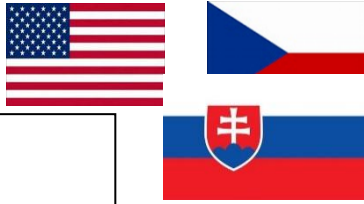


APRIL 2026 (duben)



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

FACEBOOK
Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln

NEWSLETTER
Contact duxs2001@yahoo.com
402.800.0686
2026 Membership Meetings
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, April 10

**Reservations due by Wednesday, April 8, to Diane Vesely-Robb
402.560.4847 dveselyrobb@yahoo.com**

**Menu: Seasoned pork loin, potatoes *au gratin*, vegetable, rolls
and butter**

**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)

**Nebraska Czech-Slovak Queen Lina Dvorak will present a
program on *kroj* (folk dress).**

**Firm Deadline for newsletter articles is the
20th of each month.**

APRIL
Month at a Glance
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
APRIL 10
CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB
APRIL 21
READING CIRCLE
APRIL 28

A monthly publication of the Nebraska
Czechs of Lincoln, Inc.

Deadline for submission is the 20th of
each month; send to Sinda
duxs2001@yahoo.com 402.742.5032

Material from this newsletter may be
reprinted without permission provided
this source is cited.

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 welcome the month of April, we also welcome the renewal and energy (and better weather) that spring brings to our community. It is a time of growth—not just in the world around us, but within our shared commitment to preserving and celebrating our Czech heritage. Our club continues to be a place where traditions are not only remembered, but lived—through our music, language, food, and the meaningful connections we build with one another. Each gathering, each conversation, and each shared experience helps ensure that our heritage remains vibrant for generations to come.

April also offers us a meaningful opportunity to reflect on moments in Czech history that shaped the identity we honor today. One such tradition celebrated at the end of the month is Pálení čarodějnic, or Witches' Night, on April 30—a festive farewell to winter rooted in centuries-old customs. It is a reminder of the deep cultural rhythms that connect Czech communities across time and place, blending history, folklore, and the joy of gathering together.

We also have a wonderful lineup of activities this month that offer many opportunities to connect and celebrate together:

- **Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln general membership meeting – April 10**
- **Babouci — Czech Music from Southern Bohemia in Wilber and Clarkson – April 17 & 18**
 - o **April 17 from 7–10 pm in Wilber, Nebraska | TJ Sokol**
 - o **April 18 from 7–10 pm in Clarkson, Nebraska | Opera House**
- **Janet Jeffries talk about folk costumes in the Czech lands at Homestead National Monument in Beatrice – April 19, 2:00 PM**
- **Omaha Czech-Slovak Cultural Festival – April 19, 12:00-5:00**
- **Czech Conversation Club – April 21**
- **Kolace baking for Lincoln Czech Festival in Hickman – April 25**
- **Reading Circle – April 28**

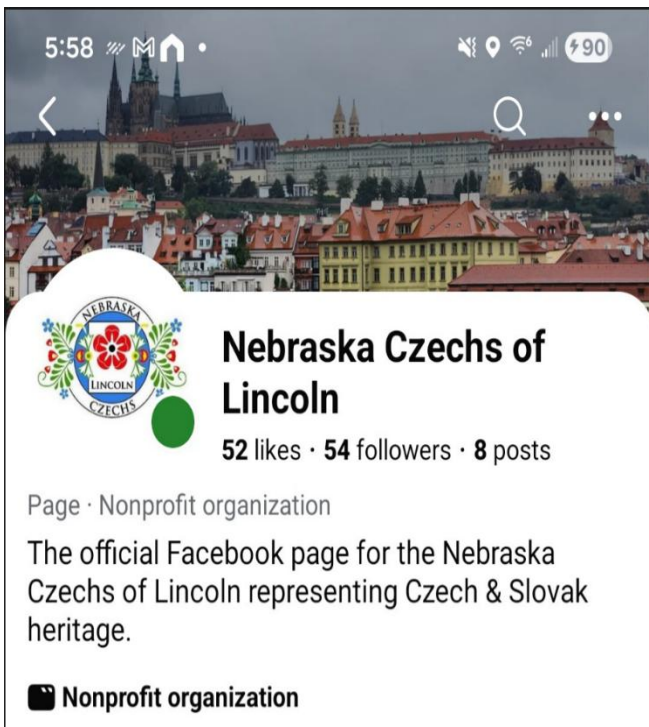
As we move forward into this season, I encourage each of you to take part in the life of our club—whether by attending events, sharing family stories, trying a new Czech recipe, or simply reaching out to a fellow member. It is through these small but meaningful actions that we keep our heritage alive and thriving. Thank you for your continued dedication and passion. Together, we are not only celebrating the past—we are building a legacy for the future. Rachel

