



March | April  
2023



# Italia

NEWSLETTER of the ITALIAN WORKMEN'S CLUB

914 Regent Street • Madison, Wisconsin 53715

IWC President John Caliva, (608) 225-2206, Membership Secretary Dan Dyer (608) 217-1023,  
Italia Editor Staff – IWC Phone: (608) 258-1880 – [www.iwcmadison.com](http://www.iwcmadison.com)

## President's Message



As we've now firmly stepped into 2023 I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and say thank you for

being a part of the IWC and helping celebrate and create new Italian traditions.

As your new club president and longtime member many of you already know me. I was born and raised here in the Greenbush and lived in the Madison area for many years before retiring to Florida with my late wife Camilla. We enjoyed spending time with my father, John J. Caliva Jr; a IWC corresponding secretary for many years as well as president in 1961. Now, many years after returning to the Madison area to be closer to family, I am honored to be your president and cannot wait to work alongside all of you in celebrating our heritage.

As you know, I am new to this position and welcome your input, ideas

and feedback. In working together we can continue to be a prominent part of the community and put on amazing events, not limited to Festa Italia this summer.

Speaking of Festa, I know it may seem like a far off date but the first week of June will be here before we know it! Preparations are already under way and we need your help. Please give thought on how you are able to help this year. We will have volunteer opportunities and sign up lists at our monthly meeting between now and then. From bottling wine with Todd to dropping off flyers at local businesses. Every little bit helps!

A huge thank you to the members that are able to join us each month at the clubhouse for our meeting and meal. Please reach out if you are able to join us a bit earlier to assist with set up and

meal prep, or light cleanup afterwards. Together, I hope to take our meetings from just another item on your calendar to something everyone truly looks forward to each month. If you have never joined us, or haven't in a while, I invite you to please come and enjoy!

As I've said before THANK YOU! Without our committee leaders and members the club would not function. Thank you for putting your trust in me as your new leader and I hope to make you proud to be Italian!!

Grazi, John A. Caliva ■■



## IWC Social Calendar (as of 2/1/2023)

January

No events

February

No events

March

No events

April 1-2

International Festival\*

April 9

Easter

April 22

Italian Trivia

May 29

Memorial Day

June 2-4

Festa Italia

July 4

Fourth of July

July 15

Bus Tour Italian Clubs

August 13

IWC Picnic\*

September 4

Labor Day

September 17

Sauce Tasting Contest

Charity Golf Event TBD

October 8

IWC / IAWC Awards Banquet

October 9

Columbus Day

October 21

Italian Trivia

October 31

Halloween

November 23

Thanksgiving

December 17

Kids Christmas Party\*

December 19

Adult Christmas Party\*

December 25

Christmas

Note: If an event isn't marked with \*  
the date is flexible.

# Inventions that Changed the World

By Tom Smith

When you turn on the radio do you think about the fact that were it not for an Italian inventor you might not have the joy of listening to your favorite music, or tuning into the news? Yes, were it not for any number of Italian inventors we might not have many of the things we take for granted. While we may think of paintings and sculpture when someone mentions the name Leonardo da Vinci, he was also an inventor who designed early prototypes of a helicopter, a parachute, and a crossbow. And there are many others whose names you may or may not recognize, but were responsible for a number of inventions.



Marconi and his radio

Born in 1874 in Bologna, Italy, **Guglielmo Marconi** was an electrical engineer and inventor who is credited with inventing the radio. In 1897 he founded the Wireless Telegraph and Signal Company, and In 1909 he was honored with the Nobel Prize in Physics for his work in

the field of wireless telegraphy.

