



# Náš Svět

Czech Komenský Club • University of Nebraska Lincoln

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[www.unl.edu/Komenskyclub](http://www.unl.edu/Komenskyclub)

September/září 2003

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### New officers of the Czech Komenský Club

#### Alicia Waterbury President

[alicia\\_waterbury23@yahoo.com](mailto:alicia_waterbury23@yahoo.com)

#### Erin McEvay, 22 Treasurer

Hi! I'm from Waterloo, NE. I'm in my senior year at UNL, and am working on degrees in Veterinary Science and French, and hoping to get a minor in Czech as well. My interests include watching ice hockey (Martin Skoula and Milan Hejduk are Czechs among my favorite players), reading, and going to movies. [luckymac44@hotmail.com](mailto:luckymac44@hotmail.com)

#### C. J. Svagera, Vice President

I am a senior at UNL, majoring in Music History. Besides doing research in the Music field I also enjoy playing trombone in various UNL music ensembles. I am very proud of my Czech heritage, and one day I hope to visit family in the Czech Republic. [csvagera@hotmail.com](mailto:csvagera@hotmail.com)

#### Brian Kell, Secretary

I am the secretary for the Czech Komenský Club this year. I am a junior from Aurora, Nebraska, and am majoring in computer engineering. I am taking Czech 201 and 202 this year, and hope to have a great year with Komenský Club [bkell@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:bkell@unlnotes.unl.edu)

#### Matyáš Zrno, Editor

See "New Robitschek scholars arrive" p. 3 [zrnom@seznam.cz](mailto:zrnom@seznam.cz)

## Schedule for Autumn/Winter 2003/2004

<b>September 23</b>	Prof. Zdeněk Hedbávný, Prague DAMU: <i>Czech Theater and Its Role in Czech Cultural History</i> – lecture
<b>October 15</b>	Ivan Ženatý (violin) and Katarina Ženatá (piano), guest artists–UNL, 7:30 (\$5.00); <b>Kimball Hall</b>
<b>October 28</b>	Prof. Charles Townsend (Princeton) <i>History of Czech Language, its Registers and Politics</i>
<b>November 04</b>	Film: <i>Firemen Ball</i> (Miloš Forman)
<b>November 17</b>	Matyáš Zrno <i>The Day of the fight for Freedom</i> – Lecture and Documentary about the Velvet Revolution
<b>November 21</b>	Czech Music Evening with the composer Joel Blahník
<b>December 04</b>	St. Nicolas Day – Potluck party in Culture Center, 7:00 PM; Union
<b>January 20</b>	Amy Swoboda (UNL): <i>Czech Music in Nebraska</i>
<b>February 3</b>	Matyáš Zrno <i>The Role of Beer in Czech History, Politics</i>
<b>February 17</b>	FILM <i>Limonade Joe</i>
<b>March 2</b>	Matyáš Zrno <i>Czech Politics after Václav Havel</i> – Lecture and Documentary
<b>March 23</b>	<b>Film TBA</b>
<b>April 6</b>	Mary Swoboda: <i>Trafficking in Women</i>
<b>April 20</b>	<b>TBA</b>

Meetings take place in the UNL Union 14<sup>th</sup> and R street at 7:00 PM, unless noted otherwise.

### Veteran writer, politician, broadcaster, and dissident Pavel Tigríd dies at age 85

The Czech Republic woke up to some sad news on Sunday, September 1 - the death of the veteran writer, politician, and broadcaster, Pavel Tigríd. Tigríd spent much of his life in exile, and many Czechs remember him for his broadcasts on the BBC during the Second World War, and later Radio Free Europe during the Communist era.

Tigríd was one of the most influential Czech personalities of the 20th century. His life was closely intertwined with the history of Czechoslovakia, and he devoted much of it toward freeing his country from totalitarian rule.

Pavel Tigríd was born Pavel Schoenfeld in 1917. When war came he fled first to Slovakia then across

Germany to England, and reached London. Meanwhile, his mother was deported to the concentration camp at Auschwitz where she died. In 1940 he began working for the Czechoslovak government-in-exile, broadcasting to his fellow citizens - then under Nazi occupation - on the BBC World Service. When asked to choose a radio name, he chose Tigrid. Later he worked for Voice of America. After that he settled in Paris and became a key figure in the Czechoslovak exile community in France. He set up and published his own dissident periodical - *Testimony*. Copies were smuggled into Czechoslovakia.

