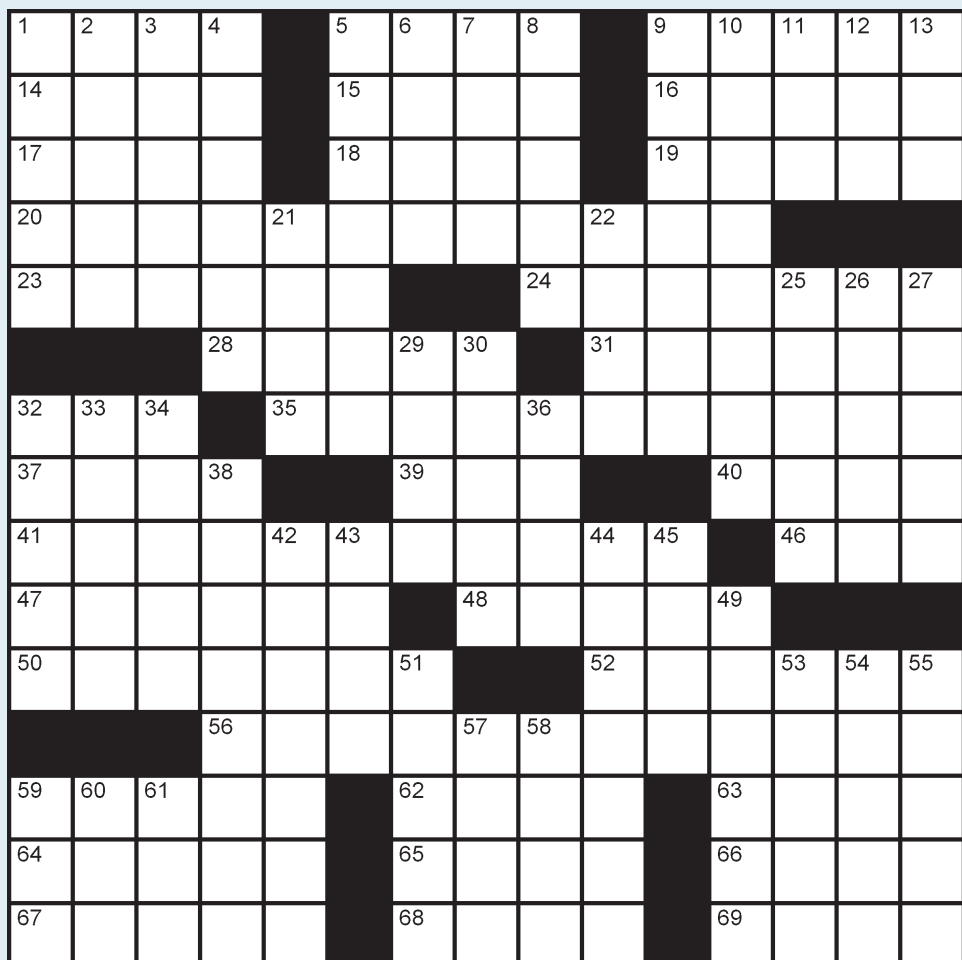


Continuous Improvement by Emily Carroll

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Mixer at a bar (Note: The next few weeks of crosswords were made by LGBTQ+-identifying constructors. Tweet at us using #UniversalWordPride)
35 1963 war film known for its motorcycle jump scene, with "The"
37 Smokeless smoke
39 Org. concerned with traps and hazards
40 Stonestreet of "Modern Family"
41 No mere squirt gun
46 Teens' may be fake
47 Discordant, as music
48 Man of La Mancha
50 Summoned
52 Biggest state
56 Comforting words, and a theme hint
59 "Get Out" director Jordan Peele
62 Score for Abby Cadabby
63 Bust a hump
64 Thirsty, in a sense
65 Green Gables girl
66 Oral history
67 Traverse
68 Tops of cans
69 Special sparkle
DOWN: 1 Hearty gulps
2 Second-guessing phrase
3 "Robinson Crusoe" author
4 Battery ends
5 Word before "family" or "power"
6 Grammy winner India
7 Utah ski resort
8 Its bass singer was Lance Bass
9 Classic movie theater candies
10 Like some melts
11 Package delivery co.
12 "___ It Go" (Idina Menzel song)
13 Ambulance destinations, for short
21 Birkenstock shoe
22 Inevitable outcome
25 Gaming pioneer
26 Swift
27 Corp. suits
29 Seized auto
30 Long stories
32 Flat-topped landforms
33 Less than 90 degrees
34 Nurse, like a drink
36 ___ it easy
38 Non-Jewish people
42 They raise the roof
43 Laborious task
44 Turns on, as notifications
45 Xena, for Lucy Lawless
49 Baby's plaything
51 Queenly
53 Bar seat
54 Knightley of "Bend It Like Beckham"
55 "Over the Rainbow" composer Harold Arlen
57 "Home" author Morrison
58 Hourglass filler
59 Muscle worked on chest day, briefly
60 Spot for a stud
61 Self-importance

