

**JANUARY 2026 (Leden)**



**NEBRASKA CZECHS OF LINCOLN, INC.**



President: Rachel Taylor  
Vice President: Evie Kantor  
Secretary: Sinda Dux  
Treasurer: Linda Taborek  
Festival Chair: Deb Vocasek and Connie Jean Hulinsky  
Board Members  
Diane Vesely-Robb (12/31/2026)  
Deb Vocasek (12/31/2027)  
Susan Nagle (12/31/2028)

2026 Delegates to Nebraska Czechs, Inc.

Deb Vocasek  
Mila Saskova-Pierce  
Linda Taborek (alternate)

WEBSITE  
[lincolnczechs.org](http://lincolnczechs.org)

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

NEWSLETTER  
Contact [duxs2001@yahoo.com](mailto:duxs2001@yahoo.com)  
402.800.0686

2026 Membership Meetings

Friday, January 9

Friday, February 13

Friday, March 13

Friday, April 10

Friday, May 8

MEETING LOCATION

HyVee 84 & Holdrege Sts.  
5:30 Social Hour 6:00 Dinner

EVENTS

3rd Tuesday: Conversation Club  
(Zoom)

Last Tuesday: Reading Circle (Zoom)



### **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**FRIDAY, January 9**

**Reservations due by Wednesday, January 7, to Diane Vesely-Robb 402.560.4847 [dveselyrobb@yahoo.com](mailto:dveselyrobb@yahoo.com)**

**Menu: Roast beef, potatoes and gravy, vegetable, dinner rolls  
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 84 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)**

### **PROGRAM (NAPROGRAMOVAT)**

**Susan Senft of Lincoln, formerly of Wilber, will discuss the Czech Camp for Kids held at the Sokol Hall in Wilber during the day, one summer week. The children learn Czech traditions, music, dances, foods, and historical notable figures.**

**Firm Deadline for newsletter articles is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month -- Editor**

## **JANUARY**

### **Month at a Glance**

#### **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**JANUARY 9**

#### **CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB**

**JANUARY 20**

#### **READING CIRCLE**

**JANUARY 27**

**BE SURE to pay your \$10 2026 dues by January 31. Or you will be dropped as a member.  
Linda Taborek 524 S. 53 St.  
Lincoln NE 68510-2022  
or bring dues to January 9 meeting**

Dobry den. I'm Sinda Dux, the new newsletter editor. If items are not laid out just perfectly, it's because this is my first issue and I'm still learning. I've composed newsletters before, but it's been a long time. Lately I've been proofreading newsletters.

I'm Czech on my father's side and German on my mother's with one French ancestor and one Dutch. My Czech great-grandparents are Wenzel Henry Schelbitzki and Maria Krutova, Wenzel from Grosmerighthal, Zwickau, Bohemia, and Maria from Biskaupkah, Okresu Zberov, Bohemia. Wenzel spoke German and Maria spoke Bohemian but they communicated somehow and had 13 children. Wenzel immigrated to the US in 1870 at age 27 and homesteaded in Fillmore and Saline Counties. Little is known about Maria before she married Wenzel. Wenzel became a naturalized American citizen in 1876 and that made his wife Maria and their children US citizens, also. It makes me proud that my great-grandfather chose to become an American citizen.

#### **THE COURTESY COMMITTEE**

Let us know if you are aware of someone who is celebrating something very special or is in need of our support.

Susan Nagle 402.440.2835  
susan.nagle317@gmail.com

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Prezidentovo Poselství)**

As we come to the close of another year, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for the energy, enthusiasm, and heart you bring to the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln club. It has been a year filled with good conversation, shared meals,

laughter, and a deep appreciation for the language, history, and traditions that connect us. Being part of a community that values both heritage and community is something truly special, and I'm grateful for the chance to help guide us forward.

One of the brightest highlights of the year was undoubtedly our annual Czech Festival here in Lincoln. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, bakers, organizers, performers, and supporters, the festival was an outstanding success. Whether you were greeting guests, demonstrating traditions, or making dough at dawn, every contribution mattered. And of course, who could forget the koláče? Together we baked over 1,000 of them — a true testament to what we can accomplish when we come together. 😊 As we look ahead, I'm excited for the opportunities the new year will bring. We'll continue to build on the great programs around Czech language learning, exploring cultural arts, celebrating Czech and Slovak history, and creating welcoming spaces for members old and new. I hope we can continue to expand our reach and share Czech culture more widely in Lincoln, and in the greater Nebraska area.