When you ask someone who invented the telephone, the usual response is Alexander Graham Bell. But though Bell may have been granted a patent by the U.S. Patent office in 1876, the Italian **Antonio Meucci** began testing primitive telephones while working as a theater technician in Florence years before that. When he moved to the US he actually developed the first telephone, but Bell had the money and connections to



Replica of Meucci's teletrofono

Continued on page 3

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claim his patent. In fact, when Meucci took his notebooks and a prototype of his telephone to Western Union, the executives never met with him and later claimed they lost the items he had given them. It was two years after that when Bell was granted his patent. The Federazione Italiana di Elettrotecnica has devoted a museum to Meucci tracing the history of his invention.

**Count Alessandro Volta** was born in Como, Italy in 1745. Though a Count by birth, and expected to become a priest or a lawyer, Volta decided to be a physicist. He became a professor of physics at the Royal School of Como in 1774. Known as the voltaic pile or voltaic column, Volta's battery consisted of alternating disks of zinc and silver separated by paper or cloth soaked in either salt water or sodium hydroxide. In 1801 Volta gave a demonstration of his battery in Paris before Napoleon, who made Volta a Count and a Senator of the Kingdom of Lombardy. He was later made Director of the philosophical faculty at the University of Padua. The volt unit of electromotive force was named in his honor in 1881.



**Voltaic Pile – first battery**



An "Arpicembalo" by Bartolomeo Cristofori

**Cristofori** invented the keyboard instrument that inspired Beethoven, Rachmaninov and Liszt. Born in Padua in 1688, little was known of him until he began working for Prince Ferdinando de Medici (a member of one of the most powerful families in Tuscany). Cristofori was a musical instrument maker and accomplished technician who took care of the prince's instruments. When Cristofori created the first piano – an instrument with sound generated by hammers hitting tuned strings – it looked quite different from today's instruments with no pedals,

We have some great musicians in the Club, but how many know who invented what many say is the most popular instrument in the world? Though you may have never heard the name before, **Bartolomeo**

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## Italia

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
**David Rizzo**

CONTRIBUTING REPORTER  
**Tom Smith**

LISTS  
**Ross DePaola**

SUBSCRIPTIONS & ADVERTISING  
**Mike Heald**

TYPESETTING & GRAPHIC DESIGN  
**Donna Collingwood**

PHOTOGRAPHY  
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a keyboard that was much shorter, and the whole instrument smaller than modern pianos. The piano didn't become an instant success because it was incredibly complicated to build. But once composers began to embrace the piano it became the instrument of the day and the dominant keyboard instrument.



**Enrico Fermi**

**Enrico Fermi**, often called the architect of the nuclear age, is the man who is credited with being the first to create a nuclear reactor. Born in Rome in 1901, Fermi became a naturalized American having won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1938 for his work on neutron bombardment as a means

of inducing radioactivity. He assembled a team that created the world's first nuclear reactor, known as Chicago Pile-1. On December 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1942 the first human made self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction was initiated. The secret development of the reactor was the first major technical achievement of the Manhattan Project, the Allied effort to develop the atomic bomb during World War II.

**Evangelista Torricelli** was an Italian physicist and mathematician who made it possible to accurately measure atmospheric pressure by creating the first barometer. The pump makers of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany had struggled to create a device using water. Torricelli discovered that if you substituted mercury for the water (mercury offers a density 13 times that of water) in a sealed column placed vertically in a basin containing mercury, the height of the column would fluctuate as

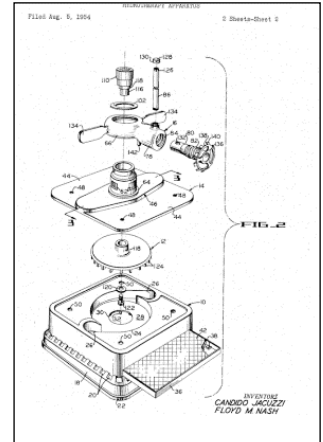


Torricelli's Barometer

a result of the change in atmospheric pressure. This created the original barometer.

Sometimes, as the old saying goes, necessity is the mother of invention. This was the case and the motivation for **Candido Enzo Jacuzzi**, who created the original whirlpool bath to ease his son's pain.

