



CZECH-NEBRASKA

1133 Oldfather, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE, 68588-0315

Number/Číslo 60

www.unl.edu/komenskyclub

October/říjen 2004

Fall 2004 Schedule.....	1
Dr. Vratislav Janda lecture at UNL.....	1
Is English threatening the Czech language?	2
Invite Robitschek Scholars.....	3
Nebraska Czech Brass Band Performance.....	3
Komensky Club Christmas Party.....	3
International Food Day.....	3
New Visitors to University.....	3

Schedule for 2004

Oct. 28 Film: Thanks for Every New Morning

Nebraska Student Union 14th & R Streets, 8 p.m

Nov. 4 Czech Republic, 15 Velvet years? Dr. Janda,

Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Czech Republic in

Washington DC. Lecture at the Recognition dinner for Czech

Language Studies. Nebraska Union, Wick Alumni Center,

16th and R Streets, Doors Open at 5:30; Dinner at 6:00 pm

(\$13.50 per person, reservations needed); Lecture at 7:30 pm

Nov. 12 Film: TBA Nebraska Student Union 14th & R

Streets, 8 pm

Dec. 7 Komensky Club Christmas Party Nebraska

Student Union 14th & R Streets, 7 pm

Other Czechs clubs and organizations in the US

Omaha Czech Culture Club - Nov. 14 12:30

Guest performance by the Nebraska Czech Brass Band

Under the direction of Mr. Ken Janak.

South Omaha Sokol 20th & U Streets

Cedar Rapids Czech Garnets Exhibit – Nov 13 - Mar 6

Collection from National Czech and Slovak Museum in

Cedar Rapids and the National Museum in Prague. See the

exhibit at the National Czechoslovak Museum and Library

<http://www.ncsml.org/>

Spillville Chapter of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and

Sciences: Concert: Radoslav Kvapil (President of the

International Dvořák Society) will perform the works of

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904), Bedřich Smetana (1824-

1884), Leoš Janáček (1854-1928), Josef Suk (1874-1935)

In the Saint Wenceslas Church, Spillville, IA.

michaelk@acegroup.cc

Czech and Slovak Club of Greater KANSAS CITY

Union in its biggest enlargement ever. Except for Poland, all of them are small or medium-sized countries. Nine current EU members used to belong to the Soviet Bloc. Some have only recently emerged as new countries; others have re-emerged.

The phrase "old Europe" was used last January in connection with the Iraqi crisis, and has become a buzzword. The term "new Europe" was coined during the First World War. Tomas Garrigue Masaryk, who re-established Czech and Czechoslovak statehood and became our first president, chose "New Europe" as a title of his book in which he outlined a blueprint for the reconstruction of Central Europe.

The whole of Europe, including its newly establishing center, now has the opportunity to become its own source of peace and

We are all citizens of one world. To dislike a man because he was born in another country, because he speaks a different language, or because he takes a different view on this or that, is a great folly. Let us have but one end in view, the welfare of humanity. Komenský - Comenius

Dr. Vratislav Janda, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Czech Embassy in Washington to present lecture in Lincoln November 4

The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) Nebraska Chapter, in conjunction with the Komensky Club, is pleased to invite you to a lecture and dinner to be held Thursday, November 4 at the Wick Alumni Center, 16th & R Streets, UNL campus. Dr. Janda received his Law Degree from Charles University in Prague in 1989. He has served as the Middle East Desk of the Czechoslovak News Agency, a Gulf War Correspondent for the Czechoslovak News Agency in Saudi Arabia, the Head of the Foreign Desk for Reflex Magazine in such countries as Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and Bosnia; has served in Czech Embassies in Egypt, Yemen, Jordan, and Iran; Head of the NATO Unit for the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs; graduated from the Centre for Security Policy in Geneva, Switzerland in June 2000; and was the Deputy Director of the Security Policy Department, Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Janda's talk will focus on the past 15 years since the "Velvet Revolution." In the last quarter of 1989, "people power" in various forms – generally nonviolent in character -- played a significant part in undermining communist regimes in several central and eastern European countries.

