COSMOS CLUB

The Cosmoscope

COSMOS CLUB

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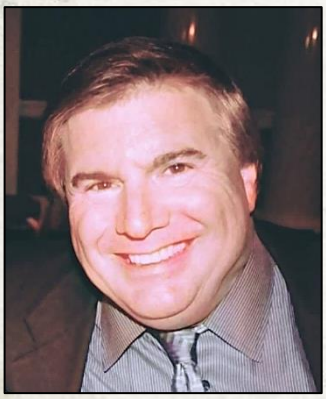
THE PRESIDENT'S POST



Benny Salerno
President

Hello Cosmos Club! This past winter was filled with various holiday celebrations, fun events, and many successful Friday night dinners at the club. While the winter was a great success, I know we will see even better things to come as the spring season is here! "Cherry blossoms are life's reminder that good things come to those who wait." – Unknown.

Waiting has been the name of the game as the club has been wanting to receive word on the cell tower situation. I am excited to announce that there is some great news on the cell tower sale! We are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel on a finalized agreement. At any moment within the next few days or weeks, the contract should be "signed, sealed, delivered" as Stevie Wonder once said.

The Women's Auxiliary held the St. Joseph's Table & St. Patrick's Day celebration on Thursday, March 24, 2024. There was a potluck dinner with all different types of food. There were also St. Joseph's pastries for all who attended. The event made some donations to the Fair Lawn Rotary, and it turned out to be a pleasant evening. Thank you, the Women's Auxiliary, for hosting the event. The club hopes to see it become even bigger and better for next year!

Previously, the *Cosmos Club of Fair Lawn, Inc.* has always hosted many events such as the Golf Outing for the Scholarship Committee, or other various dinners to raise money or awareness for a particular cause.

We are proud to announce that in conjunction with the club, the *Cosmos Foundation of Fair Lawn* is officially here!

The *Cosmos Foundation of Fair Lawn's Emblem*

The Cosmos Foundation of Fair Lawn is a nonprofit organization dedicated to celebrating and preserving Italian American cultural heritage and to fostering a spirit of charity, community, and solidarity between Italian Americans and people of all cultural backgrounds. The *Cosmos Foundation of Fair Lawn* has been established since 2023 and is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

This spring the *Cosmos Foundation of Fair Lawn* will be hosting two events:

- The Dillon Rinaldo Scholarship Sunday Pasta Dinner - May 19th (Bob Sharples)
- Golf Outing on - June 7th (Chris Lamazza)

Please visit the website for more information/events at:
www.cosmosclubnj.com/cosmos-foundation

Other great events coming up which will be highlighted throughout this edition of *The Cosmoscope*:

- Cinco de Mayo Karaoke Night - May 4th (Steve Gambuti)

- The Smoke Out - June 14th (Alessandro Bruno)

Please keep note of these general reminders:

- The fourth Tuesday of the month is the General Meeting at 7:30pm; Joe "The Sauce Guy" will continue to prepare food for the meetings.
- Dues were due by March 31st. Please see Stu Pace if you have not submitted payment yet.

Please keep our members, who are in a bad way, in your thoughts. Stay safe and stay healthy!

Benny Salerno – *Cosmos Club President*

UPDATES & INFORMATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

4/9 Executive Board Meeting
4/11 Meeting/Social
4/23 Gen Membership Meeting
4/25 Fun Night

MAY

5/4 Cinco de Mayo Karaoke Party
5/14 Executive Board Meeting
5/19 The Dillon Rinaldo Scholarship Pasta Dinner
5/28 Gen Membership Meeting

JUNE

6/7 Golf Outing
6/11 Executive Board Meeting
6/14 The Smoke Out
6/25 Gen Membership Meeting

SPORTS NEWS

Baseball (MLB)

Baseball is back in full force! In years past, the club hosted the Annual Yankee Game Outing. The club will be addressed in the next general membership meeting about attending a game this season. Whether it be at Yankee Stadium or Citi Field, the annual outing has always been a fun time for all.

Football (UFL)

The United Football League (UFL) is set to launch as the premier spring football platform, formed by the merging of the XFL and USFL in 2024. The UFL has eight teams in Arlington (TX), Birmingham (AL), Detroit (MI), Houston (TX), San Antonio (TX), Memphis (TN), St. Louis (MO), and Washington D.C.

