

# SPIFFS NEWS

## Four Major SPIFFS events coming

### SPIFFS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Bill Parsons

V. P.: Henry Chipelo

Secretary: Sandy Gourdine

Treasurer: Ilse Kearney

Board Members:

Dale MacKenzie Gross

Goldy Horvatich

Cheng-Shih Hu

Donald Jackson

Zack Knezevic

Raynetta Mobley

Executive Director:

Lotta Baumann

### 1. SPIFFS Wine Tasting Fundraiser.

If you have not visited the Russian Restaurant on St. Pete Beach, this is an excellent opportunity to taste authentic Russian food.

It will also be a fundraiser for SPIFFS and give you a chance to sample a number of special wines. View details to the right.

### 2. March 3: Saturday Morning Market, downtown St. Petersburg

We will have a booth where we can promote SPIFFS, our member groups, and all of our activities. A good opportunity for recruiting new members! Please call the office to let us know which hours you can work (wear ethnic costume). Hours are 9 am to 3 pm.

### 3. March 15: Slavic Folk Dance Performance St. Petersburg College Music Center

Visiting Ukrainian Academy of Dance from Toronto, Canada, will join our Serbian and Russian dance groups in a special dance extravaganza. Bring your friends and families to this great show! The performance starts at 7 pm. There is a \$10 donation. For more information, go to page 3.

### 4. May (Date to be determined): A Taste of Asia Festival)

We are asking all our Asian member groups to participate in this one-day event to be held at the Shuffle Board Club. Please contact the office so that we can set up a planning meeting.



### A SPIFFS TASTE OF RUSSIAN WINTER A Wine-Tasting Fundraiser Friday, February 3, 2012

St. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society (SPIFFS) is inviting the community to a special winter celebration to be held at **St. Petersburg Nights** in St. Pete Beach on **Friday, February 3, 2012.**



At 7 pm, the festivities start with a sampling of a number of Eastern European wines, including wines from Moldavia, Georgia, Ukraine and Armenia. Then sample some of the restaurant's delicious Eastern European dishes from the menu for a true flavor of the area. Finish the evening by dancing in the snow under the Indoor snowfall to the music of **Boris & Sax.**



**Wine tasting:** \$5.00 donation  
**Location:** 6800 Sunset Way, St. Pete Beach

For more information, call **727-552-1896** or go to [www.spiffs.org](http://www.spiffs.org). For directions, see [www.stpetersburgnights.com](http://www.stpetersburgnights.com).

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SPIFFS People	2
Slavic Dance	3
SPIFFS Groups Activities	4
International Ball	5-6
Annual Meeting +	7

Email: [folkfair@ij.net](mailto:folkfair@ij.net)

Website: [www.spiffs.org](http://www.spiffs.org)

(727) 552-1896

**AND DON'T FORGET THE INTERNATIONAL BALL: APRIL 20! (See pages 5-6)**

## SPIFFS PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



**RoseMary Gallina** died on December 20, 2011. She and Nino Gallina were members of the original Italian group when SPIFFS was founded in 1975. She was active in the Italian group for many years, and served on the Board of Directors of SPIFFS. Her daughter Rosalie said: "Mom and Dad loved SPIFFS and believed its purpose for many, many years." She will be missed.



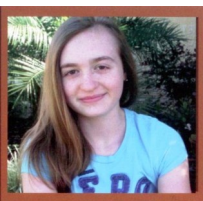
**Arda Unjian** is one of our senior statesmen in SPIFFS. He has represented the interests of Armenians and the French and more recently is part of the American Folk Arts group. At age 99 he recently renewed his commitment to SPIFFS by becoming a Friend of SPIFFS. He said that he would not be able to attend the meetings on a regular basis, but he is hoping to attend the International Ball in April. Wow!



**Jean Kozar** is another dedicated member of the original SPIFFS family who has been a part of the Ukrainian group from the very beginning. She will be celebrating her 98th Birthday this month, and she still regularly attends our SPIFFS meetings and continues to participate in our annual Folk Fairs. We wish her a Happy Birthday and "many more years" of good health and happiness.



