

# GOOD Vibrations

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE PIANO TECHNICIAN'S GUILD, INC.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Patricia Selemon, RPT*

Hello Members!

Let's continue our discussion on the vision and viability of the Rhode Island Chapter at the April meeting.

Wrapping up my two year stint as President I see planning chapter meetings is a bit of an art form. Who to hire as a speaker, who wishes to hear that speaker, who comes to socialize, to eat and drink. Projects instead of speakers require tools, and space.

Meetings won't necessarily change a life but if they are enjoyable and contain some info or business connection to take home then it's worthwhile.

Disbanding and driving to Boston or Connecticut to attend meetings means even fewer of us will attend any meetings.

I wouldn't hurt to have fresh faces in high places!

Pat

## APRIL MEETING - Boaz Kirschenbaum

Boaz will present a talk about his experiences working as a technician at Steinway NY and Hamburg. There will be slide photos of the Hamburg factory, and he will also demonstrate some of the specialized tools and jigs used at the Steinway factories. In addition to the slide presentation, he would like to share a few tips for action & damper regulation, action restoration, appraisals, and voicing, as well as talk about a few memorable retail, institutional, and C&A experiences.

APRIL 2007

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## Business Mtg

&

## Technical

April 19, 2007

7:00 pm

Meeting at

Avery Piano Co.  
256 Weybosset St.  
Providence, RI

Remember to join us for dinner  
5:15 Trinity Brew House before the  
meeting. Trinity Brew House is at  
186 Fountain Street on the corner  
of Empire Street.

## Mason & Hamlin Factory Tour

The Rhode Island chapter has been invited to a tour of the Mason & Hamlin Factory in Haverhill MA. The tour will be on May 23 starting at 9am at the factory. There will be an elevator for those who can not climb stairs.

Mason & Hamlin Factory  
35 Duncan St, Haverhill, MA 01830  
Phone: (978) 374-8888  
On the web at: [www.masonhamlin.com](http://www.masonhamlin.com)

Please RSVP to Ruth Van Dine by May 17<sup>th</sup>.



**Registration is now open.** The fee for PTG members—through May 15—is only \$399. Register on line at [www.ptg.org/conv/2007](http://www.ptg.org/conv/2007)

**Associates!** A great way to get registration for the Convention:

Become an RPT. Anyone who has become an RPT since last year’s convention automatically receives a complimentary free registration. Check the new RPT box on your registration form or type in “comp” on your online form.

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### Newsletter

Ruth Van Dine  
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Free to R.I. Chapter members, certain National PTG officers, and reciprocally to other newsletter editors. Non-members may subscribe for \$8.00 per year.

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**Refreshment Designator:** Joyce Gindra

### Tid Bits.....

“When she started to play, Steinway himself came down personally and rubbed his name off the piano.”

— Bob Hope on comedian  
Phyllis Diller

## Technical Meeting held at Avery's Piano on 3-15-07

By Arthur Sacco, Jr.

Many times in the last few years I've passed a gentlemen working at his desk, as I would take the elevator to our meetings at Avery's Piano. The friendly smile and a big hello were always present to make you feel welcome.

Our technical meeting was presented by this individual, Joe Luka. Joe is part owner of Avery's Piano and his technical covered the relationship between the storeowner, customer and piano technician.

Joe explained the importance of educating the customer upon purchasing a piano and of that piano's warranty. He explained what is covered and what is not and how best to care for their instrument. He always recommends the installation of the Damp-Chaser system. He reviewed warranties by companies and the best way to handle warranty issues that come up.

He went on to explain that as a customer calls regarding a piano concern, we need to address that concern and start by asking questions to pinpoint the areas that need to be addressed. It was explained that the first month of ownership would appear to be the most difficult, as everyone gets used to playing the new instrument.

Joe addressed the new crated pianos coming into the store and how they process them. He went on to talk about trade-in values of used instruments and what to take into consideration upon evaluating them.

He ended the evening explaining, in his opinion, how electronic pianos fit into the future of piano sales.

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## Harvesting the PSO

—Thanks to Jon Page, Boston Chapter

- The lid makes a nice key-transporter in the shop.
- The fallboard, turned over, is a rack for hammers and wippens.
- Definitely save the brass knobs and the music rack risers.
- The key slip is a straight-edge or hammer shank/tail support for voicing.
- The action (how much storage room do you have?)
- The keys could be a candidate for onlay-transplant. This is where you cut the key stick off at the end of the key top. Then slice ~1/4" below the top on a band saw (leaving front is optional) leaving a top with a slat of wood. This can now be glued to key sticks which were undercut with fingernails as a one-piece onlay/keytop. Granted, key width is a factor, but it is doable.
- The balance rail could be attached to the wall over the bench and used as a tool rack.
- The scrap keys are plug stock.
- The capstans can come in handy if they are not the square variety.
- Pedals
- Music rack (there's always one broken somewhere)
- Legs (matching pairs are great to have on hand)
- The bottom board/knee panel is a portable work table. I use one from a salvaged Rippen because it is thinner than most. This is used when working on a grand action in the field. Pad the lid, place the panel on top; now you have a solid surface to work and it is easy to spin the action around to get at the back end.

Ruth Van Dine  
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Rhode Island Chapter  
[www.RI-PTG.org](http://www.RI-PTG.org)



**April 19th**

**Boaz Kirschenbaum - working at Steinway NYC & Germany**

***Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference - April 19-22, 2007 King-of-Prussia, PA***  
**[www.ptgmarc.org](http://www.ptgmarc.org)**

***Mason & Hamlin Factory Tour, Haverhill MA - May 23 9am***



**Rhode Island Chapter**  
**[www.RI-PTG.org](http://www.RI-PTG.org)**

***Annual PTG Convention & Technical Institute***  
**June 20 - 24, 2007 Kansas City**  
**Come for the Learning! Stay for the fun!**  
**[www.ptg.org/conv/2007](http://www.ptg.org/conv/2007)**