Czech students gathered on November 17, 1989 to commemorate a protest held on the same day fifty years earlier in opposition to Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia. The student demonstration rapidly turned into a protest against the oppressive communist regime, and it marked the beginning of the so-called Velvet Revolution.

The whole chain of events in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union could be seen as a triumph of civil resistance, validating the proposition that all government, even a totalitarian government, is based on the consent and cooperation of the ruled: take that away, and the regime must collapse.

At the beginning of this year, seven countries joined NATO. On May 1 this year, ten new members joined the European

stability. We, the Central Europeans hope that the US will support this transition.

We as Central Europeans now feel more solidarity than Western Europeans with people living in circumstances we have been through ourselves. Central Europeans understand the oppressed, and will not be lulled by the propaganda of oppressive regimes.

To make a dinner reservation, call Cathy Oslzly at 402/472-3121 no later than noon on Tuesday, November 2. Dinner is \$13.50 per person. The lecture will begin around 7:30 pm and is free and open to the public.

Prague experience of a UNL Czech language student

Not only American students, which are sometimes of Czech descent as one out of every ten in the state of Nebraska is, study Czech at UNL. Myself, a native of Antwerp, a larger city in the Dutch speaking part of Belgium called Flanders, studied Czech for two semesters at UNL.

Unfortunately after that period I had to return home. But I did continue my studies of Czech in the capital of the Czech Republic. I was a student for one month at Charles University in an intensive summer course. Intensive means five hours every morning, speaking, writing, doing all kinds of exercises related to Czech language. In the afternoon one was supposed to study, but we all know how it goes with students; they would rather spend their time in more amusing places than in between the four walls of a dormitory. One of those more exciting places is of course the *hospoda*. And there are plenty of these bars and pubs in Prague -in the whole of the Czech Republic as a matter of fact.

In Czech the verb *flámovat* basically means getting drunk or tipsy at least. Whether it is fact or fiction I don't know, but it refers to inhabitants from Flanders called Flemings in English. Several hundred years ago a few aristocrats came to Prague to buy statutes. Unfortunately the order they made wasn't ready so they had to wait (flying home wasn't an option at the time). They waited, and as they were waiting they seized the occasion to taste *some* of the local beers. As they had to wait several weeks they left such an impression on the local population in terms of drinking that still today *Flám* doesn't only mean a Fleming but also a drunk. I, of course, felt encouraged to continue the tradition and support the local breweries.

A *hospoda* is also an excellent place to exercise the newly learned language, and after a few beers the embarrassment of making mistakes is a whole lot less. At the end of the evening, (or the beginning of the morning for others) all students speak the best Czech, at least they think so.

I would recommend that anyone who is interested in the Czech language to combine studying and vacation and go to Prague or one of the many other places where one can study Czech for one month, two months or even longer. There are different levels of Czech, from absolute beginners to classes where speech is perfected. There is really something for everybody. The best preparation is of course to take Czech classes at UNL. In times where marketers yell out the importance of product differentiation we cannot all study Spanish, German or French as a foreign language, so study Czech and get to know a beautiful part of Europe, the so called New Europe. Alexander Le Roy, UNL student of Czech in 2003-2004

Is English threatening the Czech language?

By Dominik Jun, Czech Radio

Take a walk down most streets in the centre of Prague, and you'll

notice one very curious thing. The universal, almost over-riding presence of the English language; be it on shop signs, advertising posters, restaurant menus, or indeed wherever one finds the written word. For an English speaker, a trip to Prague need never really feel like a trip to a foreign country at all. Feel like a meal? Look out for the signs that promise 'Classic Czech cuisine' or 'Fast Food'.