In case you haven't heard, we have a new Facebook page!

New Facebook page for the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln, Inc.

Thanks to expert Maurice Vonacek, the former, outdated 'Lincoln Czech Club' Facebook page is no longer valid. Our new page is Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln. Go to Facebook.com and type in Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln. It's the Facebook page with the picture of Prague at the top.

Please follow on Facebook for up-to-date information about our organization. Thank you, Maurice.



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.

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

April- duben: Linus – Pošta – Postal service



Festival Committee Update

In the March newsletter you received information about baking kolacé on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at the Hickman Presbyterian Church, 303 East 3rd Street, Hickman, NE. We asked if you knew you could help for at least a short while that you contact Connie Jean at 402-464-5184 or Luconnie@windstream.net. Sure would like to hear from more of you.☺

At this time there are 19 people indicating they can come sometime during that day to help bake. Four are not even our members! **For those of you coming, please bring something to snack on while taking a break and for a quick lunch break for all to enjoy.** Please review the March newsletter or our website, www.lincolnczechs.org for items that are needed for baking kolacé. Publicity has been going great guns with the making of a Save-The-Date flier that has been distributed using all types of media. This flier is also on our website.

Please note that our Facebook page has changed...if you use Facebook, it's now **Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln**. The official flier for all 2026 Czech Festivals in Nebraska is done and is being distributed. One thousand fliers were printed. The kick-off for the Wilber Czech Festival was on Friday, March 20, 2026 where hundreds were distributed along with our Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln flier. If you want to have a few to distribute to any locations in the surrounding area, please let Connie Jean know. You could also print the flier from the website and post or email to your friends and relatives to encourage them to come to our 56th Czech Festival! It takes all of us to help publicize the festival.

All members are encouraged to try to obtain a Silent Auction item for the festival of at least a \$10.00 value if possible. If you do obtain donations, please let Connie Jean know the name of the business and contact person's name and address so that after the festival thank you letters can be sent. The Silent Auction bid slips have been made and we will ask that you provide the item's name, donated by, estimated value and the minimum bid you want placed on the item. Should you personally like to donate an item, but do not want it selling for less than the minimum bid, we will mark the bid slip firm and if not sold, the item can be returned to you.

If you offer any type liquor, we must not bring the bottle into PlaMor due to liquor laws. We'll have a picture of the item with instructions on how to obtain at the conclusion of the Silent Auction.

We are still looking for some kind of short entertainment by children. Do you have anyone you know who might be interested in doing something at the festival? Currently the Davis sisters are working on learning to play some Czech music on their violins.

We will still need to hear from you as to if you will be attending the festival and can volunteer wherever needed. That might be at the Bake Sales Table, helping serve the noon meals, helping display the Silent Auction items, etc. For our brand new members, please contact either Deb or Connie Jean with any of your questions on what this festival is all about☺. Thanks, everyone, for your diligent work in making our 56th festival another big success.

Connie Jean Hulinsky

Co-Chair

Luconnie@windstream.net

402-464-5184 (land line with recorder)

2230 North 63rd Street

Lincoln, NE 68505-1272

Deb Vocasek

Co-Chair

dvocasek@hotmail.com

402-570-7300

1903 W. Mulberry Ct.

Lincoln, NE 68522-1419



Hello, All Nebraska CGSI Members,

April 11th - Nebraska State Genealogy Conference (9am-4pm) in Omaha.

