

GOOD VIBRATIONS

OCTOBER 2010

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RUTH VAN DINE, RPT

Fall is a time of changing both in nature and with our friends. We say a sad goodbye to our good friend and fellow chapter member, Nooni Baligian, RPT as he makes his new home in Florida near his son. He will remain a member with us, just will not be attending meetings given the travel distance.

On another sad note, we have lost two icons of our industry. We received email notice that Susan Graham, RPT, was tragically killed when her scooter hydroplaned and crashed on September 28th.

And Webb Phillips, RPT founder of Allied Piano, passed away peacefully in his sleep on August 12 at his Nursing Home, where he had resided for the past year and a half. He was 83 years old. His wife Ruth, President of Allied Piano, and friends were at his side.

We will miss seeing their smiling faces. Our meeting this month is at a new shop for us, looks like a good time and looking forward to seeing you there.

Ruth

BUSINESS MTG & TECHNICAL:

- Oct 21, 2010
- 7pm at Paul Dumont's shop, 601 Mineral Springs Ave, Pawtucket, RI 401-433-1269
- 5:30pm Garden Grille 727 East Ave, Pawtucket, RI 401-726-2826

OCTOBER MEETING—VERTICAL REGULATION OF THE GRAND PIANO - CHRIS BROWN, RPT

Chris Brown, RPT of the Boston Chapter PTG will present his class entitled "Vertical Regulation of the Grand Piano". Things that stand or move vertically are in their greatest strength and stability when perfectly opposing gravity. Any deviation erodes that strength and stability. An ideal scenario in a grand piano would be a flat horizontal keybed, with a perfectly bedded keyframe, and a topstack with parts all in correct alignment while vertical in their travel and positioning, particularly at strike. Add to this strings leveled parallel to the keybed along the strike line and a perfect hammer-to-string fitting for each hammer, with no over-lifted strings. Chris will bring his Regulation Station tools to help demonstrate, calibrate, and mitigate that gathering of approximations found in a real-world grand action.

DIRECTIONS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21TH MEETING:

Meeting 7pm: Directions to Paul Dumont's piano shop : 601 Mineral Springs Ave, Pawtucket RI

Phone: (401) 433-1269

From South: Rte-95 north from Providence to EXIT 26 toward RI-122 / LONSDALE AVE. , Turn LEFT, north onto LONSDALE AVE / RI-122. (0.4 mi), Turn LEFT onto MINERAL SPRING AVE / RI-15. (0.5 mi)

From North: Rte-95 south from Mass to EXIT 27 toward RI-15 onto CEDAR ST. (0.3 mi), Turn LEFT onto MAIN ST. go 0.4 mi, Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto LONSDALE AVE / RI-122. (0.4 mi), Turn LEFT onto MINERAL SPRING AVE / RI-15. (0.5 mi)

601 Mineral Spring Ave. Pawtucket RI is in the Providence Metalizing Building. Parking is in the front of or to the left of the building. Shop is located on the 4th floor. Elevator is available for anyone who would need it.

Dinner 5:30pm: Garden Grille 727 East Ave, Pawtucket RI Phone (401) 726-2826

Rte-95 north from Providence to EXIT 26 toward RI-122 / LONSDALE AVE. , Turn SHARP RIGHT, south onto MAIN ST / RI-122. (0.6 mi,) Turn LEFT onto CARVER ST. (0.2 mi), Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto PIDGE AVE. (0.3 mi) to East Ave, 727 EAST AVE. on corner of Pidge Ave.

TECH TIP

By David Flanders, RPT

I've been installing Damp-Chaser systems since 1979, and have seen all of the permutations of the system: the old brown humidistat's, the metal humidifier brackets that would finally rust apart, the humidifier diode that couldn't handle the new blinking orange light - all of it. What I'm seeing now, and what I'm calling your attention to, regards the original grand humidifier tank - the wide one, that was produced into the LED-panel era that we're in now. I've noticed on three tanks now that the screws holding the hanger brackets to the tank are becoming significantly corroded; in one case, the tank was now hanging by just three brackets.

