



SEPTEMBER 2026

VOLUME 17 • ISSUE 9

PARADISE VALLEY SILVER TROWEL LODGE NO. 29

A.F. & A.M. • PHOENIX, ARIZONA

THE NORTHEAST CORNER

The place of
instruction,
beginning,
and the foundation
of every
Brother's journey.

SEE PAGE 6



BE YE THEREFORE
PERFECT,
EVEN AS YOUR
FATHER WHICH IS
IN HEAVEN
IS PERFECT.
— MATTHEW 5:48



MASONIC EDUCATION THE NORTHEAST CORNER

Why the Northeast
Corner holds such deep
meaning in our Craft.

SEE PAGE 7

THIS MONTH: BROTHERHOOD • SERVICE • HARMONY • SEEKING LIGHT

Featuring Brother Richard Harold Russell at 104 Years of Age



FROM THE EAST

*Leadership
and vision*

PAGE 2



FROM THE WEST

*Labor and
preparation*

PAGE 3



FROM THE SOUTH

*Support and
strength*

PAGE 4



CALENDAR

*September
at a glance*

PAGE 5



BROTHERHOOD

*Masonic Birthdays,
Builders, and more*

PAGES 11-13

FAITH • HOPE • CHARITY



PARADISE VALLEY SILVER TROWEL LODGE NO. 29

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2026

VOLUME 17
ISSUE 9

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER, ONE DAY AT A TIME

FROM THE EAST

MESSAGE FROM WORSHIPFUL MASTER MICHAEL KOSATKA

September has several natural connections to Freemasonry, especially when viewed through the Masonic themes of labor, harvest, balance, renewal, and preparation.

1. Labor and the dignity of work

September traditionally includes Labor Day in the United States. This fits closely with a central Masonic idea: that a man should be known by his work and character, not merely by his position. The Mason is taught to improve himself and contribute to the improvement of society. The familiar Masonic symbolism of the working tools reinforces this idea. Just as a craftsman uses his tools to build something useful, a Mason is encouraged to use his virtues and abilities to build a better life.

2. The harvest — the result of our labor

September is associated with the beginning of the harvest season. This provides a powerful Masonic metaphor:

We eventually reap what we have spent our lives cultivating.

A Mason can ask: What have I planted this year? What am I now harvesting? And what will I plant for the future? This connects particularly well with the Masonic emphasis on self-examination and moral improvement.

3. Balance and the changing seasons

September contains the autumnal equinox, when day and night are approximately equal. While the equinox itself is not specifically a Masonic observance, the symbolism of balance fits naturally with Masonic teachings. Freemasonry frequently encourages a man to seek balance between:

- duty and pleasure,
- work and rest,
- self-interest and service,
- knowledge and humility.

The changing of the seasons can therefore serve as a reminder that life itself is constantly changing, and we must continually adjust and improve ourselves.

4. Preparation for the coming winter

Autumn is a season of preparation. The Mason can use September as a time to consider whether the foundation he has built is strong enough for the challenges ahead. This connects beautifully with the idea of building the Temple within ourselves. The physical building may be completed, but the moral and spiritual work of building one's character is never truly finished.

That would fit particularly well with the Labor Day → working tools → harvest → self-examination → Preparation progression.

Brothers I also want to remind you that it begins our work with the schools and we will need volunteers to help with our parent teacher cookouts. I do not have the dates as of yet but there will be more information to follow.

Fraternally Yours
WM
Michael Kosatka



MICHAEL KOSATKA
WORSHIPFUL MASTER



LABOR • HARVEST
BALANCE • PREPARATION



FAITH • HOPE • CHARITY

BE YE THEREFORE PERFECT, EVEN AS YOUR FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN IS PERFECT.

MATTHEW 5:48





DARREN REALE
SENIOR WARDEN

IN HARMONY WE THRIVE

*When we come together
in fellowship, guided by
Brotherly Love and
standing in harmony,
we create a legacy
that resonates far
beyond ourselves.*



*"If you feed them,
they will come!"*

FROM THE WEST

Harmony of Heart • Fellowship of Spirit • Brotherhood in Action



Greetings from the West!