The Venue at Highlander - 2120 N 30th Street, Omaha, NE

April 19th - Omaha Czech Cultural Festival (12-5pm)

Beardmore Event Center - 3750 Raynor Parkway, Bellevue, NE

May 3rd - Lincoln Czech Festival (10am-4pm) Lincoln

Pla Mor Ballroom - 6600 West O Street, Lincoln, NE

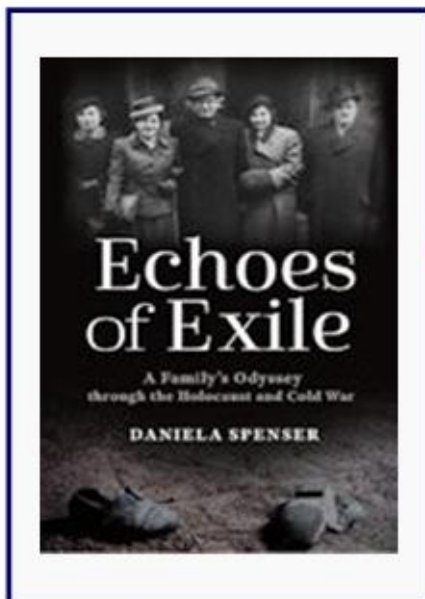
I've acquired a table for CGSI at all three events. Ideally, I'd appreciate it if a couple members of the Lincoln Czech Club could come and help throughout the day. No full-day commitments, come and help as you can.

Please let me know if you can join me. I'm happy to buy lunch at all three events for any CGSI volunteer who joins for the day.

Best, Jason Cadek, President, CGSI - Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International

jcadek@cgsi.org

Czech-American Reading Circle April 28, 2026



CIRCLE LEADER

Hana Waisserová, Ph.D.

Via ZOOM

Echoes of Exile (2025)

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; msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu or layne.pierce@yahoo.com

SUMMARY: *Echoes of Exile* (2025)

Echoes of Exile reveals the seismic disruptions of twentieth-century European history through the intimate lens of one family's struggle to survive. Setting out to record the life of her mother, Ruth, Daniela Spenser unearthed personal facts and stories that additionally illuminate the shared traumas and experiences of millions of Czech, Polish, and German Jews who died in the Holocaust, as well as the stories of those who survived and lived under Communism and the Cold War. Her resulting work is a fascinating hybrid that combines family letters and interviews with deeply researched political history spanning from the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire to the fall of the Berlin Wall.

AUTHOR: Daniela Spenser

Daniela Grollova Spenser is the author of the book *Echoes of Exile: A Family's Odyssey through the Holocaust and Cold War*, a deeply personal yet historically grounded account of Czechoslovakia from the 1930s to the 1990s.

In *Echoes of Exile*, historian and anthropologist Daniela Grollova Spenser offers an intimate portrait of her family's experience—beginning with her grandmother, who was marked by the tragedy of the Holocaust, her father who was captured to become a prisoner of war in a German camp, and focusing on the lives of her mother, the translator Ruth Toskova and her second husband, the prominent editor and journalist Vladimir Tosek. Active in the cultural and political life of 1950s and 1960s Czechoslovakia, both were key figures during the Prague Spring. Following the Soviet invasion in 1968, they left the country and became part of the exile circles connected to leaders such as Jiri Pelikan. The book concludes with a thoughtful exploration of the relationship between political exiles and Czech society after 1989.

Source: <https://www.bohemianbenevolent.org/upcoming-events/daniela-spenser-echoes-of-exile>

OUR LEADER: Hana Waisserová, Ph.D.

