



Náš Svět

Czech Komenský Club • University of Nebraska Lincoln

Number/• íslo 54

www.unl.edu/Komenskyclub

January/Leden 2003

Contents

Spring 2003 Schedule	1
President's Letter	1
Speaker, Marketa Giesova	1
Ezra Zietler, Master Student in	
Geography speaks	2
Mayor Don Wesely asks Czech	
Community to Decorate his Tree	2
Lincoln's Sister City	3

MARKETA GIESOVA SPEAKS ON CZECH AND AMERICAN EDUCATION SYSTEMS

Komensky Club was very fortunate to have Ms. Marketa Giesova speak this past semester at a meeting. Her topic was the differences between the education systems in the Czech Republic and the United States. In her research for this presentation she found many interesting differences as well as similarities in the two. One major difference is how the different schools are broken up. For example, in the United States they have Elementary, Middle then High schools for their primary education, whereas in the Czech Republic it is broken up into, Primary, Secondary and then focus schools. Another difference that Marketa found was in the layout of the campuses. In the United States the campuses are usually set in one large area of the town that they are located. This is different in the Czech Republic, where the campuses are spread out throughout the town. This difference is merely based on the fact that the towns in the Czech Republic were there long before the university was established. The universities in the Czech Republic had to make use of the space that was available to them. Marketa's talk was very enlightening.

Schedule for Spring 2003

January 21	Film: Kolya
February 4	Film: Divine Emma
February 18	Lecture: TBA
March 4	Senator Moserova
March 25	Lecture by Mila Saskova- Pierce: Czech literature in Translation
April 8	Film: TBA
April 22	Czech Easter Customs, and Easter celebration Lecture by Katya Koubek in the Culture Center!

The Komensky Club's meetings have moved from Mondays to Tuesdays. Please make note of this when looking at the schedule. We still will be meeting in the Nebraska City Campus union were the rooms will be posted.

President's Message

Hello everybody. This is Amy Swoboda, the president of the University of Nebraska's Komensky Club. I do hope everybody's holiday season treated them well. The main issue in this letter is that we are moving our meeting dates from Monday evenings to Tuesday evenings. We hope this will accommodate many of our members who were not able to attend on Mondays, due to prior engagements. So please remember that for this semester to mark your calendars for Tuesday nights instead of Monday nights. The times and meeting dates will remain the same. I hope everybody is looking forward to the exciting things we have planned this semester for the Komensky Club. Hope to see everybody at our first meeting on Tuesday, January 21.

Amy Swoboda, President

EZRA ZIETLER, MASTER STUDENT IN GEOGRAPHY, SPEAKS FOR KOMENSKY CLUB

Ezra Zietler, master student in Geography who is studying enclaves in Nebraska, presented his research on Czech enclaves at a Komensky Club meeting. He presented information on settlement patterns in the 1800's including: remnants of Czech enclaves to the present day and how these settlements were represented by culture, architecture, food and music. Ezra presented his research at the 2002 Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, which was held in Plzen, Czech Republic. Ezra has done extensive traveling around the Nebraska landscape collecting data for his research. He has many pictures of the architecture as well as many of the Nebraska landscapes. Komensky Club is very fortunate to have Ezra Zietler as an advocate for Czech heritage.

KOMENSKY CLUB DECORATES THE CITY'S CHRISTMAS TREE ON REQUEST OF MAYOR, DON WESELY

Komensky club was honored this Christmas season when it was asked to decorate the Mayor's Christmas tree along with other members of the Czech community. He asked members to decorate the tree in traditional Czech ornaments in order to celebrate his Czech heritage (of which he is 100%). The members that made some of the decorations were Marketa Giesova, Helena Hubickova, Kristina Hlubokova, Mr. and Mrs. Swoboda, and Amy Swoboda. The only difficulty we had in making the decorations was when the Swoboda's wonderful dog, Daisy, decided she wanted to try the decorations for herself. She found them one evening on a low-lying counter top, by the time Mrs. Swoboda got home that evening, Daisy had decided to eat almost the entire batch of decorations we all had baked the weekend before. We all found ourselves at the Swoboda household

the next weekend making another batch of dough decorations. Also, Colette Duffek (Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln) and John Fiala (SVU Chapter; Nebraska Czech of Wilber) helped in setting up and decorating the tree. The tree was decorated in traditional Czech ornaments, which included: nuts, fruits, hand made dough ornaments and gingerbread ornaments. The tree looked absolutely beautiful with all of its decorations. Everybody enjoyed making the decorations, and we all hope that everybody who saw the tree enjoyed it as well.

