February 2023 Year 21 Issue 217

### Passaic Valley UNICO

Our February 2024 Monthly Newsletter



Passaic Valley UNICO PO Box 341 Little Falls, NJ 07424

#### Serving

Little Falls Totowa Woodland Park

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Chapter Website www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org Chapter Website www.UNICOmembers.com

Facebook Page www.Facebook.com/PassaicValleyUNICO
Instagram Page www.Instagram.com/PassaicValleyUNICO

District Website www.UNICONJIV.yolasite.com

National Website www.UNICO.org

Chapter Email PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com

#### A Message from our Chapter President

FEBRUARY – COMES FROM THE LATIN WORD "FEBRUA" WHICH MEANS TO "TO CLEANSE" THE MONTH WAS NAMED AFTER THE ROMAN "FEBRUALIA" WHICH WAS A MONTHLONG FESTIVAL OF PURIFICATION AND ATONEMENT!

As we start the Month of February, I like to wish our new members and Chapter associates a Happy Valentine's Day and beginning of Lent on the 14th!

Thank Chuck Russo for his Scholarship Super Bowl Chapter Fundraiser!!

We are still planning and working on our Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Which we are running and should be a great yearly event to add some revue in our treasury.

Thanks for our Holiday Cheer Committee supporting 5 Families in our Community with \$500.00 Gift Cards.

Thank Joe Agresti for hosting our Study Abroad guest, Michael Cerbo and his Parents presentation on his Studies in Sicily at our January Meeting.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Sunday - June 9th at the Barnyard in Totowa Scholarship and Installation Dinner!

Let's support our District Special Needs - Pasta Dinner Fundraiser on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Wayne PAL Building, Tickets will be distributed at our February Meeting \$20.00 Per Person.

Next Meeting is on "TUESDAY" - February 13<sup>th</sup> at Holy Cross Church – Pizza and Mussels, Bring Desserts, 50/50 Raffle.

"Buono febbraio"



### February Birthdays "Happy Birthday"

02-02 Chuck Russo 02-02 Jay Sisti 02-08 Eileen Wood 02-12 Joyce O'Hara 02-15 Jim Cestone 02-22 John Morano

#### Photo Albums

All our chapter event pictures can be seen on our website ... Additional pictures from our "NJ IV District" and also a lot from our "UNICO National" events can also be seen on their websites.

www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org

www.UNICO.org

www.UNICO-NJdistrictIV.4mg.com

#### Food Pantry

Please do not forget about our UNICO Phil Arena and our many other Food Pantries ... Your nonperishable donation will help restock them.

Please contact our Food Pantry Chairs, Carmen Gaita or Patricia Pelonero on how you can help or with your donation

#### Upcoming Events – Local and National

**February 13, 2024** ~ Tuesday ~ Not to conflict with Valentines Day, which is February 14, our monthly chapter meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, at Holy Cross Church ~ 7 pm dinner ~ 8 pm meeting ~ Pizza & Mussels

*March 8, 1972* ~ This is the day that our chapter was originally chartered as Little Falls UNICO ~ The name was later changed to Passaic Valley UNICO.

*March 13, 2024* ~  $2^{nd}$  *Wednesday* ~ *Monthly Chapter Meeting* ~ *More information will follow.* 

*March 20, 2024* ~  $3^{rd}$  *Wednesday* ~ *We are the host chapter at our NJ District IV Meeting* ~ 7 pm ~  $$40 \sim BYO \sim Casa Arturo in Little Falls$ 

April 7, 2024 ~ Our first Cornhole Tournament ~ Flier is on Page 4.

April 16, 2024 ~ Our NJ District IV Special Needs Pasta Dinner Fundraiser ~ At the Wayne PAL ~ \$20 ~ BYO ~ Prizes, Tricky Trays, Music, Food and Fun

**June 9, 2024** ~ Sunday ~ Our Annual Brian Piccolo, Scholarship and Officer installation Dinner.

**December 3, 2024** ~ Tuesday ~ Our UNICO NJ District IV Christmas Dinner for our Special Need Friends ~ More information will follow

#### Below are our UNICO's CORE VALUES

If you know of someone who has them and would like to help us make a difference, please invite them to a meeting and possibly have them join our chapter as a new member.

