

GOOD VIBRATIONS

JUNE 2011

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BUSINESS TG & TECHNICAL:

- June 16, 2011
- 6:30pm at Ruth Van Dine's home, 62 Stokes St Warwick, RI 401-921-2456
- 5:00pm Picnic at Ruth's home

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

BOAZ KIRSCHENBAUM, RPT

Thank you to our Chapter for electing me as your new Chapter President. I have been encouraged to serve since I became an RPT. I am very enthused about my duties. I look forward to serving our members in a detail-oriented fashion. I trust that our new Chapter Officers will also fulfill each of his duties with enthusiasm and thoroughness. I recognize that serving as President is a privilege. Although I have not been a Chapter Officer since 2006 (I was Secretary of Boston PTG), I have a lot of organiza-

tional experience and I have managed piano workshops before. We have a small chapter and I am open to suggestions and critiques from all of you.

My goals for my term: to continue to run efficient and interesting meetings; schedule educational and useful Technicals; co-edit the Newsletter with Ruth Van Dine; find new and tasty eateries for our social hours; and finally, help organize a great Chapter Party on the Vineyard!

JUNE MEETING – HAMMER HANGING PROCEDURES USING WESSELL, NICKEL AND GROSS COMPOSITE SHANKS

— MICHAEL COLLINS, WNG REPRESENTATIVE

Hammers are easy to install on composite shanks. There are some important differences. If you can glue hammers on wooden shanks you are 90% there. You will leave this class able to glue hammers on composite shanks with confidence.

Topics in the class include:

- Basic installation
- Basic hammer preparation
- Traveling
- Gluing (With CA glue)
- Shank trimming
- Back of hammer machining
- Shop safety

DIRECTIONS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 16TH MEETING:

Meeting 6:30pm—note the different time !!!

Directions to Ruth's piano shop & home: 62 Stokes Street, Warwick, RI

Phone: (401) 921-2456

Google Maps: <http://tinyurl.com/es4xs>

Rte-95. Exit-13 for TF Green Airport, Warwick RI. 2nd Exit (just before airport) onto Rte 1 - Post Road.

Turn Left under overpass, go .7 mile.

Turn Right at Mobil station onto Airport Road, go 1.5 mile. (This road goes thru the north end of airport.)

At big intersection, continue straight onto West Shore Road, Rte 117 (not 117A). Dave's Supermarket was on your right, Walgreen's was across the intersection on the left.

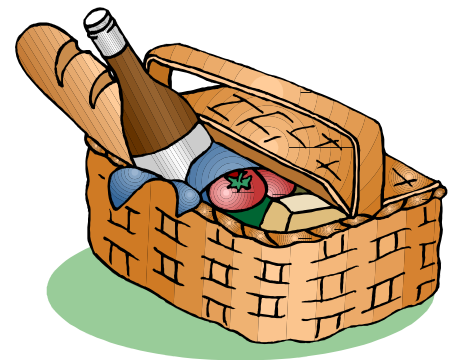
Go 1.9 miles, (2 flashing lights & 1 traffic light) thru Conimicut village.

Turn Left on the far side of the Valero gas station onto Stokes St.

#62 is a 2-story Tan house with blue door and shutters on Right a few houses down. It is across the street from a single story brick building (the Avalon Nursing Home).

Dinner 5:00pm—note the different time !!!

Picnic @ Ruth's home — all food provided.



ONLY 2 BYLAWS PROPOSALS IN PTG COUNCIL AGENDA BOOK—BY WADE JOHNSON, RPT

The agenda book for PTG's annual meeting of Council, July 11-12 in Kansas City, contains only two proposals for changes in the national Bylaws. This is far less than usual...Ten or twelve is more typical.

In addition to appearing in the book, these proposals are featured in a PTJournal Supplement mailed in recent days to all PTG members – so you have them. Proposal 1 is a "housekeeping" change suggested by the PTG Foundation, and says that when a Chapter dissolves, it "may" mail its check for any leftover funds to the PTG Foundation. The Bylaws now say they "shall" pay it to the Steve Jellen Memorial Library (which no longer has a bank account). The PTG Bylaws Committee and Board recommend adoption.

Bylaws Proposal 2 is an attempt by the Los Angeles Chapter to create a new annual award in the name of LaRoy Edwards of Yamaha "Little Red Schoolhouse" fame. The PTG Bylaws Committee and Board are recommending defeat of this proposal because they feel it would have the unintended consequence of diminishing the many honors already conferred on LaRoy over the years. (I'm not sure I agree.)

Continued next page.....

PTG Council Book Cont.

Your Supplement also includes a Secretary-Treasurer's report and budget, including a recommendation (by the Board) for another \$20 increase in PTG annual dues for 2012, in keeping with their policy to work toward a fully dues-supported organization instead of one partially subsidized by income from the Annual Convention and other sources. This would bring the national dues to \$255 per person per year.

Getting back to the Council Book (which will be available at the next Chapter meeting), it has reports from all the officers and the executive director, and committee reports (a few missing). I found the Nominating Committee report (Jack Stebbins, Chair) of interest because it includes two nominations for Vice-President (Chris Solliday, and Laura Olsen). I'm pleased that the Committee unanimously recommends Chris Solliday...He's committed to a needed strengthening of the Guild's exam program for RPTs.