But many of the more surreal examples are created by the Czechs themselves. 'Česká Restaurant', instead of either 'Česká Restaurace' or 'Czech Restaurant', is particularly common. Go into a shop to buy washing-up liquid and you might see a bottle of 'new Jar' not New Jar or 'nový Jar' or a brand of Czech shampoo called 'Kiss Classic', which proudly states it has a 'new receptura', or new formula, in complete English, both in fact phrases that make no sense in either Czech or English.

I asked Ivana Bozděchová, Assistant professor of modern Czech language at the faculty of philosophy and arts at Charles University whether in this new age of open markets and globalization, the Czech language might be seen as an old fashioned hindrance to a free market.

"I wouldn't go that far that this might be an effort to apologize or to feel that we were back(wards). But then again more attractive is to use (the) English language. Not only (is it) more effective, but maybe there is the feeling that we are more updated, simply something what is 'in'. In Czech, we adopt the phrase from English to be 'in', meaning to be more modern and to know what's going on. So that might also be a fashion."

But is this fashion threatening the very fabric of the Czech language? In something of a cultural phenomenon, new, more English sounding words are invented by the Czechs themselves everyday, even in place of existing Czech ones. 'Vedoucí', becomes 'lídř', spelt differently, but unmistakably English. A 'vteřina' - meaning second - becomes a 'sekunda', 'spravedlnost' becomes 'ju-sti-ce', a phonetic breakdown of the word justice, identity, formerly 'totožnost', becomes 'identita', the list is endless. It's all a godsend to those native English-speakers trying not to learn Czech or to foreign companies who get to save money on the printing of nation-specific packaging, but one wonders what the Czechs feel that they are getting from it. "There are some words, especially connected with political arrangements, with social life, with hierarchy, with professions which are still very closely connected in Czech mind(s) with Socialism. And even that you have similar structure, similar organization, similar arrangement in political system, just to demonstrate and to express verbally that it's completely different than it was under Communism, so I think that choosing different words for different titles and positions implies that it has nothing to do with the previous regime."

If there was a phrase that I heard over and over again with regards to the prevalence of English, it was "so that we are not isolated". One cannot escape the conclusion, that over forty years of Communist isolation, has invoked a feeling in many Czechs that isolation would be a far worse fate than Anglicization. But the truth of the matter is, most Czechs would rather you didn't know where they go for food and drinks in the centre of Prague. It certainly isn't in the Old Town square or on Na Příkopě, and to broadcast the locations of these places here would be tantamount to committing a criminal act. For in these places, the beer is still cheap, and the signs are still all in Czech, and perhaps in an almost historical reflex action, in the centre of Prague, ordinary Czech culture has once again been forced into the nooks and crevices that lie far beyond the radar screens of your average tourist or foreign investor.

One will of course always find some Czechs envious of the tourists' purchasing power, and just as many eager to jump on the consumerist bandwagon, but most Czechs that I spoke to were full of something else, something that can easily be confused with apathy or even xenophobia, but which instead provides a strong clue to the Czech

psyche itself: for the people of this country have over the centuries, witnessed both the promises and threats of Imperialism, Fascism, Communism, that something as benign as Anglicization through tourism, or as transparent as Anglicization through consumerism, doesn't really register as much of a threat. Prague Radio

Invite Robitschek Scholars to your program

Paul Robitschek established this scholarship for Czech and Slovak students as an expression of his gratitude to the country of his birth. The Robitschek students are asked to take part in ethnic activities, and they are eager to meet with Nebraska Czechs. In the last newsletter we introduced some of the new scholars. Here are three additional ones. We have included the e-mail addresses of the students whom we have already introduced.

Martina Zeliková

Ahoj! Surprisingly I am not from Prague but from a very nice town called Zlín, it is in the eastern part of the Czech Republic called Moravia. My major back home is secondary teacher of Geography and English and this is the fifth year of my studies. I am also interested in history. I enjoy different types of sport and especially squash, horseback riding, volleyball or swimming. I like meeting new people and going out. During the breaks I hope I manage traveling around the USA and backpacking!

mara.z@seznam.cz

Bára Příhodová

My name is Barbora Prihodova, Im 23 years old. I come from Brno where I study History and theory of theatre and English Language and Literature. My hobbies are theatre and music, travelling and meeting new people. I also like skiing, swimming and aerobics.

