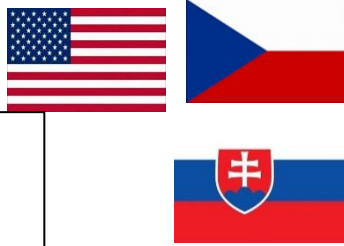


OCTOBER 2026 (říjen)



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, October 9
Friday, November 13
Friday, December 11
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, October 9

Reservations due by Wednesday, October 7, to Diane Vesely-Robb 402.560.4847 dveselyrobb@yahoo.com

Menu: Not available

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)

Beverly and Maurice Vonašek will present the program for the October meeting. It will be about "The Czech Legion" and will be somewhat based on information from the book, "*Dreams of a Great Small Nation*." This is fascinating history of how Czechoslovakia came to be and the people that were behind its creation.

***IMPORTANT:* Slate of Candidates for 2027 will be presented.**

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

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

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OCTOBER
Month at a Glance
MEMBERSHIP MEETING

OCTOBER 9
CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

OCTOBER 20
READING CIRCLE

OCTOBER 27

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 the leaves start to turn and the air grows colder (and hopefully not wetter), I find myself looking forward with real excitement to our second meeting of the fall season this October. It was wonderful reconnecting with everyone back in September, and I'm looking forward to picking up right where we left off — more time together diving into everything that

makes our club special: the connections / the stories / the rich culture of our Czech heritage. I hope you'll join us again as we keep the momentum going this year.

Also, what a treat it was to have Czech President Petr Pavel visit Nebraska September 24th!! Many of our members were able to attend his talk at the University, his stop in Wilber, or both, and by all accounts it was a memorable and moving experience. It's not every day that the head of state of the Czech Republic comes to our own backyard, and it's a wonderful reminder of just how deep and meaningful Nebraska's Czech roots really are.

Fall happens to be a rich season for Czech history. September 28 is Czech Statehood Day, honoring St. Wenceslas, the patron saint of Bohemia, who was murdered by his own brother back in 935 — his legacy still resonates through the "Good King Wenceslas" (of Christmas carol fame – some of you might have seen my presentation on “the last days of King Wenceslas” 😊). Then on October 28, Czechs celebrate Independent Czechoslovak State Day, marking the moment in 1918 when Czechoslovakia declared its independence from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, led by Tomáš Masaryk. It's remarkable to think that so much of the Czech national identity is rooted in these two autumn dates.

I can't wait to see everyone again this October, and to hear more stories from those who were able to attend President Pavel's visits in Nebraska.

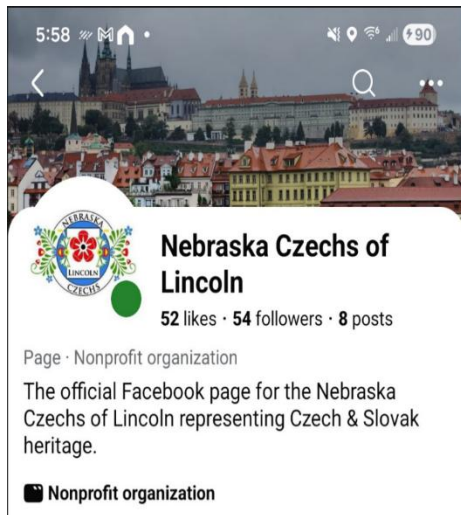
Na zdraví, and see you soon! Rachel Taylor, President – Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln

From Mila Sašková-Pierce -- Dear friends, Layne and I met the new Paul Robitschek Scholars yesterday. Their names are Adam Šášek and Dominiká Vatahová. Both are interested in international trade and economics. Dominiká is from Rokycany south of Prague and Adam is from Liberec. They are eager and ready to meet you.

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.



Robin McClanahan also does a great job with our webpage. Check out lincolnczechs.org



The September Member Meeting Program was presented by Evie Kantor on a Czech native author who came to the United States during the Prague Spring in 1968. Kitka Jezek writes as Daisy Hilmar and also does most of the illustrations in her books which are suitable for both children and adults. Evie had examples of many of Hilmar's books available for attendees to see. Copies of the books are available at the Czech and Slovak Educational Center and Cultural Museum in Omaha.



