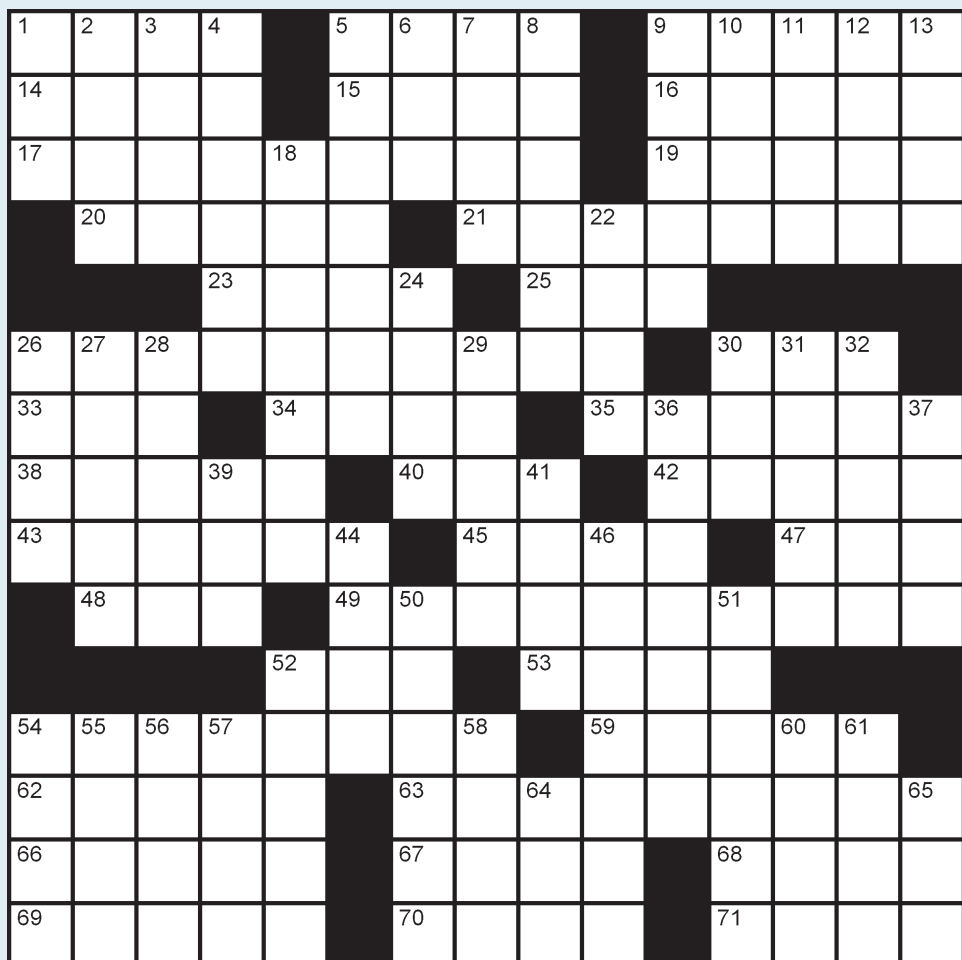


Three-Part Harmony by Jim Holland

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Like some grapes
 - 5 Injure
 - 9 Burst of growth
 - 14 Part of a poker pot
 - 15 Soothing substance
 - 16 Home of the Vietnamese
 - 17 *Assurances?
 - 19 Creme de la creme
 - 20 Middle Eastern leader: Var.
 - 21 Academic stretch
 - 23 Diva's performance
 - 25 Honey ___ bread
 - 26 *Bicycle parts with grips?
 - 30 Jelly holder
 - 33 A Gershwin brother
 - 34 Man in England, for one?
 - 35 Irish, perhaps
 - 38 Number of seas
 - 40 Actress Longoria
 - 42 Insect that can hold its breath for 40 minutes, informally
- DOWN**
- 1 Slump
 - 2 Unpleasant
 - 3 Jazz's state
 - 4 Peruse again
 - 5 They're handy for emotional moments
 - 6 PC key used with F4
 - 7 Becomes inedible
 - 8 Part of an astronomical shower
 - 9 Word before "music" or "metal"
 - 10 Buddies
 - 11 Military subgroup
 - 12 Memorization method
 - 13 Seating level
 - 18 Company concerned with overbooking
 - 22 Antony or Anthony
 - 24 Competent
 - 26 Angry audience member's sound
 - 27 Where wrestlers face off
 - 28 Part of USNA
 - 29 Gun, as an engine
 - 30 Pop icon who dated A-Rod
 - 31 Classic name in video games
 - 32 Christina of 1991's "The Addams Family"
 - 36 Book blunder
 - 37 Tea with a masala variety
 - 39 Prior to, poetically
 - 41 ___ Minor (much of Turkey)
 - 44 Healing sign
 - 46 Dazed states
 - 50 In the thick of
 - 51 Hacked (off)
 - 52 They're alive in "The Sound of Music"
 - 54 Strategy
 - 55 Seldom seen
 - 56 Theatrical award
 - 57 Part of a baby that must be supported
 - 58 French word before and after "a"
 - 60 Smidgen
 - 61 Plunder
 - 64 Fire from a job
 - 65 ___-size-fits-all

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021 Confluence of Word and Deed



There's a powerful opportunity to progress a goal under this meetup of Mercury and Mars in Virgo. The conjunction lends purpose to words, clarity to vision, and momentum to action. And the best part of this alignment in hard-working Virgo is an inclination to repeat what works until the desired result comes to hand.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Inside your own realm, you have a strong sense of purpose, but you may feel less sure in foreign territory. Make a goal of maintaining your resolve in every environment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). In dealing with strangers, you are unthinkingly -- though unflinchingly -- alert to the full range of things that can happen. Interactions will go in an interesting direction.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What's good for one person might be harmful to the next. Some need to let loose, while others should tighten the reins. The only one who really knows what feels good to you is you. Ask yourself, and then listen.