Bára Příhodová's e-mail is bprihodova@hotmail.com.

Petr Kluger is from Prague and is interested in foreign languages.

klugerp@post.cz

Magda Sládková helps with teaching Czech at UNL and the students love her! Magda.s@atlas.cz

Ondřej Jurík is a journalist. ojurik@yahoo.com

Eva Kubešová is from south Bohemia, a musician and is interested in American Czechs. eva_kubesova@hotmail.com

In addition, **Marcela Doubková**, Robitschek scholar who came in 2003-2004 received a UNL scholarship in geology and will be with us for two more years! Congratulations!

mdoubkova@calmit.unl.edu

Kamila Zlatušková, also a 2003 Robitschek scholar recipient, returned this week to produce a radio program about Nebraska Czech organizations for the Brno Radio in the Czech Republic. She will share it with us and we will post it on our Czech Heritage site.

www.unl.edu/Czechheritage.

Do you know Czech writers?

The whole world knows the Chilean Nobel laureate Pablo Neruda. Not many people, however, know about the Czech Jan Neruda, a poet, writer, and cultural organizer. When Neftalí Ricardo Reyes Basoalto read his poetry, he was so impressed that he decided to adopt the name of the Czech poet. This Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1971.

Jan Nepomuk Neruda (July 9, 1834-Aug. 22, 1891)

was a Czech writer and poet, one of the most prominent representatives of Czech Realism and a member of "the May

School". Jan Neruda was born in Prague, Bohemia, son of a small grocer who lived in the Malá Strana (Lesser Quarter) district of Prague. After studying philosophy and philology, he worked as a teacher until 1860, when he became a freelance journalist and writer. Neruda never married but had a close relationship to the writer Karolína Světlá. In his work Neruda promoted the idea of rebirth of Czech patriotism. He participated in all the central cultural and political struggles of his generation, and gained a reputation as a sensitive critic. Neruda became with Vítězslav Hálek the most prominent representative of the new literary trends, literary realism, in the Czech literature. Neruda was known for his satirical depiction of the petty bourgeois of Prague. His most popular prose work is "*Povídky malostranské*" (1877, *Tales of the Little Quarter*, the picturesque part of Prague below the Prague castle), a collection of short stories, which was translated into English in 1957 by the novelist and mystery writer Ellis Peters. Neruda's stories take the reader to the Lesser Quarter, to its streets and yards, shops, churches, houses, and restaurants.

He passed away in 1891 and was interred in the Vyšehrad cemetery in Prague. After his death, one of the picturesque streets in Lesser Quarter, Nerudova Ulice (Neruda Street), was named after him.

Nebraska Czech Brass Band

The Nebraska Czech Brass Band, under the direction of Ken Janak, is slated to perform at the November meeting of the Omaha Czech Culture Club. The meeting is scheduled for Nov. 14 with lunch beginning at 12:30 and the music beginning at 1 p.m. The Nebraska Czech Brass Band, formerly the Omaha Czech Brass Band, has been in existence for over fifty years, performing across Nebraska and the Midwest in addition to touring Czechoslovakia in 1988 to great acclaim. They always put on a wonderful concert and are not to be missed.

Komensky Club Christmas Party

This year's Komensky Club Christmas party has been scheduled for December 7th. Events planned for the evening include Czech games, music and this year's Robitschek students sharing Czech Christmas traditions with us. We would ask that everyone who is able bring a favorite Christmas food (Czech or otherwise) to share. Drinks will be provided by the club.

International Food Day- Nov. 15

Once again this year the University of Nebraska is hosting an International Food Day, with the Komensky Club participating. The event will be held in the Nebraska Student Union from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Anybody that would be interested in helping to cook or to donate food for this event is encouraged to contact Mila Saskova-Pierce at (402) 472-1336/ msaskova-pierce1@unl.edu; or just plan to come to Mila's house, 834 Elmwood Ave. Lincoln NE. 435-8190, on Sun. Nov. 14 at 3:00 pm.