Jacuzzi was born in February 1903 in San Vito Tagliamento, Italy, and immigrated to the United States in 1978 where he settled in California. There he bought a small machine shop and established Jacuzzi Brothers Inc., whose first product was an airplane propeller known as the Jacuzzi "toothpick." When Candido's son contracted Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis after a bout with strep throat, causing the boy continuous joint pain, he noticed that visits to hydrotherapy baths helped ease the pain. He decided his son would benefit from a similar tub at home and created the J-300 portable water pump, which he later patented so others could benefit from hydrotherapy at home, creating the Jacuzzi bath.



Caselli's "pantelegraph"

**Giovanni Caselli** was born in Sienna, Italy in 1815. He spent his early years in Florence studying physics, science, history, and religion and was ordained as a priest in

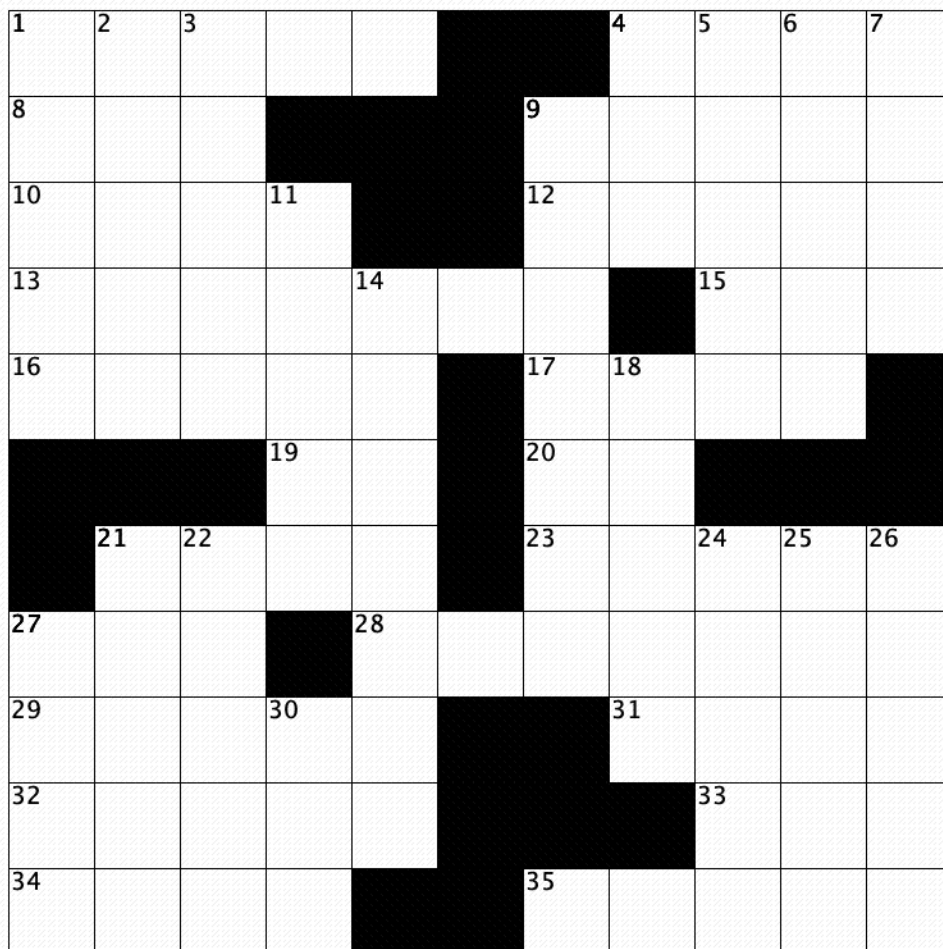
the Catholic Church at the age of 21. The prototype for the modern day FAX machine was actually developed a century before its time when Father Caselli created the "pantelegraph." Having done extensive research into the technological ways of telegraphing images and words,

