

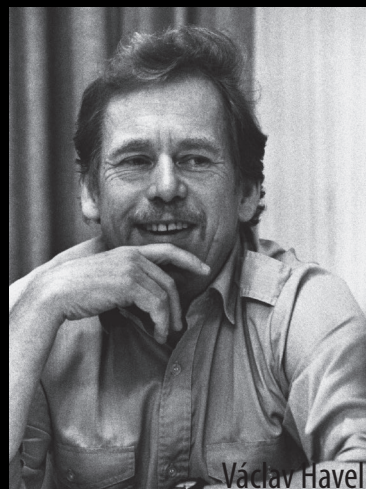
# NCSML FORUM:

## PARTICIPATING IN DEMOCRACY

Saturday April 2, 2016  
10:30 am - 6:00 pm

A public exchange of ideas on how we shape democracy, inspired by Václav Havel, one of *Time Magazine's* "Top 10 Political Prisoners," and a freedom fighter celebrated the world over.

In association with **HAVEL 80** Kubicek Václava Havela  
Havela Havel Library Foundation  
for Democracy a year-long celebration of Havel's 80th birthday, and part of the **Czech Studies Workshop**, an annual meeting of scholars from across the U.S. and abroad who are studying Czech and Slovak history and culture.



Václav Havel

Free with admission unless otherwise marked. Admission for members and students is free.

Boxed lunches are available for pre-order online.

Register by March 25, 2016 at [NCSML.org/event/ncsml-forum](http://NCSML.org/event/ncsml-forum)



### LOCATED IN CZECH VILLAGE

1400 Inspiration Place SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
(319) 362-8500  
[www.NCSML.org](http://www.NCSML.org)

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Cedar Rapids, IA  
Permit No. 414

JOIN US FOR A GUIDED TOUR  
LED BY DR. TOMÁŠ VRBA  
Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 1:30 pm  
*Samizdat: The Czech Art of Resistance, 1968-1989*

Design based on Samizdat, BRAK  
Curated by Daniela Šneppová

October 31, 2015 - April 24, 2016

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toHAVEtoHOLD  
toHIDEhidden  
SecretCulture

An exhibition of underground culture: forbidden publications, films and music  
**Samizdat: The Czech Art of Resistance, 1968-1989**

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
[www.NCSML.org](http://www.NCSML.org) T:319.362.8500 Mon-Sat 9:30am-4pm, Sun.12-4pm



# Schedule of Events\*

\*All events are free with admission unless otherwise marked. Admission for members and students is free. Please register by March 25, 2016 at [www.NCSML.org/event/ncsml-forum](http://www.NCSML.org/event/ncsml-forum)

## 10:30 am - Havel Roundtable

As part of the worldwide commemoration of Václav Havel's eightieth birthday, Moderator Kimberly Elman Zarecor, Ph.D., will lead panelists David S. Danaher, Ph.D., author of *Reading Václav Havel*, and Kieran Williams, Ph.D., author of a forthcoming biography of Václav Havel, in a discussion of Havel's legacy. Major themes will include democracy and engaged citizenship as well as an approach to reading Havel that highlights this legacy. For Havel, democracy was far more than the periodic opportunity to vote in elections. Democracy was to be performed by citizens who share values that underlie their democratic system and give it strength and unity. This philosophy is one way to reconcile Havel's various faces – as absurdist playwright, as dissident activist and essayist, and as post-1989 president.

## 12:00 pm - Lunch & Learn Panel Discussion

### The Ongoing Process of Democracy: Insights from East Central Europe and the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election

The Czech and Slovak Republics, along with neighboring Poland and Hungary, have been seen for many years as the post-communist countries that made the most successful transition to democratic rule. Yet recent years have given pause to this assessment. This roundtable uses the panelists' insights to explore lessons from East Central Europe that might be relevant for evaluating U.S. democracy at a time when the 2016 election has brought forth a dramatically different style of politics and new suggestions of how to achieve effective and accountable government, as well as national unity.

*Boxed lunches are available for pre-order during the online registration process.*

*Panelists include Krista Hegburg, Ph.D., Program Officer in the University Programs Division of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; Owen V. Johnson, Ph.D., Associate Professor Emeritus of Journalism and History at Indiana University; Jonathan Larson, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Iowa; Deborah Michaels, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Education at Grinnell College; Tomáš Vrba, Ph.D., currently President of the Board of Directors of the Forum 2000 Foundation and chair of the Board at Theater Archa in Prague. See [NCSML.org](http://NCSML.org) for detailed speaker biographies.*

## 1:30 pm - Guided gallery tour of *Samizdat: The Czech Art of Resistance, 1968-1989*

Join us for a tour led by Dr. Tomáš Vrba.

## 2:30 pm - Popcorn and Politics

Engage in thematic roundtable conversations facilitated by Czech Studies Workshop scholars and enjoy popcorn from The Great American Popcorn Company. Historical and contemporary topics related to politics will be covered. It is sure to be a lively conversation!



## 4:00 pm - Keynote Presentation (Free to the public, RSVPs encouraged)

### The Courage to Take Responsibility: Havel's Legacy as an Inspiration for Others, Dr. Tomáš Vrba

From playwright and critical commentator to leader of the democratic opposition – and eventually a revered statesman, Václav Havel is celebrated as one of the most important figures of the 20th century. In his keynote, Dr. Tomáš Vrba, who worked alongside Havel for the Charter 77 and for Samizdat publishing, will explore the tremendous impact of Havel's artistic and political contributions from the 1960s - 1990s from a personal perspective. Havel intuitively understood that freedom and democracy need to be defended again and again, and should not be taken for granted. Every simple attempt to forward civil society takes courage – courage to overcome fear and to actively participate in shaping political outcomes. Followed by a birthday cake reception (free).

## Keynote Speaker: Dr. Tomáš Vrba, 2016 NCSML Visiting Scholar



**Dr. Tomáš Vrba** graduated from Charles University with a Ph.D. in philosophy. A signatory of the Charter 77 human-rights declaration, Dr. Vrba worked as an editor of clandestine (samizdat) literature and was a member of the Občanské Forum (Civic Forum). Since 1990, Dr. Vrba was Editor-in-Chief of the *Lettre Internationale* quarterly (Czech and Slovak edition), founder and president of the AEJ-Association of European Journalists/ Czech section, Editor-in-Chief of the monthly magazine *Přítomnost/The New Presence*, international Vice President of the Association of European Journalists, and Chair of the Czech News Agency (ČTK) Council. He is currently President of the Board of Directors of the Forum 2000 Foundation and a lecturer at New York University, Prague.

"NCSML Forum: Participating in Democracy" is generously sponsored by the **Million Dollar Roundtable** and **Chuck & Mary Ann Peters**.

All activities are free with admission, unless otherwise marked.

Admission is free for members and students. This event is part of NCSML's Free First Saturdays for Students series, sponsored by United Fire Group, granting free admission to students preschool through college. Additionally, this event is part of Havel@80, a series of events honoring Czech President Václav Havel. More at [havel80.cz/](http://havel80.cz/).

This schedule is subject to change. Please visit [NCSML.org](http://NCSML.org) for complete details.

**HAVEL**  **80**

Knihovna Václava Havla  
Václav Havel Library Foundation  
Art for Amnesty



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