educator, is closely tied to Czech language instruction at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the cultural and political involvement of its members. Conceived in December 1903, and officially established in 1904, it became a nursery for influential personalities in Nebraska political and cultural life. Some of the most famous members of Komensky Club are former United States Senator Roman Hruska, poets Ferdinand Musil and Jeffrey Hrbek, and Dr. Olga Stastny, organizer of the modern day World Red Cross, and a founder of the U.S. Association of Female Physicians. Komensky Club was also known in the past as Comenius Club. According to the club constitution, its aim was to form a bond among Czech-Americans and to provide a model of cultural association to other universities, where students could study Czech language, history, and literature. The Komensky Club cultural program quickly grew from its humble beginnings at UNL, to encompass 28 other clubs across North America by the end of World War I. Source: Taken directly from: https://www.nebraskaczechs.org/komensky_club_at_unl

Robitschek Scholars at UNL

The current **Robitschek Scholars** at UNL were introduced and spoke briefly of their ambitions. They are a delightful group studying such careers as Theater, Law, and Engineering. Four are from the Czech Republic: **Zuzana Minarcikova**, **Tomas Karasek**, **Barbora Bilkova**, and **Nikol Dolezalova**, and one is from Slovakia, **Andrea Mikulasova**, who is working on her PhD. They all speak perfect English and said they began learning English in Kindergarten or First Grade.



Nikol Dolezalova



Zuzana Minarcikova



Barbora Bilkova



Tomas Karasek



Andrea Mikulasova



Paul Robitschek

The **Robitschek Scholarship** is awarded to international students of Czech or Slovak origin who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and have met the English language requirement for unconditional admission. Selection based on demonstrated academic proficiency, demonstrated English proficiency, demonstrated leadership experience, enthusiasm for experiencing American free-market economics and culture, demonstrated goals for applying this experience in their future academic and professional careers in the Czech Republic and English language fluency.



NOVEMBER 11, 1989 ST. MARTIN'S DAY

NOVEMBER 1 & 2 ALL SAINTS & LITTLE SOULS DAYS

November 1st and 2nd are days that honor loved ones who have passed. The first is **Den všech svatých (All Saints' Day)**, followed by **Dušičky (Little Souls)** on the second.



NOVEMBER 30 ADVENT BEGINS

November 30 marks the first of four Sundays of Advent, when candles are lit on Advent wreaths in homes and churches.



St. Martin's Day is celebrated on November 11 in the Czech Republic. It is traditional to uncork a bottle of fine wine at exactly 11:00 in the morning. It is symbolic of the end of the agricultural season and preparation for the first snow. Traditional Czech food like roast goose or duck, stewed cabbage, traditional Czech dumplings, knedlíky accompanied by a glass of young wine.

St. Martin lived in the mid 300s and was a Roman soldier who later became a bishop of Tours, France. He is known for cutting his cloak in half with his sword and giving one half to a freezing beggar. He is said to be the patron saint of tailors. His feast day corresponds with the last grape harvest of the year.

Source: <https://beyondprague.net/czechs-and-czech-culture/food-drink/st-martins-feast-welcoming-the-new-wine/>

NOVEMBER 17, 1989 STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM & DEMOCRACY DAY

November 17 Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day commemorates the 1989 Velvet Revolution which ended communist rule in Czechoslovakia. It is a public holiday with speeches and cultural activities.



Source: <https://globalvoices.org/2022/11/18/33-years-ago-the-velvet-revolution-started-in-the-streets-of-prague/>

CZECH OUT THE CZECH CENTER CINEMA



**Resonant Memory: Works by
Steina and Woody Vasulka**
SAT NOV 1, 2025



**Sharing Intimacy
in a Digital Age**
SAT NOV 1 2025



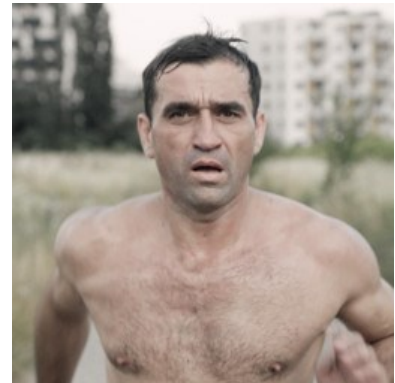
A Martinu Triptych
NOV 3—DEC 12 2025



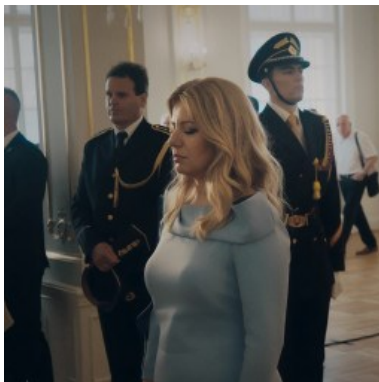
A Martinu Triptych
NOV 3—DEC 12 2025



I'm Not Everything I Want to Be
NOV 7 - NOV 9 2025



Father
NOV 10 2025



Ms President
NOV 25 2025

The **CZECH CENTER NEW YORK** is a cultural institution located within the Bohemian National Hall on the Upper East Side that features a cinema for screenings, including its "Summer Rooftop Movies" series. This center is part of the Czech Centres network, and the building also houses a gallery, the Václav Havel Library, and offers lectures, concerts, and authentic Czech food.

<https://new-york.czechcentres.cz/en/program>