**U** – Unity

N - Neighborliness

I – Integrity

C – Charity

O - Opportunity

"<u>Service Above Self</u>"



### UNICO Charities Foundation Charities

- ... Cancer Research
- ... Cooley's Anemia
- ... Food Bank
- ... Italian Studies
- ... Mental Health
- ... Scholarship
- ... St. Jude's Hospital

#### **National Charities**

- ... Anti Bias
- ... Armed Forces
- ... Columbus Day
- ... Heritage Calendar

### Your Italy travel guide for February:

Click here for the link on the internet >>>

Italy in February: 7
great places to visit Italy Beyond The
Obvious

#### Meanwhile, here are the 7 places to read about them:

- . Venice for their Carnival
- . Skiing in the Dolomite Mountains
- Mountains
- . Viareggio for their Seaside carnival
- . Florence for their Culture and Chocolate
- . Any of their Opera Houses
- . Sicily for their culture,
- weather and almond blossoms
- . Verona for their culture, wine and Romeo & Juliet

#### **ComUNICO**

You can now read the <a href="Com-UNICO">Com-UNICO</a> magazine on the internet Just click or go here >>> www.unico.org/comUNICO

#### Who's Who

#### Our 2023-2024 Executive Board

President	Dominick Bucci
1st Vice President	Carmen Criscione
2nd Vice President	Joe Benvenuti
Treasurer	Bruce Ponchak
Secretary	Steve Pelonero
Sgt. At-Arms	
Corresponding Secretary	John Morano

#### Our 2023-2024 Board of Directors

Steve Pelonero	Past Chapter President	2010 & 2011
John Barbieri	Past Chapter President	2014 & 2015
Bruce Ponchak	Past Chapter President	2016 & 2017
Carmen Gaita	Past Chapter President	2018 & 2019
Eileen Wood	Past Chapter President	2020 & 2021

#### Our 2023-2024 Chapter Delegates

President Dominick Bucci ... 48 Members (President +2)

Delegate: Jean Chomko

Alternate Delegate: Sal Benvenuti Alternate Delegate: Patricia Pelonero

(Delegates represent our chapter and are urged to attend our district, regional, and national meetings, especially if a vote is called for)

#### Our 2023-2024 Fundraising Committee Heads

Cornhole Tournament	John Barbieri
Food Pantry	Carmen Gaita and Patricia Pelonero
Golf Outing	Joe Barone
Holiday Cheer	Carmen Gaita, Joe Benvenuti, Sal Benvenuti
Overseas Armed Service Care Packages	Open - To be appointed

#### Non-Fundraising Committee Heads

Community Service Day (April)	Charles Russo
Good and Welfare	Joe Benvenuti
	Angelo Verrone
	Steve Pelonero PNP
Nominating Chair	Open - To be appointed
Publicity	Christina Castillo & Roni Corrado
Scholarship / Brian Piccolo	Charles Russo
Study Abroad College Grants	Cav. Joseph Agresti PNP
Website	Steven Pelonero PNP
Website Member Section	John Barbieri



### Sunday, April 7, 2024

The Passaic Valley Chapter of UNICO is sponsoring our FIRST Cornhole Tournament at the Totowa PAL, 150 Chamberlain Ave, Totowa

Registration includes plenty of Italian Style food 11:00 am Sign-in and Registration 11:30 am Start Time

#### Prizes for 1st & 2nd place winners

All Guests will be charged \$25 which includes all food.

\$40 per person, 2 person teams

Participants minimum age, 18 Yr. old

Pre-Register by Feb. 25, 2024 and save \$5.00 per person



You can also participate in four different Cornhole versions for an additional donation

#### Proceeds will go toward

Local High School and College Scholarships Local Food Banks Holiday Donations Needy Families