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are those who avoid saying, "I love you" in fear that words can only reduce the power of such an epic emotion. Today's actions will be an unmistakable indication of your feelings.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Too much introspection is draining. You are energized by projecting yourself, connecting and interacting in the exterior world. You'll be especially lucky with activities that are unrelated to what's on your mind.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Self-indulgence is a necessary part of life. Without pleasure, you'll be depressed and unmotivated. Since too much pleasure becomes pain, finding and living in the sweet spot is an art. You'll nail it today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you're not making headway on your problem, solve someone else's. The energy of progress will permeate the atmosphere and you'll soon see improvement all around.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When you give your trust, it's not really for the other person; it's so you can get on with your life. It will be a relief when someone meets your test, so you can relax the scrutiny and just go with the flow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a reason therapists get paid. Hearing the unedited version of people's stories can be work. It's why you share on a need-to-know basis with only a select few.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Disloyalty sets off alarm bells. People relax around people who seem rooted. Highlight the good parts of your history. Remember who brought you to the dance.

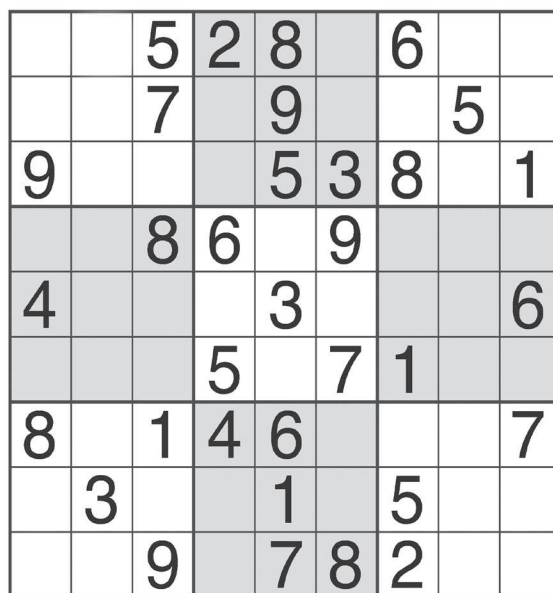
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Handle concerns having to do with sales, leads, revenues and profits. The good fortune will carry over to more personal areas of your life. Tonight, relating to those older than you will be lucky.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's not always the case, but right now, your own quest is as worthy of following as any royal decree, and certainly more important to tend to than what your friends and loved ones want. Make yourself the priority.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 18). Your wish will be tied up in a bow and handed to you. Despite your mixed feelings about being the center of attention, you'll love the sweetness showered on you over the next 10 weeks. Second chances for relationships will happen in 2022, as well as a change in the way you make money. Capricorn and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 4, 44, 19 and 32.

