



CZECH-NEBRASKA

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

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www.unl.edu/komenskyclub

March/březen 2005

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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

**Czech Language Foundation Banquet on April 10th, 2005
President of the Czech Republic Senate Petr Pithart and
Czech Embassy Personnel TBA Featured Speakers.**

The Czech Language Foundation, its President Layne Pierce and its other members, would like to invite you to the Czech program student recognition banquet. The participants will have a chance to listen to the address by Petr Pithart, President of the Czech Republic Senate. Doors at the Cornhusker Hotel will open at 6 PM.

We would like to invite everybody to first participate in the events of the Omaha Czech Culture Club and then come to Lincoln for this unique opportunity to receive information about the Czech Republic from people who are in the center of Czech events.

For banquet ticket orders see the appended blank order. Please, help us to advertise this unique event.

DR. PETR PITHART
Czech Senate Chairman

Dr. Pithart, former prime minister of Czechoslovakia, present president of the Czech Republic Senate is coming to Nebraska. He will be the main speaker at the Czech Language Banquet at the Cornhusker Hotel, April 10, 6 PM.

Dr. Petr Pithart was elected as speaker of the Czech Senate in 2000, when he was re-elected to a second term in the Senate, ending in 2006. Dr. Pithart is also serving as speaker for the second time -- he held the same post for two years from 1996 to 1998 during his first term as senator.

Schedule for Spring 2005

- Mar. 29th - Film:** "Closely Watched Trains"
8:00 p.m. Nebraska Union, 14th & R St.
- Apr. 7th - Film:** "Cozy Dens"
8:00 p.m. Nebraska Union, 14th & R St.
- Apr. 10th-17th-Czech Week at UNL**
- Apr. 10th -Czech Language Foundation Banquet, Address**
by Petr Pithart, President of the Czech Republic Senate. Cornhusker Hotel, doors open at 6 PM.
- Apr. 11th -Lecture:** "Socialist Realism in Czechoslovakia"
Anna Drozda and Dr. Mila Saskova-Pierce
7:00 p.m. Nebraska Union 14th & R St.
- Apr. 12th - Film:** "Black Barons" with Introduction by
Dr. Mila Saskova-Pierce 7:00 p.m. Nebraska Union,
14th & R St.
- Apr. 13th - Keiji Uehara- "Japanese-Czech Relations"**
12:30 p.m. CBA 206
- Apr. 14th - Cooking at Culture Center 14th .& R st.**
3:00-6:30 p.m. 14th & R St.
- Apr. 15th -Czech Culture Night**
5:30-9:00p.m Culture Center 14th & R St.
- Apr. 21st - Film -** 8:00 p.m. Nebraska Union, 14th & R St.
- Upcoming Nebraska Czech Festivals**
- April 10th - Czech/Slovak Folklore Festival;** 13th & Martha St.
Omaha, NE 11am-4pm
- May 1st - Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln;** 4901 N 56th St,
Lincoln, NE 10am - 4:30pm
- June 4th - NE Czechs of South Central;** Hwy 6 & Wabash,
Hastings, NE 11am -9pm
- June 12th - NE Czechs of the Panhandle;** Legion Hall,
Hemingford, NE 12pm - 5pm (bring dish)
- June 24-26th - Clarkson Czech Festival;** Main St, Clarkson,
NE. Rodeo 7pm Thur & Fri, Talent Contest 7pm
Fri, NE Czech/Slovak Queen Pageant 6pm Sat.,
- July 15 -17th - Czech Festival;** Main St, Dwight, NE. St
- Aug. 5-7th - Czechs Capital of NE & USA;** www.ci.wilber.ne.us
- Sept. 25th - Panhandle Czech Heritage Day;** Legion Hall,
Lodgepole, NE 1-5pm (bring dish)
- Sept. 25th - Czech Heritage Day;** Prague, NE, Main St. 11am-8pm
- Oct. 9th - Octoberfest;** York City Auditorium, 6th & Nebraska,
York, NE 12-9pm

A political scientist by training, a signatory of Charter 77, a member of the Civic Forum and, since March 1999, a member of the Christian Democratic Union-Czech People's Party, Senate President Pithart has not just followed the course of the recovery of Czech democracy but been one of the leaders of that process. He was a member of the first free, post-communist Czechoslovak parliament in 1990 and served as prime minister from 1990 to 1992. Before he entered into politics, Dr. Pithart was the editor of the highly respected "Literarni noviny" (Literary Magazine) during the Prague Spring from 1967 to 1969 and, in the 1990s, editor for four years of the weekly magazine "New Presence."