#### This is sure to be a FUN event for ALL!

Email your questions to: Cornhole@Unicomembers.com

#### Our Newest Chapter Member Peter Cervino







## Chapter Member of the Month A hometown of "Sicignano delgli Alburni"



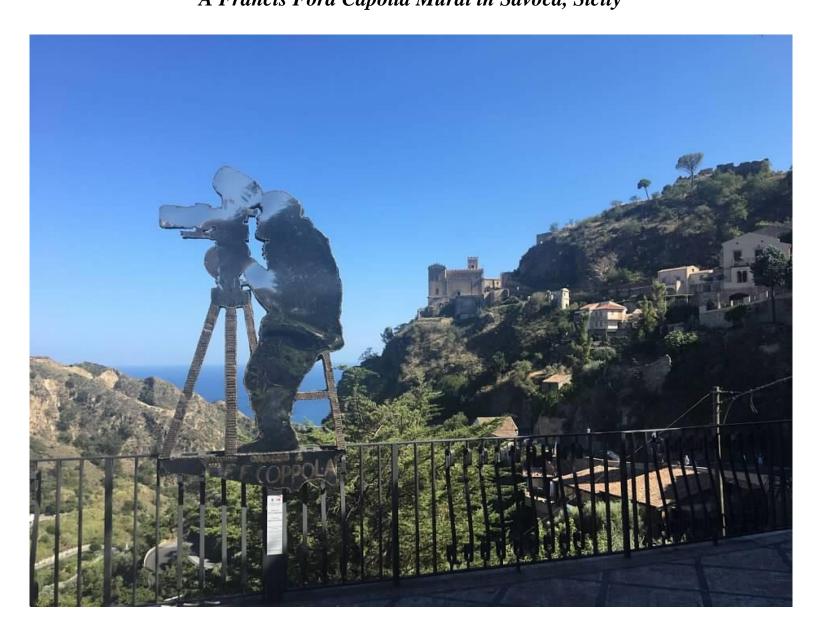




Chapter member Pete Cervino's hometown in Italy

Top photo: His cousins vineyard in Italy Bottom Photo: The town of Sicignano delgli Alburni on the top of the Alburni Mountains

# Italian Heritage Photo From the 2024 UNICO Heritage Calendar ~ February A Francis Ford Capolla Mural in Savoca, Sicily



Savoca is a comune in the Province of Mesina in the Italian region of Sicily
It is located about 10 miles east of Palermo and about 19 miles southwest of Messina
It is a hill village that sits above the Ionian Sea
Savoca has been classified as one of Italy's most beautiful villages and is well known for being one of filming locations for :The Godfather Trilogy by Francis Ford Coppola

#### Where is your Italian Heritage From



#### **Committee & Comments**

#### **Armed Service Care Packages**

Our chapter is still in need of a chair for this committee. Please see chapter President Dominick if you are interested.

#### Chapter Sponsors

How many do you know and support? ~ See pages 12-19.

#### Community Service Day ~ Chuck Russo

Our annual Food Drive will be held on Saturday, April 27th at the Little Falls ShopRite.

Please set this date aside and be prepared to sign the volunteer list which will be passed around at the March and April meetings. As in the past, to be successful, we will need people stationed at the entrances and exits of the ShopRite as well as available to "deliver" to certain food banks.

Unfortunately, we have lost a few key members of our "crew"; hopefully others will step up to help make this event as successful as it has been in the past.

If any chapter member is aware of a group, even a few individuals, who would like to assist us with this event, please let me know. Likewise, since we have lost Little Sisters of the Poor, St. Josephs Home for the Elderly, as a recipient, please let me know of any other food banks or the like in the area.

Chuck

#### Food Pantry ~ Carmen Gaita and Patricia Pelonero

Donations for our local food pantries can always be brought to any chapter meeting (non-perishable items, money or food gift cards). Thank you always for your support.

#### Scholarship ~ Chuck Russo

Donations Save The Date – This year's Scholarship Dinner will be held on Sunday evening, June 9<sup>th</sup> (time to be determined) at the Barnyard in Totowa.

If any member has a child or grandchild eligible to receive one of our scholarships, please make me aware of same, if not done already, to secure an application. Application deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Our Super Bowl Pool Scholarship Fundraiser has been a huge success. All 100 boxes were sold in the first 72 hours. Thank you to all who have participated or sold boxes to others.

The Super Bowl is on Sunday February 11th, a couple of days before our next meeting.

We will have the "selection of scores" in a public location well in advance of that and a picture of the completed board will be available. You will then be able to get your "scores" and the "scores" for anyone you sold a box to at that time...or by simply contacting me before the game.