I have some wages to pay – Brothers, thank you from all you do to help our Lodge from painting to bringing things in, to being present at our meetings, work parties, and friend-to-friend nights. Also, a BIG thank to everyone that brings food to our Wednesday meetings and gatherings including Bro. Adam, Bro. Nick, Bro. Donald, Bro. Billy, and all the other Brothers that contribute. It makes me think of the old movie with the baseball story of the Iowa cornfield – "Field of Dreams"....the quote being, "if you build it, they will come." I'm thinking here of "If you feed them, they will come!" Whatever it takes to get you here, Brothers! So, in my brief talk here, is it food that we gather around for, or fellowship, or ritual, or something to make our heart happy and light.....perhaps it is.....Harmony? That wonderful feeling when your heart is light, and you feel at peace and one with everything?

Harmony is talked about in Masonry, and is even mentioned at the beginning and end of some of our 'events' so to say. Harmony is a BROAD subject area, and even music talks about two or more sounds that are pleasing to your ear (and this Brothers, varies from culture to culture because some sounds that are pleasing in Indonesia from a gamalong musical instrument sound unusual to us!). But, I digress. Harmony is that which two or more brothers feel 'in synch' with, causing a state of tranquility and happiness.

W/Bro. Albert G. Mackey had a little bit to share on harmony in Masonry, and I'd like to share it with you: "Harmony is the chief support of every well regulated institution. Without it, the most extensive empires must decay; with it, the weakest nations may become powerful. The ancient philosophers and poets believed that the prototype of harmony was to be found in the sublime music of the spheres, and that man, copying nature, has attempted to introduce this divine melody into human life. And thus, it proves its celestial origin, by the heavenly influence it exerts on earth....Let every Mason, anxious for the prosperity of his order, feel the truth of the maxim, and remember that for harmony should his Lodge be opened-- in harmony should it work -- and with harmony be closed."

Bro. Darren back with you here again: Music, harmony, celestial music of the spheres, and Brotherhood all working in harmony. A great thing that exists, to strive for when needed, and to be a part of the grand harmony that can exist in us all, and with each other. Thank you for letting me share this with you.

Fraternally,
Bro. Darren
Senior Warden





FROM THE SOUTH

Orion • Astronomy • Time • Seeking Light



As the weeks pass, Orion will continue his steady march across the heavens. Soon, he will no longer be confined to the early morning hours but will take his familiar and honorable place in the evening sky. For me, his appearance was certainly a welcome reminder that the long, brutal Phoenix summer will eventually surrender to cooler days. But it also reminded me of something deeper.

As Masons, we are encouraged to contemplate the liberal arts and sciences, including astronomy, which teaches us to observe the movements of the heavenly bodies and the order of the universe. Long before clocks, calendars, smartphones told us where we stood in time, mankind looked toward the heavens. The rising and setting of the stars marked seasons, guided travelers, and reminded our ancestors that they were participants in something far greater than themselves. The heavens became both a clock and a compass.

Perhaps there is a lesson for us in simply paying attention. Our lives become so busy that days can easily blend into weeks, months, and years without our noticing their passage. Yet above us, the great celestial clock continues its work. The constellations rise and fall, the seasons turn, and another year quietly moves along its course. Taking a moment to look upward can remind us not only of the passage of time, but also of the importance of how we choose to use the time allotted to us.

So, my Brothers, take a moment from time to time and look toward the heavens. There are wonders above us every night and many lessons awaiting those willing to notice them. Sometimes seeking more Light begins simply by remembering to look up.

With the weather hopefully beginning to cool in the near future, this is also a wonderful opportunity to visit the Lodge if it has been a while since you last joined us. Come see your Brothers, share in the fellowship, and take a look at the improvements being made to our Lodge. There has been a great deal of work taking place within those walls, both physically and spiritually, and every Brother who walks through the door becomes part of that work.