Dr. Pithart is the author of several books on history and politics and numerous articles and essays. He is a graduate of the Charles University Faculty of Law, but was forced to interrupt postgraduate studies at St. Antony's College, Oxford, and return to Czechoslovakia under the threat of forced emigration.

Dr. Pithart is married to the former Drahomira Hromadkova and they have two children and four grandchildren. Earlier this year, he celebrated his 60th birthday.

Czech classes in the Fall

The Czech language program is back in the day program. In the Fall of 2005, the first semester of first-year Czech 101 will be offered at 11:30 to 12:20 Monday through Friday (for students who have no knowledge of Czech). Second year Czech 202 (students who can read and write, and sustain some conversation) is offered from 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! Third-year Czech (Introduction to Czech literature read in the original, with the help of a dictionary) is offered Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12:30.

Visit www.unl.edu/Mila_Saskova-Pierce for a free introduction to the survival level of Czech language.

Czech Language Scholarships Available

Several \$300 scholarships are available for CZECH 101, 201 & 301 in the fall semester 2005 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Some scholarships may be higher amounts. The scholarships are funded jointly by the Czech Language Foundation (CLF) and participating Organizations and Individuals. A CLF funded scholarship may exist specifically for graduates of your high school. Your high school counselor or university academic advisor can access the application form.

Czech Language Instruction has been offered at UN-L since 1907, and is part of the Modern Languages Department. Czech will fulfill your college's language requirement and is available as a college minor. Czech Language instruction includes language, history & culture.

The Czech Language Foundation is a non-profit organization that promotes and enhances instruction of Czech language at UN-L, and is not part of the University of Nebraska.

visit us: www.unl.edu/CzechLanguageFoundation

The Czech Language Foundation Scholarship Partnering Program P.O. Box 5502, Lincoln, NE 68505 Cathleen Oslzly (402)-472-3121. COSLZLY1@unl.edu

Czech Literature Reading Course in the Summer.

Have you wanted to read Czech literature and receive college credit for it? You have a chance to do so just by enrolling in the UNL Summer Reading Program in Czech 282 Slavic Literature in Translation. Travel and take the course material with you. If you are not a full time student, you can still enroll as a visiting student. [http:// www.extended.unl.edu/summer](http://www.extended.unl.edu/summer)

US Czech History Articles and Genealogy

In the December 2004 issue of "Naše Rodina" (Our Family), the newsletter of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI), there have been two articles of interest to Nebraska. One by Vojmir Benak, entitled "A Brief History of Sokol South Omaha" and another article about the history of the Sokol in Wilber (reprinted from the *Beatrice Sun*), with the information that The Wilber Sokol building has been placed on the register of Historical buildings. The periodical "Naše Rodina" (Our Family) can be ordered from the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, P.O.Box 16225, St. Paul, MN 55116-0225. Membership in the society costs \$25. 00 per year per person.

Famous Nebraskan: Stanley L. Kostoryz (1866-1924)

(Courtesy of Joe Vosoba and the Texas Czechs Internet Site)

Stanley Kostoryz, Czech newspaper publisher and land developer, was born Stanislav Kostohryz on March 12, 1866, at Jemnice near Strakonice, Bohemia, son of Josef and Anna Nosek Kostohryz. He finished the Pisek Gymnasium and traveled to New York in 1886 and then to Chicago, where he worked for various newspapers. In 1888 he moved to Wilber, Nebraska, where he operated a drug and general store. He bought an English-language newspaper in 1898, purchased a Czech type font, and founded a semiweekly *Osveta* (*Enlightenment*). Later it became a daily. Kostoryz enrolled in Western Normal College, Lincoln, in 1889 and graduated with a teaching certificate in 1893. He established the first Czech daily newspaper in Nebraska that included editions for other Czech localities in the state. The Wilberské Listy (Wilber News) was established as a weekly in July 1893. For four years Kostoryz was superintendent of schools at Milligan, Nebraska. He contributed to *Pokrok západu* (*Progress of the West*) and other Czech publications in Nebraska and elsewhere. As a leader of the Komensky Club at Omaha, Kostoryz asked the regents of Nebraska State University to set up a department of Slavic languages and literature, but was the request was denied because there was insufficient public interest. The club was not to be put off, and agitation continued until a Slavic Department was set up in 1907. Kostoryz was a presidential elector from Nebraska, pledged to William Jennings Bryan.