The UFL's 10 game regular season will start on Saturday, March 30, 2024.

COSMO CONVERSATIONS

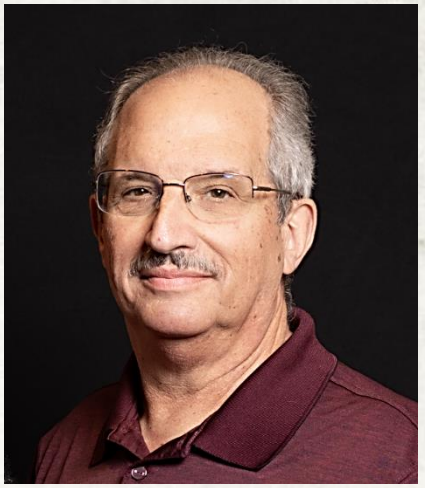
AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

By Alessandro Bruno

Welcome! If you are new to this column, you might be asking yourself, "what are *Cosmo Conversations?" Cosmo Conversations* captures segments of interviews conducted with two members of the club each month. While most members are familiar with or know each other on a personal level, it is always interesting to learn more about our Cosmo brothers.

In this March edition of *Cosmo Conversations*, I had the privilege to speak with two club members who have been an integral part of this club's history and progression. The gentlemen I am referring to are none other than **Ed Salvi** and **Ron Agresta.** Ed and Ron were kind enough to provide the readers with more details about their personal lives and perspectives of the club. Ed and Ron provided terrific and engaging responses to provide wonderful interviews. I would like to thank Ed and Ron for taking the time to complete this interview for *The Cosmoscope*. Here is a snippet of the interview:

Ed Salvi
Assistant Club Chairman



Ron Agresta
Judiciary

How did you learn about the club and what made you want to become a Cosmos Club Member?

E: Since childhood I have been involved with the Cosmos Club being that both my parents were members of the Cosmos Club and Women's Auxiliary, respectively. I can remember going to the original club building which was an old white two-story house on Fair Lawn Ave. This was on the same lot where the Cosmos Club building was built which was sold in 2010. I had fond memories of the annual Cosmos Club picnics at Visentine's Grove, the stamp and coin club led by Doc Canger, the radio club led by Nick Felice, even the principal of my elementary school, John Forrest, and the vice-principal of my junior high school, Frank Montelbano, were members of the Cosmos Club. It was only natural that my brother Joe and I became members.

R: I learned about the club as a young boy. My aunt Lucielle was in the Women's Auxiliary for quite some time. Oddly enough, my father was never a member of the club. A lot of my father's friends wanted him to join, but he never did. Some years later I started to date my then girlfriend, now wife, Betty Ann in the early 90's. Her brother (Ed Salvi) brought me to a Friday night dinner. Upon entering the club, I observed two full poker tables in action which was right up my alley. After spending a few Friday night dinners at the club talking with two of my dad's close friends Vinny Brancato & Vinny DiCosmo, two of my friends from youth, Johnny Di Peri Jr & Johnny Ruhle, and meeting the rest of the members I was hooked. Where else could I find a private club with old friends, poker & a dinner (more like feast) that at the time was only five dollars! I am a cheap date, I guess!

What is your favorite event that the club hosts?

E: My favorite event is the annual fish dinner, there is so much ethnic and club history of that event by having traditional dishes each year. It is also an event which brings out the most members to the club to kick off the holiday season.

R: The event that I enjoy the most at the present time is the Men's Fish Dinner. My favorite event from the past was the 50's dances. In the mid 1990's the club hosted dance that was 1950's themed. This dance was a crowd favorite as it would host over one hundred guests. The event was chaired by the Salvi's, Neary's, Balbi's and Agresta's for over half a dozen years. We used to dress the part and the women wore their classic outfits. The DJs were very motivational and had most of the crowd on the dance floor all night. We had a cart going around with the old-fashioned seltzer bottles making egg creams. Oh, the good old days!!

You both have given tremendous time and dedication to the club (almost 80 years collectively!). What things would you love to see make a comeback to the club?

E: This June I will be a member of the club for 47 years, serving as president for four years. Two of the events I would like to see return are the Cosmos Club picnic, which was always held the first Sunday after Labor Day at Memorial Park, and the Italian Feast which was held in June in the Club parking lot.