I hope to see you in Lodge soon. Until then, keep your eyes on the stars.

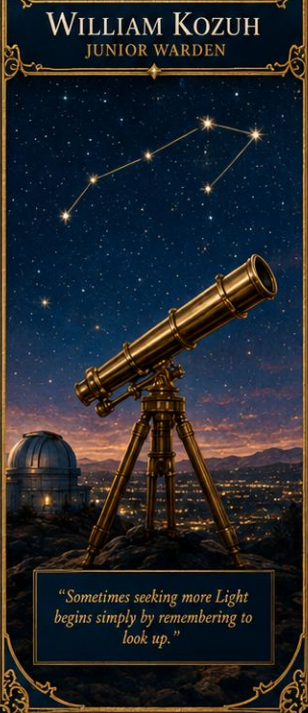
Fraternally,

Brother William Kozuh

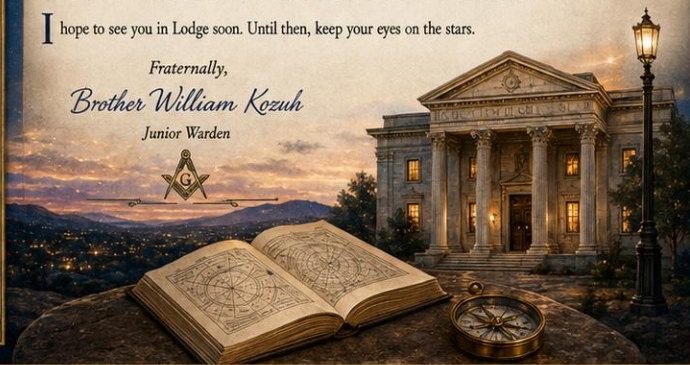
Junior Warden



WILLIAM KOZUH
JUNIOR WARDEN

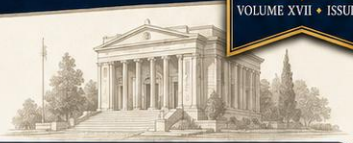


*"Sometimes seeking more Light
begins simply by remembering to
look up."*





SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE



LODGE OPENS
6:15 PM



DINNER 6:30 PM
PREPARED BY BROTHER ADAM



OFFICIAL LODGE BUSINESS
BEGINS AT 7:30 PM

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2  Stated Meeting Flooring Vote	3	4	5
6	7	8	9  Friend to Friend Bring a Friend	10	11	12
13	14	15	16  Paint Party Finish painting the trim in the entry and hall	17	18	19
20	21	22	23  2nd Degree Practice	24	25	26
27	28	29	30  Officers & Trustees Meeting			

SEPTEMBER LODGE ACTIVITIES



SEPT 2 Stated Meeting — vote on Lodge flooring proposal



SEPT 9 Friend to Friend — Bring a Friend to the Lodge



SEPT 16 Paint Party — finish painting the trim in the entry and hall



SEPT 23 2nd Degree Practice



SEPT 30 Officers and Trustees Meeting

CALENDAR KEY



Stated Meeting



Degree / Practice



Meetings



Education



Fellowship



Family / Special



Holiday / Lodge Dark



Service / Charity



— FAITH ♦ HOPE ♦ CHARITY —

BE YE THEREFORE PERFECT, EVEN AS YOUR FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN IS PERFECT. — MATTHEW 5:48





LODGE ACTIVITIES & DEGREE PRACTICE

September 2026



SEPTEMBER 2

STATED MEETING

The Brethren will conduct the regular Stated Meeting.
The Lodge flooring proposal will be presented for a vote approving both
THR Contracting and the proposed price of \$24,100.40.



SEPTEMBER 9

FRIEND TO FRIEND

Bring a Friend to the Lodge. An evening focused on fellowship,
welcoming guests, and sharing time with our Brothers.