Between 1902 and 1904 he traveled throughout the western United States and Canada searching for suitable areas for Czech colonization. He purchased 7,800 acres near Corpus Christi, Texas, in 1904, subdivided the tract, which he called Bohemian Colony Farms, and sold lots to Czech farmers. In 1910 he purchased an additional 2,300 acres from the adjoining Robertson Ranch. Kostoryz married Alice Ruzicka in 1896 at Milligan, Nebraska, and they had three children, all of whom were brought up and educated in Corpus Christi.

Kostoryz was instrumental in the establishment of Kostoryz School in Corpus Christi, and a street was named for him along the side of the Bohemian Colony lands. Development of the lands was successful and profitable. After his son, Ervin, died tragically in 1921, Kostoryz became deeply depressed. He sold out his properties in Corpus Christi, and he and his wife returned to Europe. He died in Czechoslovakia in 1924.

News Briefs About Czech Republic

Politics • Prime Minister Stanislav Gross delivered an apology on national television March 5 for the less-than-clear way he has explained his personal finances, which have been at the center of a political storm threatening his coalition Cabinet. Gross' Social Democrats (CSSD) gave him their backing in a ballot the same day, after which the prime minister said he considered the crisis over. But

the senior opposition Civic Democrats said they will seek a no-confidence vote in the government after the CSSD conference at the end of March.

History/Politics- Psychiatrist Cyril Hoeschl has told the Office for the Documentation of the Crimes of Communism (UDV) that there can be no doubt that former Czechoslovak foreign minister Jan Masaryk did not commit suicide 57 years ago today, the daily Mlada Fronta Dnes (MFD) writes today. Masaryk was found dead on March 10, 1948 under the windows of his flat at the Foreign Ministry. According to the official communist regime version, he committed suicide. However, speculation over his murder has existed from the beginning. Masaryk was a member of the London exile government during World War Two and held the post of Foreign Minister after the end of the war up until his death.

Sports - Dominik Hasek plans to retire this summer if the labor dispute between the NHL and the players' association isn't resolved. "There is too much uncertainty, and I don't know what is going to happen," Hasek said Saturday.

"I'm eager to get back on the ice and play great hockey for one more year. That's my goal. But if it lingers, and the agreement is not signed by the summer, my kids will go back to school in the Czech Republic and I won't play hockey any more." Hasek played for Buffalo and later for the Detroit Red Wings. He helped the Detroit Red Wings win the Stanley Cup in 2002

Travel – According to *Deník* (Journal), around five million foreign tourists visited the Czech Republic last year. The Czech Republic is mostly attractive to Dutch, Danish, and Italian visitors. When it comes to Americans, the weakness of the dollar makes the trip more expensive. At the same time, a great future is seen when it comes to tourists from Russia, Japan, and China.

Words to Know While Visiting Czech Rep:

Policie – police

Hasiči – fire department

Nemocnice – hospital

Ambulance - ambulance

Záchranka – rescue squad

Pomoc – help

Zavolejte! - Call!

112 – The Number to call for help (Dispatchers speak Cz, Eng, Ger)

http://www.telecom.cz/dokumenty/pdf/operatorske_sluzby_utc.pdf

Emergency/Communication –

As part of entering into the European Union (EU), Czech Republic had to implement a unified European emergency number 112 (similar to 911 in the US). The dispatchers in Czech Republic are trained to communicate in Czech, German, and English. The state of the art technology will enable the dispatcher to locate the caller and direct the emergency crew appropriately. This brand-new technology is accessible from the networks of all other operators, both fixed and mobile. The old emergency numbers, 155 for Rescue Squad/Ambulance/Hospital, 150 for Fire Department, 156 for (local) Police, and 158 for Police, are still in effect and unchanged.

Did you know that...

... the Czech Republic is home to the oldest synagogue in central Europe, the 13th Century Staronova Synagogue in Prague
... Prague's Charles University was the 1st school of higher learning established in Europe north of the Alps in 1348

... the principle of planetary motion was discovered in Prague by Johannes Kepler where he was a professor from 1601 and published his discoveries in 1609.