Chuck

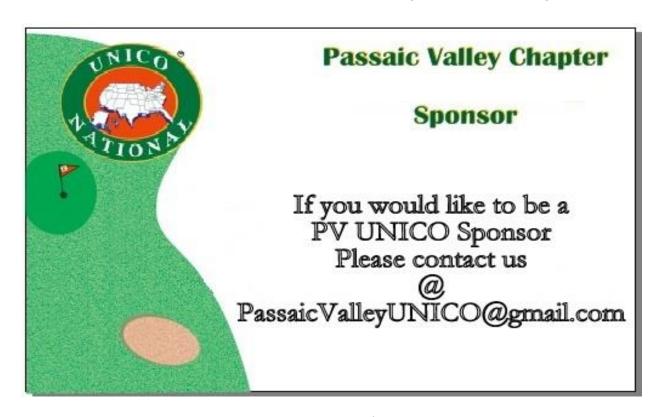
### UNICO Word Search

#### Italian / Sicilian Towns

#### Italian / Sicilian Towns

ROMESSINAE
GHTTUACEPR
FNPALGAPMI
LAOOARTAOC
OPTRGIALNE
RLEMEGNERL
EEMINEIREU
NSZNONAMAC
CNAAATJOLC
EENNAONYEA

AGRIGENTO FLORENCE TAORMINA
CATANIA NAPLES PALERMO
POTEMZA MESSINA ERICE
GENOA MONREALE LUCCA
ROME ENNA



#### **Our UNICO Charities**

#### UNICO National

Armed Services ~ Columbus Day ~ Heritage & Photo Calendar

#### **UNICO** Foundation

21st century ~ Anti-Bias ~ Cancer Research & Prevention Cooley's Anemia ~ Italian Studies ~ Mental Health Scholarships ~ Torraco Food Bank/Shelter

**About UNICO** ~ UNICO is the largest Italian American Service Organization in the United States Unity, Neighborliness, Integrity, Charity, Opportunity

UNICO was founded on October 10, 1922, in Waterbury, Connecticut. A group of 15 men, led by Dr. Anthony P. Vastola, came together to create what has become a very special and very proud organization. It was Dr. Vastola's dream to create an Italian American service organization to engage in charitable works, support higher education, and perform patriotic deeds. Our motto is "Service Above Self".

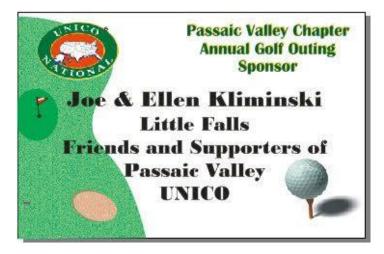
Each year, the UNICO Foundation and the UNICO National Chapters across the country donate approximately \$1 million to various charities. Scholarships continue to be the primary focus of UNICO, as roughly one-third of all monies raised goes to deserving students from all the chapter locations throughout the chain.

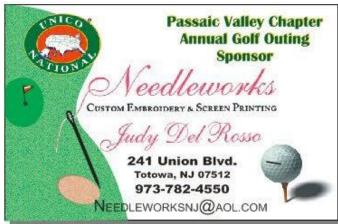
UNICO National has funded major research in Cooley's Anemia and Mental Health. Through its association with the Jimmy Valvano Foundation, it has funded over 10, \$50,000 grants to help find a cure for Cancer. These worthy areas continue to receive generous support from the chapters and its members for these worthy causes.

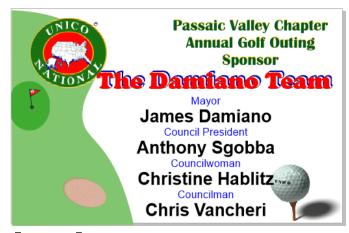
If you would like to attend one of our meetings to see if you might be interested in joining UNICO, please contact us through any member, or through our email. We would be honored to have you as a member of our Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter.