The only other office for which the Nominating Committee received more than one nomination was the Northeast Regional Vice-President (NERVP): Ruth Van Dine and Paul Adams. Paul is completing his second year as NERVP, so he'd need a two-thirds majority vote in the Northeast regional Caucus on the first day of Council to get re-elected, whereas Ruth will need only a simple majority vote. Let's hope she makes it!

The executive director's report indicates the Guild's financial health is remarkably good.

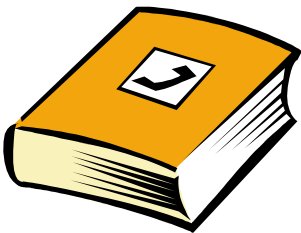
MOST BUSINESS OWNERS AGREE: YELLOW BOOKS ARE IRRELEVANT—YELP WEBSITE

Last month, we presented a survey to gauge how business owners feel about yellow page phone books in the digital age. **Only 24% of our 3,500+ respondents said "Yes" to the question, "Are yellow page phone books still relevant?"**

That's quite a find. Here are some others:

1) Most business owners don't think yellow page phone books are useful to them:
"Yellow page phone books are useful to me as a business owner."

Agree - 11% . Somewhat Agree - 17% . Somewhat Disagree - 19% . Disagree - 52%.



2) Only about 10% of business owners use yellow page phone books more than once per month; 3 out of 4 don't use it at all:

How many times per month do you rely on a yellow page phone book to find a local business?

"Zero" - 75% . "Once" - 14% . Between two and four times" - 8%

"Five or more times" - 3%

3) Very few business owners believe customers find them using a yellow page phone book.

Estimated percentage of customers who find me using a yellow page phone book.

"0%" - 43% . "1-25%" - 47% . "26-50%" - 5% . "51-75%" - 3% . "76-99%" - 1% . "100%" - 0.1%

The conclusion: Business owners have clearly observed the shrinking relevance of yellow page phone books. As we continue to move away from printed phone books, online and mobile directories will continue to grow as the customer's choice for local business information.

MEMBER BIO – BOAZ KIRSCHENBAUM, RPTWWW.CHERRYTREEPIANO.COM

I live with my wife Sakiko and our three-year-old son Cassidy year-round on the island of Martha's Vineyard, next to a sheep farm. In addition to my piano practice and workshop on the Vineyard, I travel regularly to Nantucket & Woods Hole to service pianos.

I was born in Rockland County, New York, in 1974, but moved to Nantucket at a very young age. My father was a former CEO and part-time writer who also did cabinet-making and boat restoration. Later he switched to television production and then a boat business in Maine. My dad was once part of the "straight world" but encouraged me to leave that as I grew older. I also inherited my father's natural sense of curiosity and a love of engineering. My mother instilled in me the value of community service and of working hard. These values are essential to my success as a piano technician. Being such interesting people, my parents have always encouraged my path as a musician and then as a piano man.



I was educated at the New England Conservatory of Music and the Conservatory of Music at McGill University from 1991 to 1995. My field of study was jazz performance (electric guitar). However, a few years ago I taught myself fretless electric bass, which is now my main instrument. I am also a self-taught jazz piano player though I hesitate to call myself a pianist.

After a period of odd jobs and living as a starving musician, I attended the North Bennet Street School from 2001-2003. During that time I learned from some of the area's top technicians, including mentors David Betts, Christine Lovgren, Fredrick Mudge, and Jude Reveley. I have been a member of the PTG since 2001 and an RPT since 2004.

Upon graduation I immediately started work at Steinway Hall in New York City as a technician. After my initial six-month apprenticeship with chief training technician Aleks Markovich, I continued my training with concert technicians Ron Coners and Eric Schandall. Following my tenure at Steinway Hall, I worked as a concert technician and workshop manager for the Steinway dealer in Sydney, Australia, where I honed my rebuilding and voicing skills. That position led to a special opportunity to travel to Germany to receive factory training in the Concert Academy at Steinway Hamburg.

In 2006 I decided to move back to the United States and start my own practice. I am just not cut out to be an employee or a company man! Although I occasionally miss the collegial atmosphere at Steinway & Sons, I prefer working in the more relaxed pace of the country life.

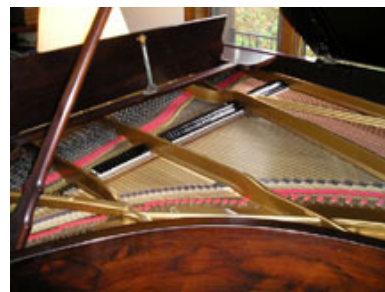
I am grateful that I can continue my work as a concert technician and piano rebuilder, with a specialty in action work. I also achieved another career goal: I recently completed training in Stanwood Precision Touch Design with David Stanwood, RPT.

PIANOS FOR SALE



FOR SALE: Steinway Model I, called a "Monitor." Unique 7' grand, one of only 7 of this model made. Rosewood veneer, built in 1873, fully rebuilt and refinished by Acousticraft, Inc. in 2008. Has contemporary legs and lyre as originals are missing. Priced at \$57,000. More photos available.