Interested in joining Czech on-line conversation?



October 20 2026

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)*****



Annual Czech Language Foundation Banquet

Sunday, October 11, 2026 5:00 p.m.

Lincoln Firefighters Hall 241 Victory Lane Lincoln, NE

\$30 Tickets available from Layne Pierce layne.pierce@yahoo.com

Delicious Czech Meal. Program. Silent Auction

October 28 Independent Czechoslovak State Day On October 28, 1918, Czechoslovakia declared its independence from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, establishing itself as a sovereign nation. This event marked the culmination of the Czech national revival, a movement aimed at restoring Czech culture, language, and identity. The formation of Czechoslovakia was a pivotal moment in Central European history, leading to the establishment of a democratic republic in the heart of Europe.

Czech-American Reading Circle October 27, 2026



R.U.R. KAREL ČAPEK



CIRCLE LEADER

Brenda Davis

R.U.R. (1920) (2021)

Via ZOOM

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: *R.U.R.* (1920) (2021)

"R.U.R." (Rossum's Universal Robots) (Čapek: Rossumovi univerzální roboti) is a science fiction play originally written in the Czech language. It premiered in 1921 and is noted for introducing the term "robot" to the English language. The play begins in a factory that makes artificial people called "robots." Unlike the modern usage of the term, these creatures are closer to the modern idea of androids or even clones, as they can be mistaken for humans and can think for themselves. They seem happy to work for humans, although that changes and a hostile robot rebellion leads to the extinction of the human race. After finishing the manuscript, The author realized that he had created a modern version of the Jewish Golem legend. He later took a different approach to the same theme in *War with the Newts*, in which non-humans become a servant class in human society. *R.U.R.* is dark but not without hope and was successful in its day in both Europe and the United States. Translation by David Wyllie. Source: Amazon.com

AUTHOR: Karel Čapek

Karel Čapek (1890-1938) was a pivotal Czech writer, playwright, and journalist, famous for introducing the word "robot" in his play *R.U.R.* (1920) and for his prescient science fiction exploring technology, ethics, and humanity. A champion of democracy, his work often tackled political turmoil and societal issues, bridging philosophy, art, and social commentary, and establishing him as a major voice between the World Wars. Source: AI Generated

OUR LEADER: Brenda Davis

Brenda (Sabatka) Davis is a freelance scenic designer for theatre who earned a B.F.A. in design from the Yale School of Drama and her undergraduate degree in theatre from Loyola University Chicago. She is a lecturer in drawing and set design at the Johnny Carson School of Theatre at UNL. Brenda grew up in Saunders County, Nebraska where she was surrounded with her Czech heritage and is happy to be in Nebraska again, raising three piano and violin playing daughters in Beatrice, NE with her husband Jeffery Davis.



IT'S GOOD TO BE CZECH

Czechia's contributions to the Nobel Prize are significant.

In 1905, **Bertha Felicie Sophie Suttner** was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her dedicated peace activism...first woman to receive a Nobel Peace Prize.

Carl Ferdinand Cori and Gerty Theresa (Radnitz) Cori 1947 in Physiology or Medicine.

- **Jaroslav Heyrovský** — Awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1959 for his work on polarography.
- **Václav Havel** — Received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 for his role in advocating for democracy.
- **Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk** — Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in establishing Czechoslovakia.
- In 1984 **Jaroslav Seifert**, a Czech writer born in Prague in 1901, achieved the distinction of becoming the first Czech Nobel laureate in Literature.
- Born in Pilsen in 1939, **Peter Grünberg** Physics 2007
- Czech author **Karel Čapek** was nominated seven times for the Nobel Prize in Literature, between 1932 and 1938 though never received it.
- Albert Einstein's time in Prague from 1911 to 1912 played a crucial role in his journey toward the Nobel Prize in Physics and the development of his groundbreaking theory of relativity. During his 17-month stay, Einstein authored 11 scientific papers and personally translated his theory of relativity paper into the Czech language.
- Czech gymnast **Věra Čáslavská** (1942-2016) is the most famous Czech gymnast, winning seven Olympic gold medals and achieving a perfect 10 at a major competition, 4 World Championship gold medals, and 11 European Championship gold medals. She is additionally famous because at the **1968 Olympics** in **Mexico City**, she publicly protested the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia by quietly looking down and away while the Soviet national anthem was played during the medal ceremonies. She was punished by the Soviet regime but following the Velvet Revolution, she held several positions of honor.
- Astronomy Contributions by Czechs -- **Historical Figures** — Prominent astronomers like Tycho Brahe and Johannes Kepler made groundbreaking contributions while working in the Czech lands in the 16th Century.