Tigrid - he later explained that in school, he used to get the name of the river Tigris wrong - calling it Tigrid instead. The name stuck - Pavel Schoenfeld officially changed his name to Pavel Tigrid after the war.

Czechoslovakia didn't remain free for long, however, and Tigrid was once again forced into exile when the Communists came to power in 1948. This time he began a new life in West Germany, and was given the task of establishing and running the Czechoslovak section of Radio Free Europe, which began broadcasting to Communist Czechoslovakia in 1951. After the fall of Communism in 1989, Pavel Tigrid returned home, becoming Minister of Culture in the government of premier Václav Klaus. He later became a close adviser to President Václav Havel. The former president was among the first to pay tribute to the late Pavel Tigrid, describing him as a man who could leave this world satisfied that he had left a rich body of work behind him. Tributes from President Klaus, Prime Minister Vladimír Špidla, and many others soon followed. The present Culture Minister Pavel Dostál summed up his predecessor's life in the following words: Pavel Tigrid was a legend of Czech journalism and the Czech exile community, whose writing contributed to the victory of democracy in this country.

### **Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) Conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Was a Success**

This year, SVU Nebraska in conjunction with Coe College of Cedar Rapids, IA, hosted the North American Conference of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU). The Conference coincided with the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Freedom Festival also held in Cedar Rapids from June 26 - July 5.

Cedar Rapids has a rich Czech-influenced heritage in both their political and cultural life. Approximately 25% of Cedar Rapids' population claim Czech ancestry. The theme of this year's conference was "Czech and Slovak Presence in North America: A Retrospective Look and Future Perspectives." Over 100 presentations made this conference an astounding success. Next World Congress will take place in Olomouc, Czech Republic, June 26-July 2. The Nebraska SVU Chapter will travel

to the Czech Republic as a group. If you are interested to join us, contact Cathy Oslzly [coslzly1@unl.edu](mailto:coslzly1@unl.edu)  
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238 Burnett Hall  
Univ. of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68588-0308

### **35th anniversary of the Warsaw pact Invasion of Czechoslovakia**

A military band played outside the Czech Radio building on Thursday morning, August 21, as politicians lined up to lay wreaths at the plaque to those who lost their lives defending the station in August 1968. It has been thirty-five years to the day since the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia, a day of reflection and remembrance for the Czech people. Czechoslovak Radio played a particularly important role in the hours that followed the invasion, as besieged reporters broadcast desperate appeals for help to the outside world. Soviet troops began entering Czechoslovakia late on August 20th and early August 21st in a carefully orchestrated invasion designed to crush the political and economic reforms known as the Prague Spring. 1968 - A year that began with hope and promise for Czechoslovakia and ended in tragedy no one could have foreseen. It changed the direction of a country, and the lives of millions. The last Russian troops finally left Czech soil in 1991.

### **New Robitschek Scholars arrive at UNL**

Paul Robitschek established this scholarship for Czech students as an expression of his gratitude to the country of his birth. By bringing Czech students to the US he wanted to share the intellectual achievements of his adopted country, the USA. He chose Nebraska for its Czech ethnic presence. The Robitschek students are asked to take part in ethnic activities, and they are eager to meet with Nebraska Czechs.

All of the Robitschek scholars were chosen through a rigorous selection process.  
THEY WOULD LIKE TO MEET MEMBERS OF YOUR ORGANIZATION. DO YOU NEED A PROGRAM? INVITE THEM!

**Marcela Doubková, 22** Hello! I am a fourth year student of Cartography and I am interested in all kind of maps, which you can see as soon as you enter my room. Almost on the same level as geography for me is music. I appreciate each minute playing my instrument - flute, and also enjoy being a member of symphonic band here in Lincoln. My other hobbies are rowing, swimming and what I really should not forget is traveling!!!  
[marcelka80@yahoo.com](mailto:marcelka80@yahoo.com)

**Jana Stavová, 22** I come from Prague, where I am studying at the Institute of Chemical Technology. My major is Food Science & Technology. I have various kinds of hobbies such as languages and traveling, volleyball, swimming, ultimate frisbee, tap dance, outdoor sports, and photography.