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021 Venus Costume Change Throws Love Scene in Flux



Love is a creative endeavor. Some would argue it is the creative endeavor. It follows that each choice contributes to the art. This is well illustrated now as Venus, the planet of love, changes suit. As it goes with costume changes like this, it has the director rethinking the entire scene, from script to lighting, perhaps even casting.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're ready to like things and will find much worthy of your admiration. In fact, dozens of delights are in store for you, many of them sneaky, emerging from unassuming packages or surprising you from low-key moments.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Trials are often seen as punishments or burdens, though confusingly so when you consider how you emerge from them as the best version of yourself. Your current trial should earn a "teacher of the year" award.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You don't always expect a happy ending to the story, but you expect some kind of ending. Your mind doesn't like an open loop. In fact, it finds irresolution so stressful that it will make something up just to close the circle.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your productivity will depend on the extent to which you can focus on what you want. This has changed a little, and you need to refresh your vision. Add some details that will help you stay locked on the vision.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Whatever comes automatically to you has been developed over time to survive and thrive in your circumstances. Your circumstances have changed, and updates to the survival kit are in order, none of which will come automatically.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). What people can't keep up with, they will ignore. You will need to get and keep someone's attention today, which is largely an exercise in reading the feedback and sticking close to the favorable responses.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's a vibe that comes

across when someone is trying to sell you on a product, idea or course of action. It's uncomfortable. You prefer the attractiveness of the offer to do all the selling. Irresistible dynamics are also effortless.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Reporting for duty is more than a matter of attendance; it's also an act of obedience and an attitude of surrender. The successful move will be to follow protocol, observe hierarchy and respect power structures.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are people you easily fall into a groove with and others you must cross a minefield of misunderstandings to get anywhere near. Make your life easy. Work strictly with the former category.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The one who would spend time parsing your words and deconstructing your meaning is actually just finding a very annoying way of signaling a need for acceptance. Provide the love and the nitpicking will stop.

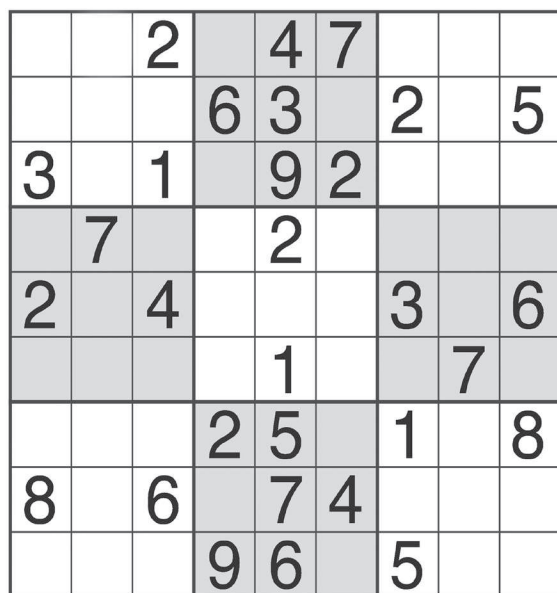
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). While it is possible for you to dance with intellectual enthusiasms without organizing your life around them, it's more fun to succumb to the reorganization. Curiosities have the potential to become obsessions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The realizations come one after another. You're figuring out where your goals align with the interests of others and where they rub uncomfortably, cross, tangle or come up against opposition.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 2). You're not afraid of the chaos of a new venture; in fact, that's the source of big fun. It is in this welcoming spirit that you embark on what will become part of your legacy. You'll mix finances with friendship to excellent effect. A creation will involve bonding, travel and publicity. Your style of interacting with family evolves. Virgo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 33, 26, 1 and 35.