SEPTEMBER 16

PAINT PARTY

Finish painting the trim in the entry and hall. Brothers are encouraged
to lend a hand as we continue improving our Lodge home.



SEPTEMBER 23

2ND DEGREE PRACTICE

Officers and participating Brothers will work together
on Second Degree practice.



SEPTEMBER 30

OFFICERS & TRUSTEES MEETING

Monthly Officers and Trustees meeting.



EVERY WEDNESDAY THIS MONTH

Lodge Opens 6:15 PM ♦ Dinner 6:30 PM ♦ Official Lodge Business 7:30 PM





MASONIC EDUCATION

◆ THE NORTHEAST CORNER ◆ *Foundations and Beginnings*



A PLACE OF BEGINNINGS

In public Masonic symbolism, the northeast corner is often used as an image of beginnings, foundations, and the work that lies ahead. The lesson is architectural as much as moral: before a structure can rise, its base must be true, stable, and capable of carrying what will be built upon it.



THE FOUNDATION COMES FIRST

Operative builders understand that small errors at the foundation become larger problems as a wall rises. The same principle applies to character. Habits, choices, discipline, and integrity form the base upon which a man builds his life.



DIRECTION AND PURPOSE

A corner establishes direction. It tells the builder where one wall meets another and gives order to the larger plan. In our own lives, purpose performs a similar function. Clear principles help us decide how to act when circumstances are uncertain.



WORK THAT CONTINUES

A cornerstone does not complete a building; it begins one. Personal improvement works the same way. The goal is not to claim that the work is finished, but to keep building with greater skill, patience, and awareness.

This feature intentionally discusses only public symbolism and contains no ritual wording, modes of recognition, obligations, floor work, or proficiency material.

◆ A strong building begins with a sound foundation. ◆





MASONIC EDUCATION

— BUILDING THE CORNERSTONE WITHIN —

1

FOUNDATION

Good habits are supporting the life you are trying to build? Strong work is easier when the base is sound.



2

ALIGNMENT

Builders repeatedly check their work. Reflection serves the same purpose: it helps us notice when actions and principles have drifted apart.



3

BALANCE

A structure must distribute weight wisely. A good life also requires balance among duty, family, work, rest, learning, and service.



4

SERVICE

A building is not constructed only for itself. Our work gains meaning when it provides shelter, strength, encouragement, or opportunity for others.



A QUESTION FOR THE MONTH

What are you building now — in your character, your relationships, your Lodge, and your community — and is the foundation strong enough to support it?



PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL FEATURE



ANNOUNCEMENTS & LODGE BUSINESS

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PARADISE VALLEY SILVER TROWEL LODGE No. 29

UPCOMING EVENTS



STATED COMMUNICATION

Tuesday, September 2, 2026
Dinner at 6:30 PM
♦ Lodge at 7:30 PM



OFFICER INSTALLATION

Saturday, September 26, 2026
Details to follow

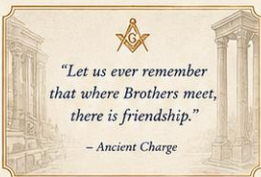


LABOR DAY

Monday, September 7, 2026
*Remembering the contributions
of America's workforce.*

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ★ All Trustees are requested to attend the next Trustee Meeting.
- ★ Brethren, please keep our sick and distressed Brothers in your thoughts and prayers.
- ★ Petitions for degrees are always welcomed. See the Secretary for information.



*"Let us ever remember
that where Brothers meet,
there is friendship."*

— Ancient Charge



NOTICE TO THE BRETHREN — LODGE FLOORING REPLACEMENT

At the September 2, 2026 Stated Meeting, the Brethren will be asked to vote on approval of THR Contracting to complete the Lodge flooring replacement project at the proposed contract price of **\$24,100.40**.

The vote is to approve both the price and the company.

Funding will be from the **Building Fund**.