## ACROSS

1. Member of the Rat Pack
4. Rice shaped pasta
8. Cry of discovery
9. Someone always asking for a handout
10. Fix or repair
12. Type of Indian tea
13. Fruit that turns black very quickly
15. Busy hospital wards
16. You may go on this before marriage
17. Grasp
19. Morning hour
20. Not out
21. Criminal or Civil, e.g.
23. Residence of the wealthy, once
27. A rainbow has this shape
28. Where to keep excess stuff
29. Prince MBS is one
31. 1960s British youth
32. Letters found atop Crucifixes
33. Where Caruso sang in NYC
34. Extra costs and charges
35. What a roulette wheel does all night

## DOWN

1. Brazilian dance



2. In the black
3. Miraculous desert food
4. Pockets on roulette wheels (US only)
5. Valentine flowers
6. Old Sporty Datsun and Nissan models
7. Electrical measures
9. Italian name meaning 'greatest'
11. Computer info (pl.)
14. Enemy
18. Take weapons from
21. Long necked migratory bird
22. What doctors try to find
24. Ms. Campbell or Ms. Osaka
25. Mr. Nash
26. Takes a snooze
27. Show disbelief, in slang
30. Ticker symbol for "Mickey"



## IWC Birthdays

### March

Robert Lashua	1
Jim DiUlio	13
Joe Puccio	13
Robert Brill	24
Ernesto Livorni	27
Andrew Salerno	28
Russ Cerniglia	29
Antonio Re	29

### April

Ralph Russo	1
Mark Fumusa	5
Tom DiPiazza	8
Bryan Remondini	12
Anthony DeGregoria	14
Mario Russo	14
John Caliva	15
Jon Lashua	16
Tony Bonanno, Jr.	17
Steve Ferraro	18
Michael Horowitz	18
Thomas Klinzing	21
Nino Amato	23
Joseph Cristoforo	24
Ricardo Gandolfo	26
Daniel J. Langlois	27
Joseph Gmeinder	28
Anthony Bruno	30

## IAWC Birthdays

Sarah Oakley, March 9  
Mary Katic April 10

Caselli developed a device that used electrochemical technology and a synchronizing apparatus to send and receive text and images over wires. The device created an image using tin foil, an electric stylus and non-conductive ink, then sending the images via long-distance telegraph lines to another device which would replicate the image creating a facsimile of the original. When Caselli took his invention to Paris, Napoleon III (the then President of France) was so impressed that he placed an order for the pantelegraph to be used in the French national telegraph network.

In so many fields – be it the sciences, the arts, or everyday life – Italians have contributed to so much of what we enjoy today. The work of these and so many more inventors and their inventions is no different.

So when you settle in with your morning cup of coffee or that espresso you enjoy at those special times, think of **Alfonso Bialetti and Luigi Bezzerra**. Bialetti is the Italian engineer best known for inventing the ‘Moka Express’ Coffeemaker. This coffee pot everyone recognizes was designed by Bialetti in 1933 and has been a style icon ever since achieving popularity in the 1950s. And when you’re looking for that special sip of espresso to really wake you up, you can thank Bezzerra for providing that special distinctive strong taste. It was Bezzerra who discovered the way to produce a single shot of espresso in seconds was by pushing water and steam through a “puck” of coffee directly into a cup.

These are just some in a long list of Italians responsible for amazing inventions. At home, at work or at play, advancing science or technology, everywhere you turn you will find Italian inventors and their inventions that have changed the world. ■



# Solution

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F	E	E	S			S	P	I	N	S



### Meeting Dates

- IWC Council Meetings – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Each Month 7:00 pm
- IWC Membership Meetings – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of Each Month 6:30 pm

*Please clip and post this calendar.*



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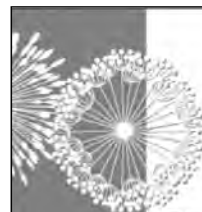
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