- **Educational Institutions** — The University of Prague, founded in 1348, became a center for astronomical studies, influencing European astronomy significantly.

The Czech Republic is home to a significant number of observatories.

- **Total Observatories** — There are 62 observatories listed as of June 2026.
- **Public Access** — The Czech Astronomical Society identifies 55 observatories open to the public.
- **Historical Significance** — The oldest observatory in the country was founded in 1722.



The Štefánik Observatory in Czechia

A Czech astronaut is due to fly to the International Space Station in 2027, only the second Czech astronaut to fly into space.

Good Czechs in Omaha Nebraska – A recent exhibit at The Durham Museum in Omaha, “The Negro Motorist Green Book,” told of good Czech people in Omaha. The Green Book was a guide to Safe Places where Negroes traveling in the United States could find motels, restaurants, cafes, and gas stations that would safely serve people of color. In Omaha, 36% of the places listed in the Green Book still exist. Census records show that some of these safe businesses were owned by Czechs. Hurrah!!!

SAVE THE DATE for “THE BOHEMIAN”: FRI October 9@4pm@BURNETT HALL, ROOM 302, City Campus

FILM SCREENING by the Czech program and the Czech Komensky Club, UNL

All welcome!

Popcorn and pizza served

Introduction by Garrett Scholberg.



Discussion after the film.

About the film: In 18th century Italy, aspiring opera composer Josef Mysliveček dreams of becoming a musician. His ambitions lead him to embark on a journey, exploring the world of opera to fulfill his destiny. Against all odds, he makes his mark in sophisticated Venice society as "Il Boemo," his talent and charm winning over socialites, impresarios, and performers -- in addition to the many women captivated by his appeal.



21st Annual October Czechfest

York Holthus Convention Center

York, Nebraska

3130 Holen Ave.

1/2 Mile North of I-80 Exchange 353

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Vítáme Vás!—We Welcome You!

FREE ADMISSION

Masters of Ceremony: Marv and Debbie Polacek

- 10:30 - 5:00.....Czechfest Open
- 11:00 - 11:30.....Opening Ceremony & Queen Introductions
- 11:30 - 1:00.....Accordion Jam in the Ball Room
- 11:00 - 2:00.....Dinner Served (Roast Pork Loin or Czech
Wieners with Dumplings, Sauerkraut and all the
Trimmings)
- 1:00 - 2:00..... Wilber Senior Czech Dancers
Dance and Kolache Contest
Wilber/Clatonia Alumni Band
- 2:00 - 5:00.....Dance to **Angie Kriz and the Polkatoons**
- 3:00 - **Bike Drawing**

Czech Activities:

- * Vendor Booths - 11:00 - 5:00
 - * Scavenger Hunt 12:30 - 2:00
 - * Beginning Accordion Lessons 1:00 - 2:30
 - * Silent Auction 11:00am - 2:00pm
 - * Czech Language Lessons 3:15 - 4:15
- Mila Saskova-Pierce

Save the Date for
Next Year!!
3rd Sunday of October
October 17, 2027

For Updates Please Check:

FaceBook: Nebraska Czechs Of York

Event Chairperson: Dave Vavra—308-380-7225

Club President: Judy Andrews—402-803-0320

Club Treasurer: Pat Carpenter—402-366-5884

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THE CHICAGO CZECH CONSULATE