The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences invites you to its North American Conference "Czech and Slovak Cultural Heritage" In North Miami, Florida, 17-20 March 2005

The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU), in conjunction with the American Czech-Slovak Cultural Club of North Miami, Florida will hold their annual meeting on March 17-20, 2005 on the southeast coast of sunny Florida. The program will focus on the rich preservation of the Czech and Slovak culture including literature, music, dance, folklore, folk art, ethnic history,

and preservation of cultural treasures. Featured artists and lecturers include legendary Czech singer Waldemar Matuška, Czech Ambassador Martin Palouš, Slovak Ambassador Rastislav Kačer, Czech country and western singer Larry Morava, Slovak folk dancers from Masaryktown, Florida, Europa Band from Orlando, Czech folk singers from Key West, Dr. Joseph Patrouch Professor of History at Florida International University (FIU), Howard Kaminsky, Professor Emeritus of Medieval History from FIU and Helene Cincebeaux internationally recognized Czech and Slovak folk dress expert. We are seeking additional speakers who are knowledgeable about the major theme of the Conference: “Czech and Slovak Cultural Heritage”. Although the focus will be on Czechs and Slovaks in America, we would welcome papers on the Czech and Slovak legacy, in general, and the “Old Country’s” historical traditions that transcend almost a Millennium. Accommodations are available at Holiday Inn, 12210 Biscayne Blvd. NE, North Miami, FL 33181; Phone: (305) 891-7350; 800-HOLIDAY (Contact Sandra Codogno, mention SVU.) Price is \$65 per room plus 13 % before January 31, 2005. Pre-registration forms are available on www.SVU2000.org, or <http://www.svu2000.org/headlines/b83.htm> If you want to be included in the program as a presenter, send the Preregistration, as well as the Speaker’s Form, to the SVU a.s.a.p.

Czech Language Corner

Do you know that Czechs have twenty fingers? Czech language does not make distinction between fingers and toes. Both are (one) *prst* and (many) *prsty*.

fingers are prsty na rukou
toes are prsty na nohou

The names of fingers are the following:

- palec thumb
- ukazovák index
- prostředník middle finger
- prstenník ring finger
- malík little finger

Sometimes the diminutive forms are used:

- paleček, ukazováček, prostředníček, prstenníček
- maliček

Toes have the following names:

- palec u nohy (verbatim leg thumb)
- druhý prst (verbatim second finger)
- třetí prst (verbatim third finger)
- čtvrtý prst (verbatim fourth finger)
- maliček u nohy, or pátý prst (verbatim leg pinky or a fifth finger)

When Czechs count, they use first the thumb for number one, then the thumb and index for two, etc.

It is time to renew your subscription

We are a self supporting student organization. This newsletter is paid for by your membership. In addition we buy films and other materials for the presentations and lectures that you enjoy. We appreciate your support over the past one-hundred years and we hope that you will send us your membership as recognition of the effort UNL students put into the preservation of Czech language and culture at our university. Thank you. Mila Saskova-Pierce, UNL professor.

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 Roman Hruška, Rudy Vrtilka, Olga Štastný, and many 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 sponsor events that focus on culture and history and bring together people of diverse backgrounds who want to share Czech heritage. Readers of *Náš Svět* are encouraged to attend club events and participate in other activities listed in the newsletter in order to enhance awareness of the Czech culture in Nebraska communities. 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. Checks should be made out to the Komensky Club and mailed to: Mila Saskova-Pierce, UNL, 1133 Oldfather Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0315. Membership is open to everyone!

Editors: Dr. Mila Šašková-Pierce, C. J. Švagera
Guest Writer: Alex LeRoy
Náš Svět/ Czech-Nebraska
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
1133 Oldfather Hall
Lincoln, NE 68588-0315



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