**Shree Sundaresh** has already been a dancer for the Indian group for many years at Folk Fair. This year she organized a mini-SPIFFS cultural fair called the World F.A.I.R. (Food and Arts for International Relief) at her school (Gulf High School in Pasco County) as a fundraiser for the tsunami relief effort in Japan. It was modeled after SPIFFS and had 15 different countries - each with its own decorated booth, educational poster, souvenirs, music, activities, and free food samples. It was a great success - the teachers and students loved it and over \$900 was raised!! If you go on the school's website - [www.ghs.pasco.k12.fl.us](http://www.ghs.pasco.k12.fl.us) - you can see some pictures of the event. Shree was also named the outstanding senior at Gulf High School and for all of Pasco County this year. Congratulations Shree!



**Noelle Schneider** is a thirteen-year-old homeschooler who recently won the Young Authors Contest and had her book *Tampa Bay from A to Z* published. Noelle is an accomplished piano player and is a dancer in the **SPIFFS Portuguese folk dancing group**. She danced at the 2011 Folk Fair and signed copies of her award winning book in the Student Tent. She lives in St. Petersburg and is the granddaughter of SPIFFS Vice President Henry Chipelo. Congratulations to Noelle for many accomplishments!



## **SLAVIC FOLK DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA**

**Thursday, March 15, 2012**

**7 pm**

**St. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society** presents an evening of Ukrainian, Serbian and Russian folk dancing. St. Petersburg Serbian Pearl Folklore and Academy of Ballet Arts join visiting Ukrainian Academy Ballet of Dance from Toronto.



**St. Petersburg College Music Center,  
Gibbs Campus, 6605 5th Avenue North,  
St. Petersburg, FL 33710**

**\$10 donation. SPC community free with ID**

Co-sponsored by



For more information, call **727-552-1896** or go to  
**[www.spiffs.org](http://www.spiffs.org)**

## ***FROM OUR GROUPS***

### **February 11, 2012: Italian Valentine's Dinner Dance**

The Italian-American Society of St. Petersburg is inviting members and friends of SPIFFS to its second annual Valentine's Dinner Dance, which will take place on Saturday, February 12, at the Treasure Island Community Center, One Park Place at 106th Avenue (behind the Treasure Island Walgreen's on Gulf Boulevard). The four-piece band Pleasure led by Bobby Tess will play, there will be gentlemen host dance partners for the ladies, and door prizes will be given out along with free wine, plus a three-course meal. You may also BYOB. Hors d'oeuvres begin at 7 pm and the dinner and music begin at 7:30 pm. The buffet menu will include:

Appetizers: Veggies with Dip & Hot Stromboli

Dinner: Salad, Rolls & Butter, Pork Medallions, Tilapia, Stuffed Shells, Grilled Vegetables

Dessert: Assorted Desserts

Tickets are \$30 per person and must be purchased in advance. For information and tickets, contact Steve at 727-224-8731 or go to [www.iasosp.org](http://www.iasosp.org). PLEASE SAY THAT YOU WISH TO BE SEATED AT THE SPIFFS TABLE.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **February 11, 2012: Serbian Dance Group - 30 Years**

The Serbian member group of SPIFFS will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of its Serbian Pearl Folk Dance Group on Saturday, February 11.

A dance performance and concert will take place at John Hopkins Middle School (701 16th Street, St. Petersburg, FL 33705) at 4:30 pm. Dinner and dance will follow at the St. Sava Social Hall (530 77th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702) at 8 pm.

Admission is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door and covers both the concert and the dance. The dance only admission is \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

To purchase tickets in advance, please call 727-458-4128 or 727-278-9109.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **February 18, 2012. Russian Heritage Masquerade Ball**



Russian Heritage presents its first Masquerade Ball. It is an elegant and fun party with fine food, dancing to a live band, prizes for the best costumes and other surprises. Members of SPIFFS who come in costume (including ethnic dress with masks) will receive tickets at the discounted price for RH Members. For details, visit the Russian Heritage website at [www.russianheritage.org](http://www.russianheritage.org), or call 727-867-9148.