Hana is an associate professor of practice of Czech and Central European Studies and an affiliate of the Harris Centre for Judaic Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She earned Ph.D. in Anglophone transnational literature from Palacky University, CR, and Gender Graduate Certificate from TAMU, TX. She co-authored a book, *Women's Artistic Dissent. Repelling Totalitarianism in Pre-1989 Czechoslovakia* (Lexington Books, 2023). She has published articles concerning South Asian and Central European women's transnational literature, women's totalitarian experiences, women dissidents and their activism, medieval Czech literature, and Czech-American culture in Nebraska with *Litteraria Pragensia*, *Kosmas*, *Czechoslovak and Central European Journal*, *Czech Language News*, *Literature, Media and Cultural Studies*, *American and British Studies Annual*, *Great Plains Quarterly*, *Fema*. Prior to working in academia, she traveled widely in Europe, Asia, and East Africa, where she worked as an outdoor guide and a publicist. Source: <https://malymehrin.cz/en/2025/05/24/daniela-grollova>



The March Members Meeting Program was presented by Rachel Taylor on “A Short Tour of Beer History.” Rachel explained that beer is a natural product made of grain that ferments; grain and fermentation are natural products. Beer making predates the invention of break baking. The addition of hops made beer shelf-stable and able to be shipped. Hops were widely used beginning in the 13th Century. Pilsner, invented in Pilsen, Czechia, constitutes 95% of the beer consumed in the world today. Pilsner is pale, clear, and smooth. Unveiled to the public in 1842. Rachel also showed pictures of the Wilber Brewing Company to the delight of those present.



Saint Paul United Methodist Church, downtown Lincoln, was the site of a concert by Cori di Flauti (a local flute chorus) as they honored Bedřich Smetana, a Czech composer who pioneered the development of a musical style that became closely identified with his people’s aspirations to a cultural and political revival in the 19th Century. “La Moldava” is a six-piece symphonic cycle which portrays the history, legends and landscape of Smetana’s native Bohemia. Cori di Flauti played one movement, “Ma Vlast”(My Fatherland”) which captures the rippling waters and flowing streams of the Moldau River.

The University of Nebraska will host the 26th Annual Czech and Slovak Studies Workshop.



April 23-25, 2026

University of Nebraska–Lincoln

For the full program, pictures of participants, and ZOOM registration, see:

judaic.unl.edu/czech-and-slovak-studies-workshop

HIGHLIGHTS/ SPECIAL PUBLIC EVENTS:

THURSDAY, APRIL 23rd: 6:00-7:00 pm, Swanson Auditorium/ZOOM, Campus Union. Roundtable "Bohemian Jewishness: From Poetics to Politics, from Kafka to Communist Antisemitism," with Veronika Tuckerová, Jacques Rupnik. Moderated by Ari Kohen and Hana Waisserova.

7:00-8:00 pm Swanson Auditorium/ZOOM, Campus Union

Public keynote lecture "Bohemia's Jews and Their Nineteenth Century" by Jindřich Toman.

FRI April 24th: 5:30pm-7:30pm, Burnett Hall 115

Special Public Event: Belousek Literary Feast

Alena Jirásek: Poems from a Concentration Camp by Josef Čapek

Stephen Lahey: Krvavý román/Bloody Novel by Josef Váchal

Jaroslav Olša: Miloslav (Miles) J. Breuer, the Czech-American Science Fiction Writer

SAT April 25: TRIP To WILBER!!!! Leaving at 1pm from the LIED! (car pool), meeting at 1:45 pm at the Wilber Czech Museum

Afternoon in Wilber, NE: Wilber Czech Museum, Sokol Hall with The Accordionettes and Polka dancing workshop with Sheryl Kastanek; Karpisek Wiener Store.

Special appearance: Jaroslav Olša, career diplomat and promoter of Czech-American literary and cultural heritage.

5:00 pm: Foxhole Tavern Czech dinner

CHERRY ON A TART!!!!: SAT April 25th, 7:30 pm at Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center. The Art of Dissent: Filmscreening followed by a discussion with filmmaker James D. Le Sueur, Alena Jirasek, Jacques Rupnik, and Veronika Tuckerova.

Hana Waisserová, Ph.D. hwaisserova2@unl.edu

Associate Professor of Practice, Czech and Central European Studies, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Affiliate of the Harris Center for Judaic Studies

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Oldfather Hall (OLDH) 1103 Lincoln, NE 68588-0315