Thank you for being part of this wonderful community. I look forward to all the stories, traditions, and good company that await us in the coming year. Until then, I wish you and your families a peaceful and joyful holiday season.

Na zdraví!— to a great year behind us and an even better one ahead!

Šťastný nový rok vám i vašim rodinám!    Rachel



Picture by Sinda Dux



Picture by Lois Rood

**The December Members Meeting was an exciting one with a program of Czech Christmas customs presented by Mila Saškova-Pierce and Installation of 2026 Officers, Board Members, and Nebraska Czechs, Inc. delegates.**

**Pictured above are Josephine, Caroline, and Sydney Davis, who played Christmas music as part of Mila's program. Layne Pierce on guitar accompanied carols sung in Czech, which went surprisingly well!! Fortune-telling with apples and walnuts caused much laughter.**

**Tom Zumpfe did a fine job installing Nebraska Czechs Inc. delegate Mila Saškova-Pierce, Vice President Evie Kantor, Secretary Sinda Dux, President Rachel Taylor, Board Members Diane Vesely Robb and Susan Nagle, and Lincoln Czech Festival Co-Chair Connie Jean Hulinsky.**

**Nebraska Czechs, Inc. Alternate Delegate Linda Taborek and Lincoln Czech Festival Co-Chair Deb Vocasek were unable to attend.**

#### RECEPTION FOR CZECH AMBASSADOR ATTENDED BY LINCOLN CZECH CLUB MEMBERS



December 8 at the beautifully-decorated Governor's Mansion, Ambassador Miloslav Stašek was honored by the Governor with the Legion of Merit medal and plaque. Amb. Stašek also received a Nebraska Czech license plate. Honorary Consul Mila Sašková-Pierce presented gifts from Nebraska Czechs, Inc. club which also donated delicious kolaches.



First picture: Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln, Inc. members Linda Táborek, Patti Fortik, and Mila Sašková-Pierce with the Ambassador; Second picture: Ambassador Stašek and Miss Nebraska Czech-Slovak Queen Lina Dvorak; Third picture: Attendees at the Reception. Many Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln, Inc. were in attendance. Pictures courtesy of the Nebraska National Guard.

## Restoration of the Czech Independence Day

**January 1 2026 This holiday commemorates the split of Czechoslovakia into two independent states: the Czech Republic and Slovakia, which occurred in 1993. It marks a significant moment in the country's history, symbolizing the establishment of a sovereign Czech state after years of political changes and struggles for independence.**

Interested in joining Czech on-line conversation?

The Czech Conversation Club is a group of heritage speakers and present or former students of the Czech language. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM Central Time on ZOOM and talk about a chosen theme prepared by one of Conversation Club members. We prepare vocabulary ahead of time and share it with the group before the meeting. If interested, please, let me know at [msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu](mailto:msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu).

\*\*\*\*\* Every month on the Third Tuesday, 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)\*\*\*\*\*

January-leden: Layne - Knihovnictví: librarianship



Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic  
in Kansas City, Missouri USA

Serving Kansas and Missouri

**Friends and colleagues: you are invited to a special event on January 21, 2026 at the Truman Library, Independence Missouri**

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**Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights: Bringing Václav Havel's Wisdom to Today's World**

Enjoy an evening of dialogue, readings and song featuring Anne Marie Kenny and Martin Palouš.

**Wednesday January 21, 2026**

**Reception: 5:30 p.m. CT**

**Program: 6:00 p.m. CT**

**Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum**

**500 W US Hwy 24**

**Independence, MO 64050**

Our speakers will share their insights into the role art can play in political change, and the relevance today of Václav Havel's message of hope, personal responsibility in civic society, values-based leadership and creating a society that is, in his words, **“humane, moral, intellectual, spiritual and cultural.”**

## Anne Marie Kenny



Anne Marie Kenny, an Omaha native, lived her early adult years in France as a professional singer, performing at the Paris Ritz and on television, radio, and film. When the Iron Curtain fell in 1989, she wrote a poem and sent it to newly elected President Václav Havel, who invited her to sing at the Reduta Club. Soon after, she moved to Prague and started a staffing and training company that would be ranked #2 in the Czech market. She lived and worked alongside Czechs discovering their place in a new democratic society, while coming to terms with their past under totalitarian rule. Her book ***A Song for Bohemia*** is a tribute to the spirit of the Czech and Slovak people, and the story of a personal and collective journey to freedom.

