

. **Our Night Sky for September 29th, 2025**

We still don't have many planets that are easy to view without waiting until very late or very early tomorrow. But Saturn is still high in our southern sky and if you get a close up look, that is always worth stepping outside even on a chilly night. If you rotate toward west but still very high in the sky you might remember looking for the constellation Lyra earlier this year. Lyra is a lop-sided rectangle with a bright star, Vega next to it almost like a small kite. You may remember it was almost in the same spot overhead much earlier this summer. As Lyra advances through the sky during the summer, sunset comes earlier each day so by this time of year Lyra appears to stay approximately in the same overhead spot all summer. If you have a really good set of binoculars, you might find an extra treat within Lyra. If you look about a third to halfway across the base of that lop-sided rectangle you might spot the Ring nebula. This is the still expanding remnant of a star that exploded six to eight thousand years ago. This is an easy to find example of how our universe works. Heavier elements are manufactured at the core of large stars or during the enormous explosions called NOVA when they can no longer maintain the delicate balance between nuclear processes, fuel supply and the mass holding everything together. These products are thrown out into the universe and are blended into huge clouds of gas and dust that eventually form new stars, the universal recycling system overhead in Our Night Sky.