**SPIFFS 2012**  
**Annual International Ball**

**Friday, April 20, 2012 at 7:00 pm**

**Treasure Island Community Center**

**One Park Place at 106th Avenue, Treasure Island, FL**

**Menu**

**Medallions of Beef, Marchand de Vin**

**Chicken Breast à la Orange Blossom**

**Oven Browned Potatoes**

**Seasonal Vegetable Medley**

**Greek Salad**

**Marinated tomatoes with Fresh Basil**

**Chocolate Raspberry Cake**

**Assorted Fruit Pies**

**Dinner Rolls, Coffee & Iced Tea**

**Wine Cash Bar**

**Dancing to Bobby Tess and his Four-Piece Band**

**Raffle, Silent Auction**

**Dress: Ethnic or Semi Formal**

**Tickets: General: \$35.00**

**Youth (21): \$15**

**Under 12: \$10**

**For tickets, call SPIFFS Office - (727) 552-1896**

*We want to honor members of our own groups who have made a significant contribution to the local group and to SPIFFS, or representatives of our ethnicity in the wider community who deserve recognition.*

## **SPIFFS ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL BALL 2012 PERSON OF THE YEAR**

Dear Members:

Please nominate your Person of The Year for the International Ball to take place on Friday, April 20, 2012. This year's ball will be held at the **Treasure Island Community Center, One Park Place @ 106th Avenue, Treasure Island, FL 33706.**

**MEMBER GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSON OF THE YEAR/NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

A short description why this person was chosen for Person of the Year: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**AMBASSADOR/NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name only needed. The Ambassador will be the escort for the Person of the Year.

Please return this to the office by March 20, 2012, to allow the office enough time to input the data needed for the Program Souvenir Book.

Your prompt response is greatly appreciated.

330 5th Street North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
727-552-1896 Phone  
727-552-1781 Fax

## April 24: Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

Our next meeting of the General Assembly will be held on Tuesday, April 24 at 7:30 pm in the Ballroom of the Sunshine Center. The terms of all of the officers and several of the board members will be ending in April, so there will be opportunities for people committed to SPIFFS to step forward and lead the organization into the future. We know that there will be at least one group joining SPIFFS, and possibly one or two additional new members. We expect that all our current members will be thinking about how we can make our 38th Annual Folk Fair in November an exciting and memorable event.

We have been organizing committees to help in carrying on the business of SPIFFS and to assist the officers, board members, and executive director in their duties. We need representatives of all groups to be a part of this effort. Give some thought to members of your group who would be able to make a contribution to this effort.

We have a **Web Site Committee** that will be giving a new look to our on-line presence, and we are now developing a network of friends on Facebook. If you have interests in this area, please contact the SPIFFS office. And do take a look at our web site at [www.spiffs.org](http://www.spiffs.org) to see the changes that are taking place. We hope that we can connect to your web sites and/or give you a chance to place material on our web site in an effort to reach out to people who will be interested in SPIFFS and our member groups.

A **Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee** is also beginning to work on plans for the Folk Fair and for the general operations of SPIFFS. Maybe you have persons in your group who might have ideas for this group, or individuals who might be willing to serve on this committee. In the past we have worked hard in these areas, but with additional people with good ideas and contacts involved, we can likely do even better.

We have been trying to establish a **Membership Committee**, and we do have groups that are seeking information about how to become involved with SPIFFS and the Folk Fair. We need to develop a group of interested individuals who can work on ways that SPIFFS can help our own member groups to prosper and to attract new ethnic groups to our organization.

Let's look at the events coming up and make an effort to support the initiatives set before us. Let's make the International Ball a particularly positive event for our groups and for SPIFFS as a whole. We can only move forward in a positive way with the support of our groups and the individuals in our groups. Where do you think you can make the greatest contribution to the cause?

Bill Parsons,  
President of SPIFFS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS DONATES TO VICTIMS OF DISASTERS

At a recent meeting the Board of Directors, it was decided to make a donation from SPIFFS to relief efforts for natural disasters in countries represented in our member groups. In the past we have collected money for relief efforts in Haiti and Japan. Our decision this time was to make a modest donation to those suffering from the flooding in Thailand and the earthquakes in Turkey. If other groups or individuals are interested in participating in this effort, we recommend that you do so directly to charities you trust, or through SPIFFS. We have made our donations through the Red Cross and the Red Crescent organizations.