**"78"** 

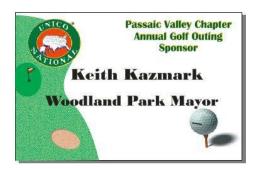


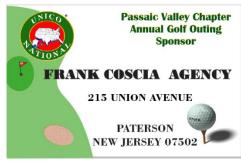








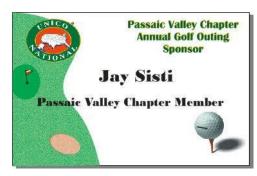


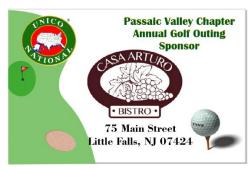






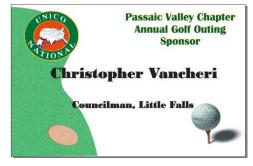




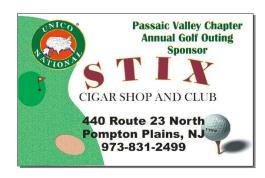




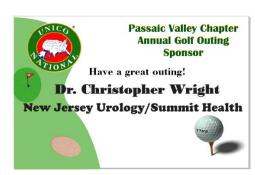


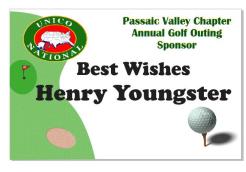










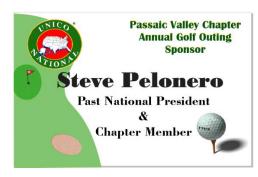


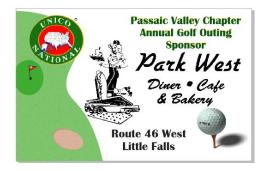




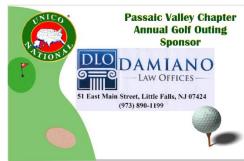






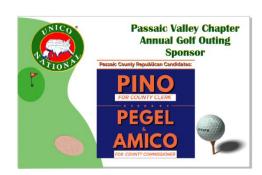










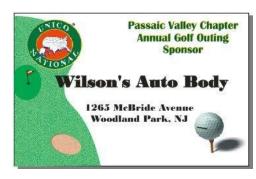






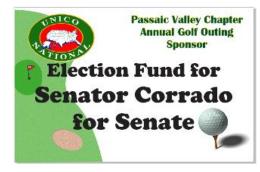


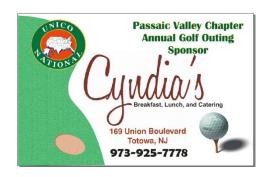










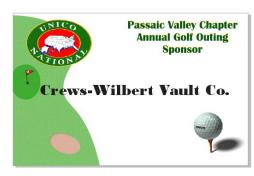
















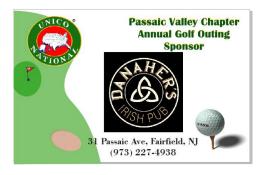






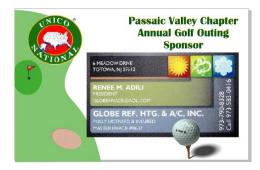


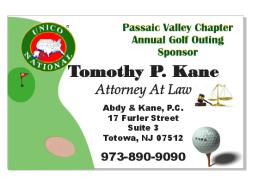








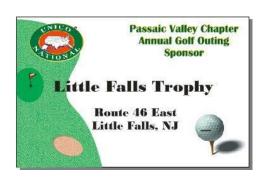






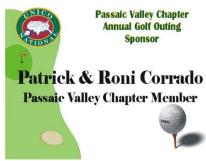












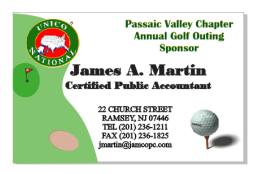






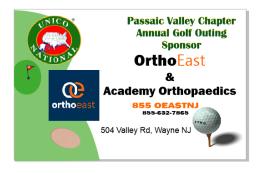






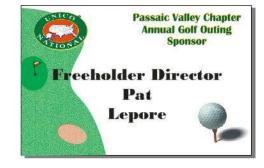








Marian J. Rabel





You too can be a proud sponsor of our Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter ~ It is never too late You will be in every newsletter for our 2023-2024 year.

And, if received early enough, you will also have a sign on one of the 18 holes at our Annual Golf Outing on June 19th.

Please see the golf flier on page 5 of this newsletter for more information