R: I would love to see our Tuesday Night Gin Rummy Tournaments make a comeback. Every Tuesday night, the club would draw about twenty-five members. Most of them would participate in the tournament, others played on our regulation shuffleboard table or shot pool. The comradery of those nights was what made them so special (in my opinion). I once tried to resurrect the Tuesday night tournaments about 10 years ago, but there was not enough interest. Maybe one day soon!

Where do you hope to see the club in the future? Estimate 10-15 years from now.

E: I would hope that the Cosmos Club would strive to continue to be a fraternal and civic organization, with more members celebrating their Italian history and heritage as much as possible rather than becoming a social club only.

R: I hope that the club continues to be up and running just as smoothly as it is today. Personally, I would love to see more charitable events and donations occurring each year. We are fortunate enough that we can now do those things through the new Cosmos Foundation of Fair Lawn.

What is one interesting fact most people would not know about you?

E: I do not think that anyone in the club knows that I play doctor part time. By that I mean that I have delivered a baby! It just happens that the baby was my daughter at home while a police officer watched over my shoulder. On another occasion I saved a member's wife from choking at a club affair many years ago by performing the Heimlich maneuver. Then there was an incident where while I was teaching a driving lesson on a Saturday morning when I saw a lady collapse into a puddle. I got out of the car to see if I could help her, as she was not breathing. I gave her mouth to mouth and revived her.

R: Well, I have a few interesting facts if I may. During my late teens and throughout my 20's I was an alcoholic and a drug addict. With the help of AA, God, and family support, especially my loving sister, I was able to turn that around. I have been clean and sober since 1985. Part of that turnaround had to do with my involvement at St. Anne's Church. I was a youth group leader for many years, then taught Conformation. I was then asked by Fr. Jack to help start a singles group. I asked (more like roped in) this beautiful girl who I taught conformation with to help start the group. The 21st Century Catholic Singles, as we were known as, flourished for many years. Flourishing much longer is my relationship with that cutie who started the group with me. She is now my wife. We then went on to teach Pre-Cana at St. Annes & are both Eucharistic Ministers. All those years looking for someone in a bar and finally met someone at church, Go figure!!

The Cosmos Club has enjoyed many delicious meals that you have prepared over the years. How did you learn how to cook all these meals?

E: When I was in fourth grade my brother Joe became good friends with a boy, Frank Benevento, who moved from Italy to Fair Lawn. It just so happened that Frank's family owed Caputo's Restaurant on River Road. Joe started working there and a bit later when I was in junior high school, I began working at the restaurant also. For $1.10 an hour I started washing dishes, then the big moment, I got a raise to $1.50 an hour making pizza and helping in the kitchen. Additionally, my father was a cook in the Army serving during the Korean conflict. Both those factors helped me be interested in cooking. When Armand Della Pesca, the Cosmos Club resident Friday night chef, let me into the kitchen to help him I knew I had made the big time. Now when I have a dish at a local restaurant, I try to copy it or if planning on cooking something new, I will look up several recipes and take ingredients from them to establish my own recipe.

R: At a very young age I spent a lot of time in the kitchen with my grandmother. Between always helping her, my mom and Dad who were all great cooks I learned quite a bit. At the age of 13, without any help, I could confidently make a full Sunday dinner for the family. Like all things in life, there are always opportunities to gain experience new ways or things to cook. I try to keep that in the back of my head all the time when trying new things to cook.

Ed Salvi and Ron Agresta have been a staple in the Cosmos Club of Fair Law, Inc. kitchen for years. They are usually found behind the scenes preparing food for any event big or small.

What are some activities or things you enjoy while spending time away from the club?

E: I am not one to stay idle, I am usually doing some type of project or yard work either at home or at our shore house. When I am not involved in a project I will be found teaching a driving lesson, attending Jets games, running my football pool, cheering on the grandkids at hockey, baseball, and lacrosse games, crabbing and clamming at the shore. I also stay involved in professional organizations serving as Secretary/Treasurer of the Bergen County Athletic Directors Association, Secretary for the N.J. Wrestling Officials Association - Northeast Chapter and serving on the YMCA of Greater Bergen County Awards Dinner Committee.