	PROPOSED ACTION:	Replacement of Lodge flooring
	ESTIMATED COST:	\$24,100.40
	CONTRACTOR:	THR Contracting
	FUNDING SOURCE:	Building Fund
	VOTE:	SEPTEMBER 2, 2026 Stated Meeting (Approve Price & Company)



PROJECT SCOPE FROM THR ESTIMATE #48



- Remove existing carpet and designated flooring.
- Remove and reinstall theater seating as required for installation.
- Install new LVP flooring with underlayment.
- Install new checkerboard tile in the designated area.
- Install stair nosing, transition strips, and 1/4-round.
- Complete final cleanup and debris disposal.



YOUR PARTICIPATION MATTERS.

Brothers are encouraged to attend, review the proposal, ask questions, and participate in the Lodge's decision.



BE INFORMED. BE INVOLVED. BE THE STRENGTH OF OUR LODGE.

FAITH ♦ HOPE ♦ CHARITY



BROTHERHOOD & MILESTONES

CELEBRATING THE JOURNEY. HONORING THE BROTHER.

Freemasonry is a journey built on friendship, character, and service. We honor our Brothers who celebrate another year of life in Masonry and those who reach important milestones in their Masonic journey.



SEPTEMBER MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

BROTHER	MASTER MASON / MASONIC BIRTHDAY
 Douglas Franklin Spencer	September 6, 1987
 Jeffrey Alan Steinbeck	September 10, 1981
 Scott Michael Durgan	September 12, 2007
 William Robert Kozuh	September 14, 2022
 Francis Crowe Trenholm	September 14, 1985
 Christopher Matthew Reed	September 19, 2002
 Douglas Albert Hanson	September 22, 1976
 Shaun Philip Stapleton	September 29, 2007



If we have missed your Masonic Birthday, please contact the Secretary so we can update our records.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

**Brother Richard Harold Russell —
104 YEARS YOUNG**

*A dedicated full-page tribute
follows on Page 11.*



*"The strength of our Lodge is built on the lives we celebrate
and the Brothers who continue to inspire us."*



CELEBRATING BROTHER RICHARD HAROLD RUSSELL

104 Years of a Life Well Lived

★ A MARINE ★ A MASON ★ A LEADER ★ A BROTHER ★



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



★ WORLD WAR II ★



TWO PURPLE HEARTS

Wounded in action at
Cape Gloucester

HIS SERVICE IN WWII

Enlisted in the United States Marine Corps after the attack on Pearl Harbor while a 19-year-old college student in Michigan.

E Company
2nd Battalion, 7th Marines
1st Marine Division

COMBAT CAMPAIGNS

Guadalcanal
Cape Gloucester

Nine days into the Cape Gloucester battle, a mortar exploded near his position, severely injuring his knee. He was evacuated and hospitalized for approximately five months. His injuries resulted in him being declared unfit for further combat duty.

HIS MASONIC JOURNEY

Entered Apprenticeship January 22, 1955
Fellowcraft March 9, 1955
Master Mason August 24, 1955



TWICE WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF SILVER TROWEL LODGE NO. 29

1967 ★ 1997

A devoted Brother of Silver Trowel Lodge for more than 71 years.

*Master Mason for 71 Years
(1955 - 2026)*

A LIFE OF LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE



PAST POTENTATE
El Zaribah Shriners
1992



33° SCOTTISH RITE MASON
Valley of Phoenix
Southern Jurisdiction



A PROUD FREEMASON
Faithful to the Craft
Loyal to His Brothers

"I have had a good life."

— Richard Russell

U.S. Marine Corps Interview, 2022
(As he prepared to celebrate his 100th birthday)

Brother Richard Harold Russell is a remarkable example of faith, courage, service, and dedication. He has enriched our Lodge, our Fraternity, and our community for more than seven decades.

HAPPY 104TH BIRTHDAY!

AUGUST 7, 1922 — AUGUST 7, 2026
104 Years Young on August 7, 2026



Guadalcanal, 1942



Cape Gloucester, 1944



El Zaribah Potentate, 1992



104th Birthday Celebration, August 7, 2026

A BROTHER. A VETERAN. A LEADER. AN INSPIRATION.