Universal SUDOKU

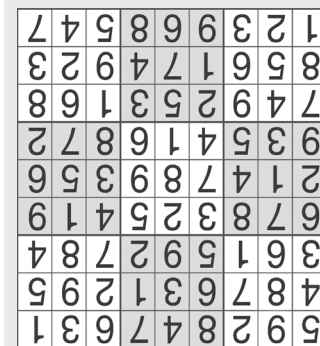
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

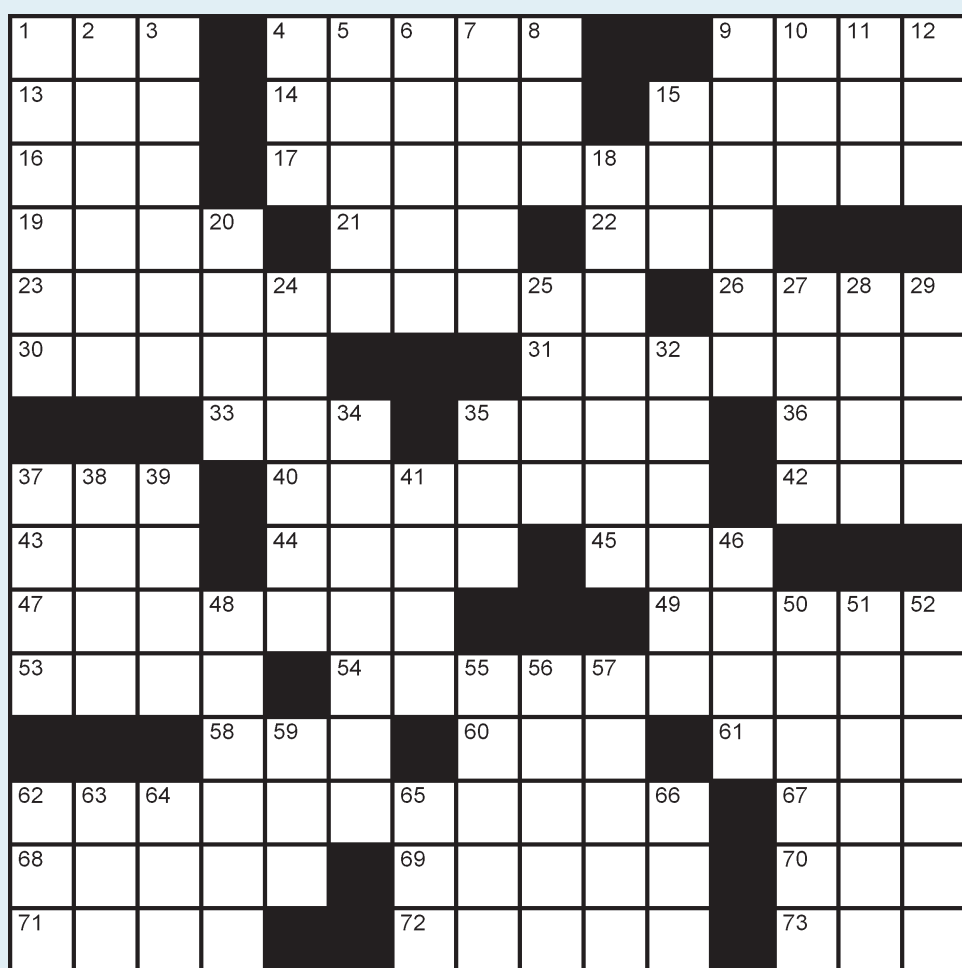


SOLUTIONS



Bean Dip by Sara Cantor

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Protrude, with "out"
4 Broad neckwear
9 "C'est la vie"
13 Greek H
14 Group that sings hymns
15 Huge concert venue
16 Court, knight-style
17 Late March, say (theme hint: in this answer, switch the last word's second letter with the one below it)
19 Poem such as "Gilgamesh"
21 Queen or drone
22 Consumed
23 Phoebe Buffay's portrayal on "Friends" (... first word's third letter ...)
26 Reacts strongly to a sad movie
30 Kafka's Gregor
31 What puts the icing on the cake?
33 Storefront info: Abbr.
35 Hunk
36 Aries animal
37 Egg layer
40 Perplexed
42 First half of a pronoun pair
43 Cheese sharpener
44 Food with an al pastor style
45 Best
47 Iowan
49 Dashes or sprints
53 Prefix with "freeze"
54 Come up with nothing (... last word's fourth letter ...)
58 Word paired with neither
60 A state of matter
61 Without repeating
62 Chinese regime known for its porcelain vases (... first word's second letter ...)
67 Currently
68 Toned down
69 Verb that sounds like a cow part
70 Flattering poem
71 Focusing condition, briefly
72 Drinks in steins
73 ___ Talks
DOWN: 1 Gems
2 Perfect place
3 Lao-tzu's philosophy
4 Asexual, for short
5 When doubled, Japanese hot pot
6 Prepped, as an apple
7 Fuel tanker
8 Sample
9 Put a halt to
10 Hawaiian garland
11 Author ___ M. Martin
12 Droop
15 Fitting
18 Overlooked, as a fault
20 "Cold, hard" money
24 Activity that requires chops?
25 Norwegian capital
27 Plural possessive pronoun
28 Uninspiring
29 "___ time next week?"
32 Soak up
34 "Don't get soaked!"
35 ___-mo
37 "LMAO"
38 Susan who played Belle on Broadway
39 Its eye is in many a witch's brew
41 PC company
46 ___ Alto
48 Crowned, in checkers
50 Is unable to
51 Make into a cipher
52 Slantwise
55 Striped gem
56 Compost, e.g.
57 September flower
59 Drag queen
62 UFC combat style
63 Birth control option, for short
64 Indeterminate degree
65 Short pencil
66 Century's 100: Abbr.

