

## Press Release: UNL Czech Komensky Club's Czech March

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Czech Komensky Club will host a series of events in the month of March 2015. This program, Czech March, is funded in part by Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment featuring three speakers in total, including one speaker from the HN Speakers Bureau. The goal of this program series is to clarify, discuss, and engage Czech history and culture in selected topics. Czech March will celebrate the long history of the Czech Community in Nebraska, and its academic presence at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The first event will feature **Janet Jeffries**, who will give a talk on Czech folk culture and costume with special attention to the Easter holiday. Next, **Dr. Brenda Flanagan**, a US cultural Ambassador, who has conducted fascinating research on women under Socialism, will share her findings with us. Dr. Flanagan calls the Czech Republic her second home and can share a lot on her Czech experience. The event is will attract many from the Nebraska Czech community and academia alike, and it is co-hosted with Women Studies Department at UNL. Last but not least, **Dr. Stephen Lahey** is a worldly recognized authority on John Huss, one of the most influential religious reformers and a pivotal figure of Czech History. 2015 marks the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Huss's infamous death, and the UNL Czech Komensky Club believes that the public, academia, and members of the religious community alike shall find the presentation on the ministry, trial and martyrdom of the fifteenth century Bohemian priest fascinating.

### Czech March Program:

- **March 12 | Janet Jeffries: Czech Folk Costumes and Customs | Lecture and Workshop**  
Ubuntu Room, City Campus Student Union | 6:30pm - 8:30pm



JANET JEFFRIES is a Public Services Librarian and College Historian at Doane College, located in Crete, Nebraska. Her lecture is offered via the Speakers Bureau, a subset of the Nebraska Humanities. It is called *Czech Folk Costumes*. In her lecture, she is to speak on national folk costumes, or *kroje*, in the Czech lands and how they developed over centuries from the single garments of the people to the colorful, artistic ensembles one finds today at festivals and in museums. Through slide illustrations and her own collection, Jeffries provides as interesting look at some of the literally hundreds of costume variations differing to districts, villages, and feudal estates.

- **March 19 | Brenda Flanagan: Women Survival and Subversive Strategies under Socialism | Czech Women Surrealists**  
Unity Room, City Campus Student Union | 6:30pm - 8:30pm  
Reception to Follow



BRENDA FLANAGAN is a writer, poet, performer, scholar and US cultural ambassador to many world places. Since 2003, Dr. Flanagan has served as a Cultural Ambassador for the United States Department of State. Her visit opened doors to other American cultural missions. Flanagan has served in Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Chile, Kuwait, Tajikistan, Morocco, Tunisia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Chad, Panama, India, and the Czech Republic. Flanagan performs her work, and engages in dialogue with citizens, students, professors, creative artists, and journalists in these diverse countries on such subjects as U.S. public policies, diversity, politics and race, and the achievement of success in hostile environments. Having strong transnational consciousness, she conducted her research on women under socialism. While exploring the landscape of this unknown womanhood, she discovered numerous interesting women personalities who developed diverse gendered survival and subversive strategies. One of them, is remarkable Eva Švankmajerová, the

godmother of Czech surrealism, painter, and filmmaker, and a self-made feminist (though many deny the existence of feminism in former "socialist paradise"), who has been recently recognized as a European prolific artist, though hardly recognized at the Czech Republic due to the stagnant gendered discourse and low recognition of women.

Her lecture is co-organized with Women's and Gender Studies, and it is a part of WGS Spring Colloquium.

- **March 31 | Stephen Lahey: Legacy of John Huss | 600th Anniversary of John Huss**  
Introduction by Dr. Vladimír Polách  
Heritage Room, City Campus Student Union | 6:30pm - 8:30pm  
Reception to Follow



STEPHEN EDMUND LAHEY is Happold Professor of Religious Studies, Professor of Classics and Religious Studies Department, University of Nebraska Lincoln. His areas of specialization are medieval philosophy, and scholastic theology. Currently, he is conducting research on impact of Wyclif's thought in fifteenth-century Bohemia in works of philosopher Stanislav of Znojmo, and Nicholas Biskupec, Theologian of 15th century Tabor in Hussite movement. His books include *Philosophy and Politics in the Thought of John Wyclif* (Cambridge University Press, 2003); *John Wyclif* (Oxford University Press, 2008); *Wycliffite Spirituality*; he translated selections from Wyclif's

Sermons and *De Mandatis Divinis*, 2013 and *John Wyclif's Trialogus* (Cambridge University Press, 2013). He is author of numerous articles, book chapters, dictionary entries and book reviews connected to John Wyclif and John Hus.