R: Being recently retired and my wife about to be we would like to do some traveling. I have never been to Italy. We would like to not only tour the beautiful country but walk the streets of the towns our grandparents & fathers were from. If the good Lord keeps us healthy, I would like to go every year along with a few other European destinations. But the thing nearest and dearest to my heart is spending time with family. Whether it be cooking, working around the house, playing games, or just watching TV and chatting, I truly enjoy being with my family more than anything in the world. To me besides God, nothing is better than family. I look forward to all the holidays, birthdays, christenings, weddings, and celebrations with family. Also, family weekend outings that we do a few times yearly are something that hits the top of my list. Lastly, I consider myself VERY lucky to get along well with all my in-laws. Yes each & every one of them!

To date, what are some of your greatest achievements whether it be professional or personal.

E: From my experience in playing three sports in high school, playing football in college then being the head coach of two high school sports, I became more motivated to strive for excellence. Some of my achievements in sports that I'm proud of is being select defensive player of the week in football while attending Trenton State College, being co-director of the Bergen County Holiday Wrestling Tournament for 17 years, receiving the Thomas Della Torre Award from the YMCA of Greater Bergen County and receiving a Lifetime Membership Award from the NJ Wrestling Officials Association.

Professionally I have been honored to receive recognition from my peers in Bergen County and the state. Being selected as the Bergen County Athletic Director of the Year in 2000 and my induction early this March to the NJ Directors of Athletics Association Hall of Fame have certainly been humbling experiences.

However, my greatest joy has been spending my life with my wonderful wife of 47 years, Linda. None of these achievements would have been possible without her.

R: A personal achievement of mine is that I have been able to remain clean and sober for 39 years. Kicking the habit of using substances and alcohol is the biggest obstacle I have ever overcome.

Since turning my life around, my greatest accomplishment would be marrying a beautiful, loving, and caring wife, raising three beautiful daughters who are very family oriented and have grown to become very loving, caring, considerate & successful women. As a bonus I have the best a son-in-law & daughter-in-law anyone could ask for. I could not be prouder!

Some professional achievements I have made consist of working in multiple positions during a 48-year career in the communication business. In 1973 while still in high school I began to work for AT&T (which then changed to Bell Atlantic and is currently known as Verizon). I have held positions such as a clerk, installer, repairman, communications technician, splicer & inspector. I became a union rep early on at "the phone company" spending many years as a delegate and Chairman of the Hudson-Bergen Unit for IBEW Local 827. I took numerous union training courses and ran many grievance committee meetings over my 25+ years as a union representative. I also served on the Bergen County Labor Council for many years. That led to my personal involvement in a statewide committee that was responsible for getting New Jerseys "Right to Know Law" passed. The law requires companies to label hazardous material. It also requires them to educate & train all employees to work safely with hazardous materials and provide personal protective equipment. I take great pride in myself and the work I have done. I would like to think my work ethic was the main reason the foreman & superintendents at J. Fletcher Creamer & Son Inc. (Verizon sub-contractor) who I oversaw for 18 years claimed I was the best inspector to work for and deal with! In fact, I am still friends with some of those gentlemen today.

Ed Salvi poses with his wife Linda as he receives his NJ Directors of Athletics Association Hall of Fame award.

Ron Agresta and his family celebrating his daughter Leanna's wedding.

THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

MARCH UPDATE

By Bett Ann Agresta

Bett Ann Agresta
Women's Auxiliary President

The Women's Auxiliary has seen increased interest in membership and meeting attendance. Applications are always available. Tell your friends and relatives!

Thursday May 21, we resurrected a long-standing club tradition. We gathered to celebrate St. Patrick and St. Joseph with Potluck Night. Cosmos Club honorary member Fr. Sam from St. Ann's Church blessed the food and participants. Women's and Men's club members, family and guests shared in the festivities. Food in abundance and St. Joseph pastries were shared by all. Donations will benefit Habitat for Humanity. In addition, four (4) bags of non-perishable food items were collected for the Fair Lawn Food Pantry.

Our members personify the Minor Myers Jr. quote: "Go into the world and do well. But most importantly, go into the world and do good."