Universal SUDOKU

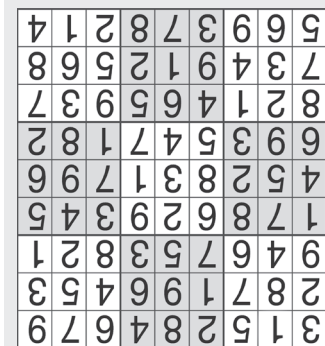
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

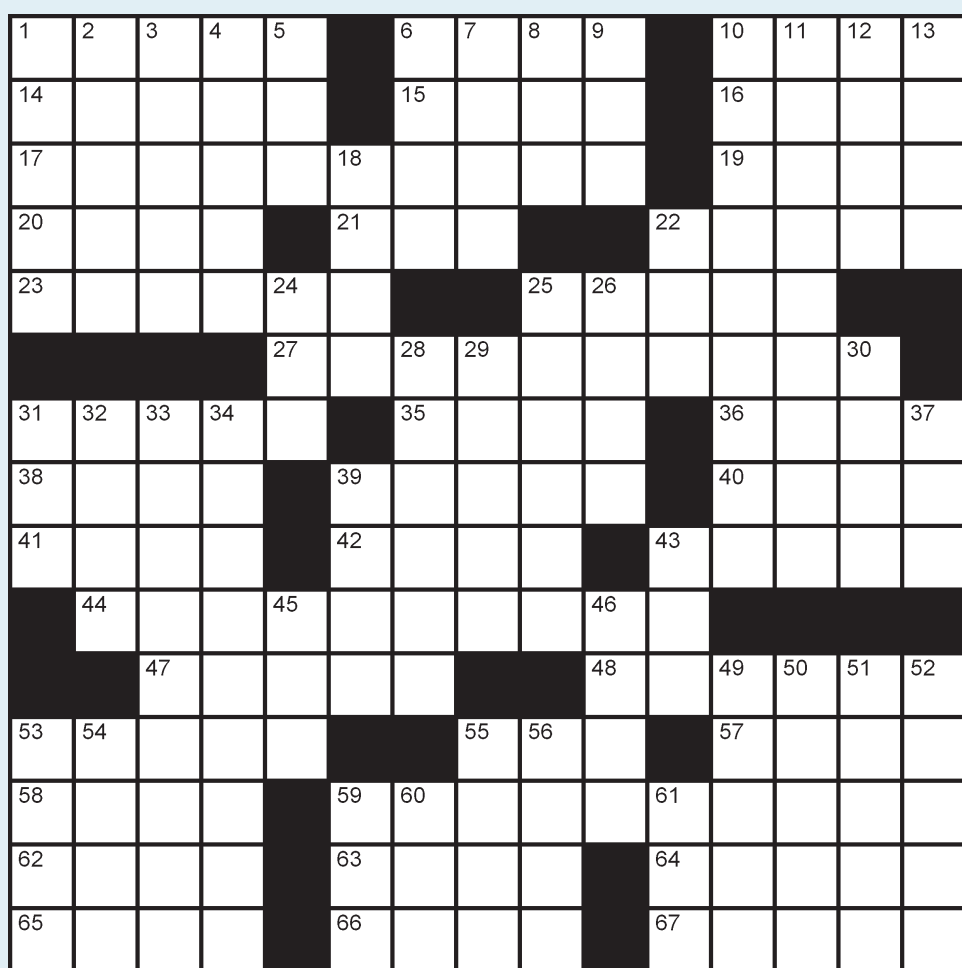


SOLUTIONS



Half-and-Half by Megan OConnell and Joe Gaspard

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Finding a purpose for
 - 6 Discharge forcefully
 - 10 Pal
 - 14 Bit of gossip
 - 15 Relative of a wharf
 - 16 Only
 - 17 *Shred every last bit of in the kitchen?
 - 19 Redding who sang "(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay"
 - 20 Waffle maker
 - 21 Anger
 - 22 Finishes a hole
 - 23 Word after "pleasure" or "treasure"
 - 25 Surpass
 - 27 *A-lister's tirades?
 - 31 Part of a long poem
 - 35 Not odd at all
 - 36 Monopoly token that the cat replaced
- DOWN**
- 38 ___ Thins (crisp cookies)
 - 39 Ados
 - 40 Beginner, slangily
 - 41 Seedy tavern
 - 42 Words in an analogy
 - 43 Insurance giant
 - 44 *Dissuade polite guys?
 - 47 Math comparison
 - 48 End result
 - 53 Trash heaps
 - 55 "Affirmative"
 - 57 Inlet
 - 58 Restaurant with syrup caddies
 - 59 Gets two fives, perhaps ... or what each starred clue does, based on its answer's length?
 - 62 Feeling cross
 - 63 Stops from squeaking
 - 64 Warning
 - 65 Oscar winner for "Moonstruck"
 - 66 Marlins' catcher?
 - 67 Bombards
 - 1 Yens
 - 2 Sudden increase
 - 3 What you may only need to sharpen once
 - 4 Unacceptable
 - 5 Test for an M.A. hopeful
 - 6 Stimulate, as innovation
 - 7 Mound
 - 8 Long fish at a sushi bar
 - 9 Sardonic
 - 10 Blissful "place"
 - 11 Ready and eager
 - 12 Syllabus section
 - 13 Kitchen that's full of dirty dishes, say
 - 18 Terminate at work
 - 22 Grp. that may discuss class size
 - 24 Prefix with "friendly"
 - 25 King of the fairies
 - 26 Large coffee holders
 - 28 "Hurry up!"
 - 29 Online party
 - 30 Before long
 - 31 Fish in a crocodile's belly?
 - 32 Very dry
 - 33 "Quoth the raven, ___" (Poe)
 - 34 High-spirited tune
 - 37 Hoops org.
 - 39 iPhone helper
 - 43 "Antony and Cleopatra" snake
 - 45 Sci-fi characters
 - 46 Walrus feature
 - 49 You might dread stepping on it