The corrosion is a whitish build-up that looks and smells like the build-up on an old battery terminal. I don't know if this is an electrolysis problem, such as can happen on a boat when two different metals come into contact with each other; but I ordered a set of new plastic brackets, and after the 3rd tank presented itself, I ordered a half-dozen more sets, ready for the next time I change pads and see the white build-up.

Tid Bit —

“Wisdom comes with applying your skills. ”

- Allan Gilreath, RPT

PTG EXAM OFFER — ASSOCIATES

By David Flanders, RPT

Associate members of Our Chapter: From September 1st 2010 through August 31st 2011, the Chapter will pay *one half* of the technical and/or tuning exam fees. A savings of \$90 for each exam.

NOONI BALIGIAN MOVING TO FLORIDA - OCT 12TH



All the best on your next adventure!

Nooni's new address will be: Agnooni C. Baligian, Good Samaritan Society
1471 Sungate Drive, Apt. 308, Kissimmee, Florida 34746

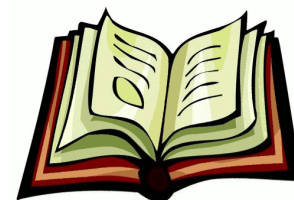
CHAPTER LIBRARY

- Joel Levine, Librarian

RULES

1. Contact the librarian to borrow any materials.
2. Materials will be loaned for a three-month period, to chapter members only.
3. Loans can be extended for an additional three months, for a total of six months at a time, as long as no one else is waiting for the materials.
4. A "waiting list" will be kept by the librarian for materials already on loan.
5. The PTG member that wishes to check out any materials bears the cost of shipment.
6. The PTG member also bears the cost of any damaged or destroyed materials.
7. Materials can be checked out at any PTG meeting; otherwise the items will be mailed, unless other arrangements are made.

"The Technical Exam Source Book"	by The Piano Technicians Guild
"The Tuning Examination Source Book"	by The Piano Technicians Guild
"The Educated Piano"	by E.J. McMorrow, R.T.T.
"Pianos and their Makers"	by Alfred Dolge
"Steinway Regulation"	by F.R. Dietz
"The Equal-Beating Temperaments"	by Owen Jorgensen
"But You Can Feel It"	by Emil B. Fries
"Temperament"	by Stuart Isacoff
"My Life with the Great Pianists"	by Franz Mohr
"Country Piano Tuner"	by Howard N. Chase
"So You Want A Piano"	by Paul D. Lynn, RPT
"The Art of Wood Finishing"	by H. Behlen & Bro., Inc.
"The Beginner's Workshop"	by Ian Bradley
"The Making of a Kawai Grand Piano"	by Kawai (video)
"Yamaha 37 Step Video"	by Yamaha (video)
Miracle in a box – a piano reborn"	(DVD)
"A Guide to Restringing"	by John W Travis
"Under the Lid"	by Steve Brady – coming soon –



SEPTEMBER'S TECHNICAL

By David Flanders, RPT

September's technical, presented by President Ruth, was created and originally presented by Ward Guthrie, RPT, from the Montana Chapter. Its title, "Definition of Old Uprights? Money!", adequately illustrates the focus of the presentation.

In Section II of Ward's outline, he asks "Musically, are most old uprights worth repairing?" This question is at the heart of the presentation. We are talking about pianos that are at least 80 years old, and most likely have not seen any regular maintenance in that time.

To help us through this process, Ruth had an old upright in her shop, which she used, via PowerPoint, as an example, per Ward's outline, for evaluating the piano and pricing out the work. This particular piano had 5 tuning pins, in the same row, which had insufficient purchase to hold pitch. Other pins had been driven in to the hilt, and had corroded string coils. We were told that there were some side-bearing bridge cracks beginning to show; the action was completely worn to the point of needing a complete rebuilding job.