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021 Saturn's Suggestions to the Sun



The sun and Saturn form an angle auspicious for brilliant conclusions and innovations. Saturn warns (as is Saturn's way) against the energy waste caused by unjustified efforts. Justification comes by way of the help brought to others. Furthermore, things are only as beautiful as they are functional, as cool as they are useful.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There is so much going beautifully right around you and yet you'll still hear complaints - a force of habit for some. They could suffer in paradise. Either ignore them or invoke a reality check to interrupt their pattern.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's not what is said but how it's said that matters today. The tone will ring out, recognizable to all, discernable to even those who speak a different language. Emotion is universal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It is a trope of long-running sitcoms to keep it fresh by taking the action to a different country, city or world for an episode or two. Plan some equivalent scenery change for the long-running relationship in your life.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are plenty of reasons not to judge others, the most obvious being that none is without fault. Beyond that, judgment is a distraction and an energy drain. Focus exclusively on the desire you are working toward.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The French proverb says: Honey is sweet, but the bees sting. It might be added that bees typically sting defensively. Since you're not planning to pose a disruptive or overt threat, today's honey will be worth the risk.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your creative mind will spin on things that others overlook. You don't expect them to understand you, though it would be nice if they could give you your alone time to focus on what fascinates you. Request it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There are certain burdens

you feel you must carry alone, but talking them over is a way to lighten your load without making anyone else do the heavy lifting.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Reason and logic have a place in your decision-making. Though, today, it won't be the helm. How do you know when thinking is overthinking? Does it bring the situation into clarity or make it far more complicated?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Everyone gets their due. Maybe it will come as a relief to know that you do not have to worry about the rewards, punishments, debts and remuneration. Karma is an automatic reconciliation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You know how to put on a professional front and can be the poster of appropriateness. Though there are things you do and ways that you show up that are too special to put a price tag on.

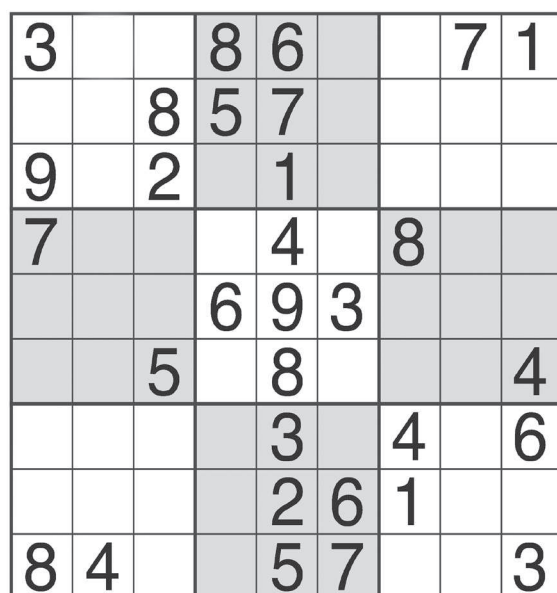
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can't gather wisdom any more than you can gather the ability to run like an Olympian or solve genius-level mathematical equations. You can only use what you have, which will be more than enough today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). At first, you wanted a thing out of vanity. It sounded cool. It seemed like anyone who had it was cool. Now, you want the thing for more profoundly personal reasons, which will make all the difference.

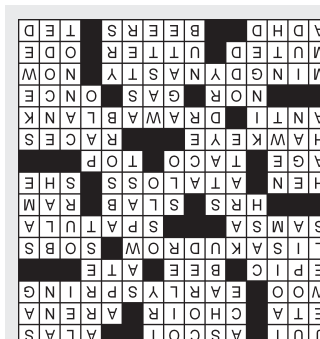
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 3). You thought you would get to the goal by employing great discipline, though it turns out that very little discipline is needed when you lead with your design sense. You apply creativity to alter your surroundings, change your agenda and tweak your behaviors into new ones that reflect the next version of you. Aries and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 14, 5, 7, 44 and 28.

Universal SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

