

# THE FRAMINGHAM CHESS CLUB

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A USCF AND MACA AFFILIATE

## PRESS RELEASE

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### EX-WORLD CHESS CHAMPION BORIS SPASSKY TO GIVE LECTURE AND EXHIBITION IN FRAMINGHAM

On Sunday, September 30, International Chess Grandmaster Boris Spassky will give a lecture and a simultaneous exhibition at the Framingham State College Center in Framingham. Spassky, World Chess Champion from 1969 until his defeat by Bobby Fischer in their historic 1972 match, remains today one of the world's foremost Grandmasters and one of the ten highest-ranked players of all time. Long noted for his outspoken criticism of Soviet chess authorities, Spassky plunged back into the headlines recently with his declaration that he would no longer play under the Soviet flag.

Spassky became a Grandmaster in 1955 at the age of 18, when he won back-to-back the World Junior Championship and the highly prestigious USSR Championship. In 1965 he established himself as one of the foremost players of the postwar era by brilliantly winning a series of matches to become the official challenger to the World Championship. Rebuffed in his first attempt on the title in 1966, he finally wrested it from Tigran Petrosian in 1969. Spassky also amassed an impressive portfolio of tournament victories, most notably Beverwijk in 1967 and the 2nd Piatigorsky Cup in 1966, ahead of Fischer.

After losing the World Championship to Bobby Fischer in their celebrated match in 1972, Spassky rebounded to recapture the USSR championship in 1973, and has remained a potent force on the international scene ever since. His most recent victory was in Linares, Spain, in February 1983, ahead of a powerful all-Grandmaster field that included current World Champion Anatoly Karpov. Spassky took up residence in Paris in 1976 with the permission of the Soviet authorities, continuing to play for the Soviet Union in international events. However in April, citing disagreements with the Soviet Ministry of Sport, Spassky announced that he would play for France in the International Team Tournament (Chess Olympics) this fall.

Spassky's visit on September 30 will include a two-hour lecture at 5 PM and a 25-board simultaneous exhibition at 7:30 PM. In his lecture he is expected to discuss the current chess scene, answer questions from the audience, and analyze some recent Grandmaster games. In the exhibition, 25 local players will be arranged in a large circle, and Spassky will play them all simultaneously, making his move against each as he proceeds around the circle. His opponents ponder their reply in the time it takes him to complete the circuit. Spassky's visit will conclude the 2nd Annual Framingham Open, a major regional chess tournament being held at Framingham State College on September 29-30.

Spassky is expected to hold a brief press conference prior to his lecture. For more details, contact press officer Tom Zuppa, Framingham Chess Club President, days at (617) 369-0400 or 485-9152. Prior approval required for attendance.

Spassky's tour is being co-sponsored by the Billerica Chess Club and the Framingham Chess Club.

NORFOLK-MIDDLESEX CHESS ASSOCIATION