[jana.stavova@centrum.cz](mailto:jana.stavova@centrum.cz)

### **Olga Kubová**

Hi! I am 22 years old and this is my fifth year of studying psychology. I am interested in marriage counseling and intimate relationship areas. I also focus on mental diseases; especially the relationship between depression and family life. I come from the beautiful Beskydy Mountains so I enjoy various winter sports. I like also running, cycling, weightlifting, and here I have been playing lacrosse. I love literature, I train dogs, and I like studying languages and cooking. I love Jesus.

[o.kubova@email.cz](mailto:o.kubova@email.cz)

### **Kamila Zlatušková**

My field of interests is quite wide, but sometimes not very deep. I like music, theatre, good books, and films. I love meeting interesting people, who can teach me something more and that is one of the reasons I came here. I study at two universities at the same time in Czech Republic and my majors are Television and Radio Dramaturgy and Scriptwriting, Medical Studies and Journalism, and Political Science.

[kamila.zlatuskova@seznam.cz](mailto:kamila.zlatuskova@seznam.cz)

**Matyáš Zrno, 24** Ahoj! I'm from Prague, Charles University, where I study International Relations with focus on the Balkans. I enjoy sport-shooting, mountaineering, skiing, and all kinds of outdoor sports. In Lincoln, I have started working for the Komenský Club.

[zrnom@seznam.cz](mailto:zrnom@seznam.cz)

### **DID YOU KNOW, THAT...?**

**Czechs don't smile** at people they don't know. People smiling in the streets are **the exception** to the norm. It is not a sign of unfriendliness, it is simply not expected. Conversely, if you smile at people without a reason, they will be surprised. This is especially apparent when compared with Americans. The Czech Republic, like most of Europe and unlike America or Australia, has to deal with limited space. This influences a Czech's **perception of distances**. Even a one-hour drive is a significant undertaking. On the other hand, Czechs like to travel both within the country as well as internationally

**Mobility** of Czech population is very small. Even in times of growing regional unemployment, people are reluctant to move to find work. This is partly caused by the shortage of rent-controlled housing but also by the strong attachment many people have to the place where they grew up.

**The elderly** have certain prerogatives by virtue of their age, for example, younger people are expected to relinquish their seats on public transportation.

**"Sense of Humor"** and an ability to take things lightly is probably the most important quality for a person.

**Down-to-Earth Mentality** is also regarded highly. King Wenceslas IV is famous to this day for seeking advice from the commoners in disguise, and one of Václav Havel's oft-quoted virtues was his propensity to go out drinking with his buddies with only a bodyguard or two.

Czechs consume the most **beer** per capita in the world. This number is even higher if we take into account that most Moravians prefer wine.

### **Czech Language Classes Available**

Czech language program is back in the day program. In the Spring of 2004, the second semester of first-year Czech 102 will be offered at 11:30 to 12:20 Monday through Friday (for students who have some knowledge of Czech; they can read and write some). Second year Czech 202 (students who can read and write, and sustain some conversation) is offered at 5:30 to 6:45 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. 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/Mila\\_Saskova-Pierce](http://www.unl.edu/Mila_Saskova-Pierce) for a free introduction to the survival level of Czech language.

### **Interesting www Sites**

[www.bohemica.com](http://www.bohemica.com) {all about Czech Republic, especially for students of Czech language and culture}  
[www.radio.cz/en/section](http://www.radio.cz/en/section) {news from Czech Republic, topics about Czech history, culture, and politics}

### **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 are enrolled in the Czech Language Program.

Please, support this one-hundred-year-old 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. And most of all, come to the Komenský club program. We are the only organization that keeps Nebraska Czech culture alive at the university.

**Contributions in care of the UNL Foundation can be sent to the Czech Instruction Fund #4931, UNL Foundation 1111 BLDG, 1111 Lincoln Mall, Lincoln NE 68588**

#### KOMENSKÝ CLUB AT UNL

The principal function of the Komenský 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, with the exception of Christmas and summer vacation. Unless noted otherwise, meetings are held on the UNL campus in the Nebraska Union from 7:00 PM-9:00 PM. The rooms will be posted in the Union. Students and non-students are invited to the lectures free of charge. Everybody can join the Komenský 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 Komenský Club, please contact Dr. Míla Šašková-Pierce (402) 472-1336.

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

Editors: Matyáš Zrno, Dr. Míla Šašková-Pierce

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