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 31	Happy Easter! Enjoy your Spring Break
April 11	Meeting/Social
April 13	McKinley & Morlot band to play @ FLAC for Mary Collura Scholarship Event (3-11pm)
April 25	Fun Night
May 4	Cinco De Mayo Fiesta (Like There's No Manana) RSVP with payment $35 pp cosmosclubnj.com/events
May 9	Meeting/Social
May 19	The Cosmos Foundation of Fair Lawn is hosting an Italian Sunday Dinner from 1-5pm to fund The Captain Dillon Rinaldo Scholarship. $35 pp RSVP @ cosmosclubnj.com/foundation-events
May 23	Fun Night
May 27	Memorial Day Parade
June 6	Meeting/Social
June 20	Fun Night – Year-End Party

BEHIND THE BAR

BAR ANNOUNCEMENT

By John Battista

Hello Cosmos Club! After the club's renovation, we have finally found out that we have too many options for drinks on tap! Keeping that in mind, until the kegs from the taps are empty (excluding Guinness and Seaglass Shores), any draft beer will now be $2.00! Once those beverages are gone, we will be taking a survey for which drinks will fill each tap for the bars.

We hope you enjoyed the refreshing drink special from last month, *The Ginger Sparkler*. The *Cosmos Drink Special* for April is an ***Espresso Martini***! Come have an Espresso Martini at the club or read further for more information on how to make one yourself.

Cheers to your health!

John Battista – Sergeant at Arms

John Battista
Sergeant at Arms

BARTENDER JOKE

The past, the present, and the future walk into a bar. It was tense.

ESPRESSO MARTINI

INGREDIENTS

- Chilled Martini Glass
- Shaker & Ice
- Cold Espresso (2 oz)
- Vanilla Stoli Vodka (1 oz)
- Kahlúa (1 oz)
- Espresso Beans (3 beans)

1. Fill shaker with ice
2. Add Vanilla Stoli Vodka (1 oz) to shaker
3. Add Cold Espresso (2 oz) to shaker
4. Top with Kahlúa (1 oz) in shaker
5. Shake for 30 seconds
6. Strain into chilled martini glass
7. Garnish with 3 Espresso Beans
8. Enjoy!

- Additionally, you could add (1 oz) Baileys for a delicious, creamy flavor!

THE HEALTHY HABIT

MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

By **Greg Lamendola** PT, CSCS, NASM-C, & TBR Therapist

Greg Lamendola
PT, CSCS, NASM-C,
& TBR Therapist

They say the longest journey begins with a single step. I say, the longest journey begins with a single step in the right direction!! Daylight savings time is upon us, and Spring is right around the corner. This is the perfect time of the year to start something new. We at the Cosmos Club of Fair Lawn, Inc. hope that you will be a part of the ¨Something New¨ together with us.

My name is Greg Lamendola and I am a new member of the Cosmos Club of Fair Lawn, Inc. I am a physical therapist, fitness trainer, wellness coach, and the owner of GoodLife Training in Cresskill, NJ for the past 27 years. Health and fitness are my passion and I hope to bring more positive awareness to the many fine members of the Cosmos Club, with regards to your health. You see, your greatest wealth in this fine world that we live in is your health. Without health, you really do not have much of a chance to you will be a part of to have a happy and fulfilling life!

Therefore, I am proposing the beginning of the first ever **Cosmos Walking Club** to be held once a week at the Saddle River Park in Saddle Brook. The time and date to be determined. The benefits of the simple act of walking are numerous. Increased cardiovascular health, low impact on your joints, increased balance and proprioception, increased muscle mass, increased lung capacity, increased ability of your body to detoxify, increased positive outcome for your mood, fresh air, sunshine, spending time with your friends, etc. You get my point. Now, add in the fact that we are doing this together as a group and the positive outcomes are even better.

We cannot know it all, but we have a responsibility to know as much as we can regarding our greatest wealth…our health. I am asking for a small investment of your time, for what just might be the most important aspect of your life. The longest journey begins with a single step in the right direction. Here is hoping that we can all take a step in the right direction together.

Wishing you all the best in Health and Wellness!

- **Greg Lamendola** PT, CSCS, NASM-C, & TBR Therapist

GOOD LIFE TRAINING
300 KNICKERBOCKER ROAD
CRESKILL, NJ 07626

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

EASTER SPECIAL

By Joe D'Angelo

Joe D'Angelo
Joe "The Sauce Guy" LLC.