... contact lenses were invented by the Czech scientist Otto Wichterle
... more than 90% of Czechs are shareholders due to the country's unique voucher privatization system

... Czech tramcars can be found in 95 cities around the world, including Berlin, Moscow, Sarajevo, Oslo, and Cairo.

... "polka" is a Czech dance. It comes from "pulka" meaning "half" because there are two steps for every beat. The most famous polka tune, "Roll out the Barrels" also originated as a Czech song called "Škoda lásky."

... the 1st ever recorded autopsy was conducted in Prague's Old Town Square in 1600

... according to the Guinness book of records, the Czech language has the world's most difficult tongue-twister "strč prst skrz krk" or "stick your finger through your throat"

... Gregory Peck, Gustav Mahler, and Sigmund Freud were all born in what is now the Czech Republic

... Czechs indulge in friendly flagellation every Easter. The boys whip the girls skirts with birch rods until they give them an Easter egg

... and when marriage comes around, the couple's friends hide the bride in the pub of their choice and keep her there until the groom finds her, or pays money for her return.

Students in the Czech 102/2005 Class

My name is **Carina McCormick**. I am a senior, psychology major, graduating in May. I studied in Olomouc, Czech Republic, last spring and love the country. I took Czech 101 before leaving and am taking Czech 102 now so I can go back to travel more. I completed an interesting photography heritage project in which I studied six Czech families in Nebraska and photographed the cities and villages their ancestors were from. This project culminated in an exhibition on the UNL campus this fall.

Next fall, I will teach social studies in the Mississippi Delta as part of Teach For America, a program that enables young college graduates to teach in low income schools. The adventures just keep coming!

My name is **Maggie Stark** and I'm a Junior majoring in Spanish and Communication Studies with a minor in International Studies. I decided to take Czech because I love learning other languages and Czech seemed like a very challenging and interesting language to learn. Also, I have ancestors with a Czech background.

My name is **McKenzie Pokorny**. I am a junior at the University of Nebraska with my major being psychology. I decided to take the class because it sounded very interesting and fun. I also have a Czech background so I thought it would be neat to learn a little bit about where my family came from. In the future my goal is to work with people who are suffering from eating disorders. I would also like to take a trip to the Czech Republic.

Dobrý den! My name is **Keiji Uehara** and I'm from Sendai, Japan. This is my third year in UNL and my majors are Geography /Environmental studies/Geology. I took Czech 101 at last semester just because of curiosity for a minor language at first, but now I like to study not only Czech Language but also Czech culture or something related to Czech Republic or Central Europe. My dream is to be a researcher (though I haven't decided my study yet), and to travel all over the world. Of course, I will go to Czech Republic this summer 2005.

My name is **Lynn Oborny**. I am from a small town in Nebraska called Bellwood. I am currently a freshman. My major is psychology, along with a minor in Business Administration. I plan to receive my D.D.S degree in Dentistry. I am taking the Czech language classes to learn how to speak the language of my ancestors. I am 100% Czech, so to speak the language would continue the tradition of my heritage. I also plan on studying abroad in Czech Republic my junior year in college. My goals in life are to fly my parents to Czech Republic to visit me while I am studying abroad. This would make them extremely happy! My other goal in life is to become Doctor Oborny in the Dentistry field!

My name is **Valerie Zajac**. I am a sophomore from Poland, Ohio and my major is Psychology/Pre Med. Right now I run track and cross country here at UNL. I hope to go to medical school and become a doctor. I am taking Czech because I am of Slovak background and I thought it would be interesting to learn the language and more about the culture. Someday I would also like to go to Europe and visit Prague and some of the other cities that we have learned about in class.

My name is **Natalia Tullis**. I came from Belarus, a country that lies between Western and Eastern Europe. I graduated from the University of Belarus where I studied at the Department of History. I received a Bachelor degree of Museum Studies & History in the spring of 2000. In 2003 I started taking graduate-level coursework in Museum Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I decided to take Czech classes because I thought that this language might be beneficial not only in my future profession as an archivist, but will also give me more flexibility to achieve some academic goals that I am currently trying to pursue.

My name is **Dennis Klimes**. I am working on a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Vocal music performance along with a minor in music technology. I am taking Czech because it is more interesting to me than any other language and I like singing in Czech so it helps me with the understanding of what I am singing. I am a non-traditional student trying to keep up with those just out of high school.

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, including 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 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 of No. 62: Dr. Mila Šašková-Pierce, C. J. Švagera, Honza Topor, and Olga Pierce.

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