Contact David Flanders, RPT, at 401-792-3245, or flanderspiano@verizon.net.



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HOW PIANO WIRES CHANGED THROUGH CENTURIES

BY MARIANNE ENGLISH, MAY 20, 2011 DISCOVERY NEWS

While piano wire has changed over the centuries from iron to steel of varying qualities, researchers were surprised to find that the sound produced by the instruments' wires has remained largely unchanged.

After studying the sounds of four pianos crafted between 1815 and 1912, two with music wire made of iron and two composed of steel, physics professor Nicholas Giordano discovered the pianos had similar harmonics with predictable ranges of notes – despite using different metals, string tensions and diameters.

His findings, which will be presented at the Acoustical Society of America's meeting this month, show how piano designers have always had to strike a balance between increasing the tension of the wires (which requires wire of greater tensile strength or a larger diameter) and achieving a good tone quality (which requires a small string diameter).

During the piano's genesis in the early 1700s, iron was used to make music wire, but the material's tension and strength limited its ability to produce loud sound, Giordano said. As metallurgy practices improved by the 1850s, it became easier to make music wire out of steel, and by the 1880s music wire steel was nearly identical to what's still in pianos today.

Findings aside, Giordano said he still thinks musical tastes are subjective.

"You ask what does it mean when two notes sound good to a person," he said. "Then, you're getting into psychoacoustics, and that's a topic that gets a lot fuzzier."

Others working with pianos on a daily basis hold different views about music wire, said craftsman and piano builder Arno Patin, who owns a piano business in Ann Arbor, Mich. In addition to tension and stiffness, he said music wire's stress rate is an equal, if not more critical parameter.

Even with math models and calculations, there will never be an "ideal string" because of the physical parameters inherent to the piano, Patin said. He also believes that pianos are far too complex to generalize about the execution of design.

"It's not one note," he said. "It's 88 notes that have to be beautiful."

Tid Bit —

"Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it."

- Henry David Thoreau



RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER, PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING

Date/Time/Location:

Thursday, May 19, 2011, 7:00 PM – Piano Gallery, 238 East Main Rd. Middletown, RI 02842

Present: Pat Selemon, RPT, Tom Roy, RPT, Paul Dumont, RPT, Ruth Van Dine, RPT, Boaz Kirschenbaum, RPT, Barbara Renner, RPT, Larry Brown, Joel Levine, John Harris, Dave Dragone, associates. Guest: Jack Renner

Call to order: 7:05 PM

Minutes for April 2011 meeting were approved after a motion was made and seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer reported in absentia through Ruth that he had received a check for chapter dues and will deposit the check, along with filing the proper paperwork for chapter non-profit status.

Unfinished Business: Council book has arrived, and chapter should be aware of officers running for National and regional offices.

New Business:

Tom Roy brought down a new action model that has come in for Chapter Technical exam use.

Ballots for Rhode Island Chapter officers were tabulated and results announced. They were:

President: Boaz Kirchenbaum, RPT VP – Paul Dumont, RPT Secretary – Dave Dragone, Associate
Treasurer – Mike Shaw, Associate

Good of the Order:

Boaz opened up the possibility of purchasing “The Voice of the Piano”, by Andre Ooerbeeck. After some discussion, a motion was made and then seconded to purchase this book, along with the newest Steinway service manual CD ROM, which includes Hamburg models. Total cost for both volumes is \$90 and \$35 respectively, plus shipping. David Dragone will contact Mike Shaw about ordering these books.

Adjournment: 7:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Dragone, Secretary



GOOD VIBRATIONS

Newsletter Editor:
Ruth Van Dine, RPT
62 Stokes St
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“All expressions of opinion and all statements of supposed facts are published on the authority of the editor as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the views of this chapter or the Piano Technicians Guild unless statements or opinions have been adopted by the Chapter or the Guild.”

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- **June 16th** – Wessell Nickel & Gross high performance piano parts - Michael Collins @ Ruth Van Dine’s Home, Warwick RI - Picnic provided



- **July 13–17** 54th PTG Convention & Technical Institute, Kansas City, MO www.convention.ptg.org
- **July & August** – No chapter meetings

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

CHAPTER INFORMATION:

CHAPTER OFFICERS / EXECUTIVE BOARD

President.....Boaz Kirschenbaum, RPT
Vice President.....Paul Dumont, RPT
Immediate Past President...Ruth Van Dine, RPT
Treasurer.....Michael Shaw
Secretary.....David Dragone
By-Laws: Wade Johnson, RPT & David Flanders, RPT
Examining & Testing Committee: David Flanders, RPT (chair), Tom Roy, RPT & Patricia Selemon, RPT
Librarian: Joel Levine
Newsletter: Ruth Van Dine, RPT & Boaz Kirschenbaum, RPT
Publicity and Public Relations: Executive Board
Technical: Joel Levine, David Stanwood, RPT & Larry Brown

Newsletter: 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.

Advertising: Free to members, non-members \$20; three months listing in this newsletter and on our website.



Rhode Island Chapter