THANK YOU, BROTHER RUSSELL, FOR A LIFETIME OF EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE.





CRAFT BUILDERS & COMMUNITY

Supporting the Lodge • Serving Together

2026 CRAFT BUILDERS

Support your Lodge and be recognized! With a donation of \$20, you can have your name—or the name of a Brother of your choosing—listed for the 2026 calendar year. This is a wonderful way to honor our beloved deceased Brothers or celebrate new Brothers just joining our Craft. Please make your donation to the Secretary and let him know it is for Craft Builders & send an email to webmaster@pvst29.org.

No current Craft Builders list was submitted for this September issue.

SCHOOL & PARENT-TEACHER COOKOUTS — VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CONFIRMED COOKOUT DATES

Cactus View - **October 27th**

Paradise Middle School - **October 28th**

STAY CONNECTED

- Check the Lodge calendar and website for the most up-to-date activities.
- Invite a Brother — or a friend — to join us for fellowship.
- Volunteer when Lodge improvement and school/community opportunities are announced.
- Website: www.pvst29.org • Email: secre



SCAN FOR PVST #29 ONLINE





FROM THE ARCHIVES

Preserving the History of Paradise Valley Silver Trowel Lodge No. 29

1922

1922

Silver Trowel Lodge No. 29 begins its history in downtown Phoenix.

1961

1961

Paradise Valley Lodge No. 61 is chartered at the Lodge's present location.

2000

2000

The two Lodges merge, combining their names as Paradise Valley Silver Trowel Lodge No. 29 and retaining Lodge No. 29.

NOW

TODAY

PVST #29 carries more than a century of history and a legacy that includes seven Grand Masters.

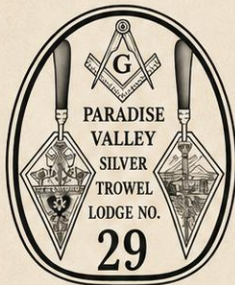
DO YOU HAVE A PIECE OF OUR HISTORY?

Brothers and families are encouraged to share old photographs, Trestleboards, programs, certificates, newspaper clippings, memorabilia, and stories so they can be preserved for future issues.

Historical timeline based on PVST #29 official Lodge history and Past Masters archives.

PAST MASTERS & LODGE INFORMATION

Paradise Valley Silver Trowel Lodge No. 29



PARADISE VALLEY SILVER TROWEL MASONIC LODGE NO. 29, F.&A.M.

Physical: 16027 N 25th St, Phoenix, AZ 85032

Mailing: P.O. Box 54155, Phoenix AZ 85078

Phone: 623-287-5240

Email: secretary@pvst29.org

Website: www.pvst29.org

Making Good Men Better, One Day at a Time

OUR PAST MASTERS

Dean Graham, PM-Charter Master (2000)*

James Miller, PM (2001)*

William "Skip" Boyer, PM (2002)*

Stafford O Gormley, PM (2003)

William R Hearter, Jr., PM (2004)

David P McArdle, PM (2005)*

Phil "Jack" J Buta, PM (2006)

James E Boniface, PM (2007)

Eric T Carter, PM (2008)

Scot M Baker, PM (2009)

Kirk Lockett, Sr, PM (2010)*

Shane Crabtree, PM (2011)

Tod Truettner, PM (2012)

Leonard Shapiro, PM (2013)

P Bryan Westerman, PM (2014)

Jovan Boskovski, PM (2015)

Mustafa Karamujic, PM (2016)

David McArdle, PM (2017)

Timothy M Dougherty, PM (2018)

Timothy M Dougherty, PM (2019)

William Greenen, PM (2020)

Lukas Siegfried, PM (2021)

Mitchell Robinson, PM (2022)

Mustafa Karamujic, PM (2023)

Jovan Boskovski, PM (2024)

Michael Kosatka (2025)



www.pvst29.org