## Martin Palouš



Martin Palouš is a sought-after international speaker and commentator in the field of freedom, democracy and human rights. He was one of the original signatories of Charter 77 and served as its spokesperson in 1986. In November 1989, he was among the founders of the Civic Forum. After the Velvet Revolution, he became a member of Parliament, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the U.S. and U.N. Today, he is on the board of supervisors of Václav Havel Library in Prague, director of International Cooperation of the Remembrance Society, member of the Council of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, and former board president of the Václav Havel Center in New York.

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### How to Register:

Go to the [IRC website link](#) to register. There is no charge to attend the event, however, please also consider pre-purchasing the soft or hard cover version of Ms. Kenny's book, ***A Song for Bohemia***. Due to Truman Library's policy the book may not be available for purchase at the event.

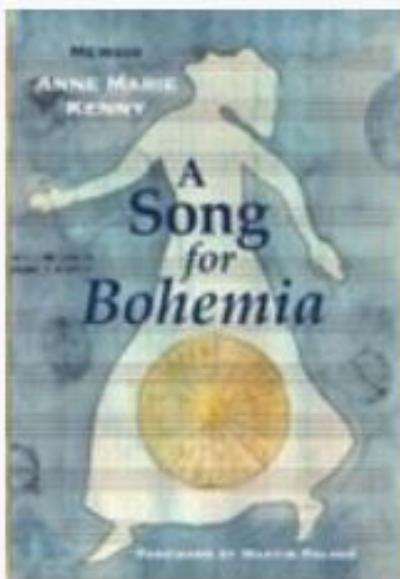
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**Important News -- UNL will host the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Czech and Slovak Studies Workshop in 2026.** Among the sponsors is the Czech Language Foundation. Activities will include a visit to Wilber, screening of the documentary "The Art of Dissent," discussions, and a keynote speaker who will explore Jewish-Czech Relations. More details will be forthcoming.

# Czech-American Reading Circle

## January 27, 2026



### AUTHOR & CIRCLE LEADER

**Anne Marie Kenny** (2024)

**Via ZOOM**

*A Song for Bohemia*

### MEETING INFORMATION

Join Zoom: 6:15 p.m. Presentation: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. CST (in English)

You do not need to read the book to attend.

Contacts for Zoom Link:

[lois@loisrood.com](mailto:lois@loisrood.com); [msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu](mailto:msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu) or [layne.pierce@yahoo.com](mailto:layne.pierce@yahoo.com)

### SUMMARY: *A Song for Bohemia* (2024)

Prague in the 1990s, an extraordinary place and time. The Cold War had ended. The Berlin Wall had fallen. Soviet-bloc countries like Czechoslovakia had just liberated themselves. The atmosphere was intoxicating, the future unmapped. And Anne Marie Kenny was there—a singer-turned-entrepreneur. Her true-life story reads like fascinating fiction—enduring family tragedy, singing at 21 on the Champs Elysées, enjoying an artistic career in Paris and Nice, and performing in Prague at the invitation of Vaclav Havel before moving there to start a business.

*A Song for Bohemia* is a love song and a tribute to the spirit of the Czech people, a story of a personal and collective journey to freedom. With the voice of an impassioned artist, this memoir does not merely speak, it sings.

### AUTHOR/LEADER: Anne Marie Kenny

Anne Marie Kenny is a singer who has had an international career and voice instructor with her own Vocal Performance Studio in Omaha, Nebraska. She enjoys working with singers of all levels and ages, from accomplished professionals to beginners. Her students have won first or second place at NATS competitions. Her vocal method is based on a traditional bel canto technique mixed with an individualized contemporary approach to meet the interests and goals of each student. Besides the American musical theater and classical repertoire, her specialties are in French, Italian, and Czech music, pronunciation and diction. Anne Marie also works with public speakers on the speaking voice. She uses similar performance principles and healthy vocal techniques to optimize the speaker's message.

Anne-Marie is also a writer and has had articles and books published. As a singer, she continues to perform. For 20 years she lived in Europe, where she performed regularly at venues such as the Paris Ritz Hotel, the Monte Carlo Beach Regency, and Théâtre de Cannes. In Prague she was invited at the request of President Vaclav Havel to perform at the famous Reduta Club. Anne-Marie worked for 30 years with Janine Reiss of Paris, France, one of the greatest vocal coaches of our time. She has also taken courses and/or master classes at the École Normale de Musique de Paris, the Juilliard School of Music in New York, and the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore.

Anne-Marie is fluent in written and spoken French and has a working knowledge of Czech, Spanish and Italian.

Source: National Association of Teachers of Singing