LINCOLN HAS SISTER CITY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Lincoln is very fortunate to be given the opportunity to set up a sister city with Plzen in the Czech Republic. Through this we will have many opportunities to have cultural exchanges. For example, we can have orchestras and school exchanges with organizations in Plzen. Many people have worked hard and long to set this up. This is something that everybody should look out for in the future because very significant and special opportunities will come from this. Please watch for further information on this in the near future.

CZECH LANGUAGE CLASSES NEED YOUR HELP

The Czech Language program was started in 1907, and has a great history. Many famous people started their creative and political lives in this program. For example, Senator Hruška, Rudy Vrtiška, Olga Štastný, and others. This year, once again students enrolled in the two the years of Czech.

Please, support this one -hundred –year-old Czech program, its existence depends on it. The support can have two forms. First of all, inform your children and your grandchildren about its availability, so that they could enroll in Czech. You also can send a tax-deductible donation to

Czech Language account. And most of all, come to the Komensky club program. We are the only university organization that keeps Nebraska Czech culture alive.

Contributions in care of the UNL Foundation can be sent to the Czech Instruction Fund #4931

Komensky Club at UNL

The principal function of the Komensky Club is to provide events which focus on culture and history and bring together people of diverse backgrounds who share a Czech heritage. Readers of *Náš Svět* are encouraged to attend club events and participate in other activities such as the newsletter in order to enhance awareness of the Czech culture in Nebraska Communities.

Events are scheduled throughout the year, breaking during Christmas and summer. Meetings are held on the UNL campus in the Nebraska Union on **Tuesdays** from 7:00 PM-9:00 PM. The rooms will be posted in the Union. Students and non-students are invited to join the Komensky Club. There is a low annual membership fee of \$3.00 for students and \$8.00 for non-students. The membership fee helps finance the films, newsletters and other special activities.

If you would like to join the Komensky Club, please contact Amy Swoboda, President (402) 476-5933 or Dr. Mila Šašková-Pierce (402) 472-1336.

Náš Svět / Czech Nebraska
1133 Oldfather Hall
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68588-0315

CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (SVU) CONFERENCE COMES TO CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

This year, SVU Nebraska in conjunction with Coe College of Cedar Rapids, IA, will host the North American Conference of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU). The Conference will take place June 25 – 29. These dates coincide with the 20th Annual Freedom Festival also held in Cedar Rapids from June 26 – July 5.

This conference is being held in Cedar Rapids because of the large Czech influence there. Cedar Rapids has a rich Czech-influenced heritage in both their political and cultural life. Even today approximately 25% of Cedar Rapids' population claim Czech ancestry.

The Theme of this year's conference is "Czech and Slovak Presence in North America: A Retrospective Look and Future Perspectives".

Pre-registration forms for the SVU conference must be completed by February 28th. For more information contact:

Cathy Oslzly
Department of Psychology
238 Burnett Hall
Univ. of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68588-0308

coslzly1@unl.edu

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS END WITH NO PRESIDENT-ELECT

After three rounds of voting, Parliament failed to vote in the next President of the Czech Republic.

Vaclav Havel, the playwright-turned-politician, has served his maximum of two terms as President of the country. Now it is up to Parliament to decide on who the next man will be.

Unfortunately, while the rounds of voting did manage to eliminate several would-be presidents, they have not yet been able to vote successfully.

The Czech Constitution requires would be Presidential Candidates to obtain 142 Parliamentary votes out of 281 to advance to the second round of deliberation. The current candidates have failed to sway enough votes to move on to further rounds of voting.

It is possible that the politicians would call for a direct election of the president but it is unlikely that this will take place before September.

If no President is appointed before the end of President Havel's term expires, the Presidential powers will revert to the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the lower house of Parliament.

Náš Svět / Czech-Nebraska
1133 Oldfather Hall
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68588-0315

Editors: Amy Swoboda, Sarah Evans, Sandra Coles,
and Zach Cullimore

**It's time to renew your membership.
We depend on your support!**

Czech Language Lessons Available for All

Czech language will be going back to the day program. First year Czech 101 will be offered in the fall at 11:30 to 12:20 Monday through Friday. Second year Czech 202 will be offered at 5:30 to 6:45 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Even non-traditional students are welcome to enroll. All you have to do is ask for visiting student admission. See you in class!

Visit www.unl.edu/CzechLanguage for a free introduction to a survival level of Czech language.

Non Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit 46 Lincoln, Nebraska