Ruth then showed us her work sheet, where she had priced out the necessary work, and came out with 2 figures, \$4,200 and \$20,000, if I'm remembering correctly (I wasn't taking notes). After all of this work, we would still have an 80-100-year-old piano, albeit a very expensive one.

The class discussion discussed various circumstances in which such extensive and expensive work on such a dubious piano would be warranted. One example came up more than once: grandma's piano and its overriding sentimental value. That was it, and it could represent a good 1% of all the old uprights that piano technicians encounter. At the end, Ruth assessed her priced quote estimate as not worth pursuing.

As a bonus, we also got some tips on what to wear on the job, and when we should trade in our vehicles. Thanks to Ruth for coming up with the technical on such short notice.

PIANOS FOR SALE

1996 Kawai GM-1 baby grand. 5', gloss black, has been played very little (which is why it's for sale). Has been humidity-controlled since new, and has been serviced regularly by a qualified RPT since new. Valued between \$8,000 and \$9,000, price is negotiable. Contact Marie Pamental, 295-5885.



Kimball console with Mahogany finish and matching padded bench. Circa 1971 in very good condition. Call Ruth Van Dine 401-921-2456 or email Ruth@VanDineDesign.com if interested. \$600

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

Date/Time: September 16, 2010 – 7:00 PM

Place: The home of Ruth and Gary Van Dine, 62 Stokes St., Warwick, RI

Present: David Flanders, RPT, Pat Selemon, RPT, Paul Dumont, RPT, Ruth Van Dine, RPT,
Joel Levine, Mike Shaw, Dave Dragone, guests Kevin MacLellan and Gary Van Dine.

Call To Order: 7:05 PM

A Quorum was established and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved without discussion.

Reports of officers:

Treasurer: Balances for the chapter's two accounts ending August 31, 2010 were reported to be \$5,660.01 in the checking account and \$3,209.24 in the savings account. There followed some general discussion as to putting most of the funds in the checking into savings to obtain a better interest rate.

Standing Committee Reports: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

New Committees

Technical: Joel Levine, John Harris, Larry Brown, and Boaz Kirschenbaum, RPT

Nominating: Joe Loiselle, RPT, Barbara Renner, RPT, and Paul Dumont, RPT.

Discount for associate RI Chapter PTG members – It was formally proposed that associates

be able to take any and all of the RPT exams for \$90 each rather than the current price of \$180 and that the offer would be good for one year, expiring August 31, 2011. After some discussion, it was determined that an associate could retake an exam under this offer multiple times. It was also decided that this program would be put in place and did not require a formal vote.

David Flanders mentioned the concept of an Associates day to be directed by chapter RPT's sometime during the slower winter period in order to provide a mock testing environment and learning tool for those associates wanting to move forward with testing. There was agreement that this would be a good idea.

Ruth Van Dine mentioned Chapter Grants being available for marketing the chapter in various ways that would be beneficial to the chapter and its members.

Library Requests

Under the Lid, by Steve Brady – order now

The Voice of the Piano, by Andre Oorebeek – order at later date

Announcements/Good of the Order: None

Adjournment: - 7:14

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Dragone

Secretary



GOOD VIBRATIONS

Newsletter Editor:

Ruth Van Dine, RPT
62 Stokes St
Warwick, RI 02889

“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:

- **October 21st – Vertical Regulation of the Grand Action – Chris Brown, RPT**
@ Paul Dumont’s shop, 601 Mineral Spring Ave, Pawtucket, RI
- **November 18th – Eric Johnson @ Piano Gallery, Middletown, RI**
- **December & January – no meetings**

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

CHAPTER INFORMATION:

CHAPTER OFFICERS / EXECUTIVE BOARD

President.....Ruth Van Dine, RPT
Vice President.....David Flanders, RPT
Immediate Past President...Wade Johnson, 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
Nominating: Barbara Renner, RPT, Joe Loiselle, RPT, & Paul Dumont, RPT
Publicity and Public Relations: Executive Board
Technical: Joel Levine, Boaz Kirschenbaum, RPT, Larry Brown, & John Harris

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