Pizza Rustica, Pizza Gain, Easter Pies, Meat Pies, whatever you call it, we all know this Easter specialty to be a delicious treat! This savory pie is stuffed with rich ricotta and a mixture of meats and cheeses.

In Italy, primarily southern Italy, Pizza Rustica is served on what is called Pasquetta ("Little Easter" or Easter Monday). This meal is also known as a picnic style food as it can be easily transported and can be or typically is served at room temperature.

In this edition of *The Cosmoscope*, I will be providing a simple recipe for ***PIZZA RUSTICA***:

INGREDIENTS

1 Pancetta Roll	¼ lb Prosciutto (shredded)
½ lb Genoa Salami	1 ½ lb Ricotta
½ lb Hard Salami	1 ½ lb Dry Ricotta
2 Links Sopressata	1Basket (Prima Sala) Cheese – Unsalted if you can find it
1 Dry Italian Sausage	Handful of Pecorino Romano Grated Cheese
1 Pack Sweet Capicola	10 eggs + 2 eggs (beaten) to use to spread on the dough before cooking pies

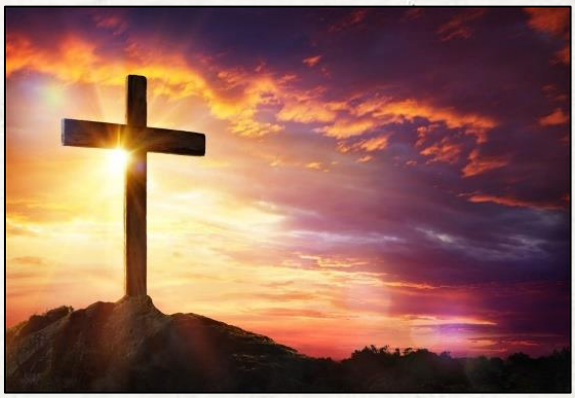
1. Hand cut each meat into little pieces and put into a big bowl.
2. Mix in the 10 eggs, each ricotta, and the basket cheese into the same bowl as the meats. Knead the mixture together with both hands.
3. Preheat oven 400°F.
4. Roll out the dough and put it into the 5 9" pie dish.
5. Add the meat mixture to the pie dish.
6. Cut the remaining dough and roll it into strips. Place above the pie mixture and blend with the sides of the dough along the pie dishes.
7. Brush the exposed dough along the strips on top of the pies with the beaten 2 eggs so it will brown when the pies cook.
8. Bake in the 400°F oven for 15 minutes then reduce to 350oF and bake for 45 minutes.

Yields five 9" pies

MEMBER NEWS

Family Member Passed	Cosmo Relative
Anne A. Ramundo Age 87	Vincent Ramundo (Mother) Mark Ramundo (Mother) Jared Ramundo (Grandmother)
Dominic Richard Ferro Age 94	Member
Mary Salerno Age 89	Benny Salerno (Mother) Billy Salerno (Grandmother)
Anna Peticca Age 89	Frank Peticca (Mother)
Ethel Raymond (Women's Auxiliary) Age 88	Richard Raymond (Wife)
Genevieve "Jenny" Battista Age 95	John Battista (Mother)

BLESSINGS



March Prayer

Lord our God, in praise and thanksgiving we look toward your kingdom and the reign of Jesus Christ in your kingdom. We rejoice that you make him Lord not only in heaven but also on earth, where he will gain the victory in all mankind. Men will become good and will love one another, and they will find peace when everything is done according to your will. For the time must come when, on earth as in heaven, your will is done everywhere and in everything. Be with us with your Spirit so that we may stand firm as your children until the moment comes for us to exult: Up out of all grief and trouble! Up from evil and death! Up to you, our Father in heaven! Praise to your name today while we are still groaning. Glory to your kingdom. Glory to Jesus Christ our Savior, whom you have given us. Amen.

WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

Hello Cosmos Club!

Did we miss anything? Is there an article you would like to compose or read more about? If you have anything that you would like featured, please send an email to: thecosmoscope@gmail.com

I look forward to working with all our Cosmos Club members in the future!

Alessandro Bruno
New Membership Applicant Chairman
The Cosmoscope Chief Editor

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THE COSMOSCOPE

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WWW.COSMOSCLUBNJ.COM/THE-COSMOSCOPE

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