 - 50 Traveler's stop
 - 51 Blatant
 - 52 Mobile homes?
 - 53 Part of DVD
 - 54 "We're in trouble!"
 - 55 Shout
 - 56 Relaxed state
 - 59 Conk on the head
 - 60 Summer Olympics host before Tokyo
 - 61 Weaken

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021 Leo Sun's Last Days



With just a few days left of the Leo sun, the self-centered charisma of main character energy is hanging on for dear life. Jupiter challenges the matter, taunting the sun from the philanthropic realm of Aquarius. If the Leo sun is "one for all," Jupiter in Aquarius is "all for one." Uranus interrupts the argument with a reversal.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Confluent interests naturally organize into a group effort that elevates all individual contributions, including your own. What happens next might best be described as a (SET ITAL) wonderful becoming. (END ITAL)

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Even as you try new styles, add skills and work to accommodate the fresh demands of the time, there's a strong core at your center that remains unchanged.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Unfriendliness is a kind of weakness and a failure of awareness you avoid as you strive to create an atmosphere of support, inclusion and ease around you. You bring out the best in people.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When telling a story, you dwell on the parts that suit you, and a good audience asks questions according to their own curiosity. If curiosity is not forthcoming, consider whether you have the right audience.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Acting out of frustration usually fixes nothing. More often, solutions come from a calm place. You strive to keep your cool, not only because things work better that way but also because it's how you want to be remembered.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You know what it's like to feel different from the others, and you'd rather not judge anyone. Also, judgment removes you from the present moment, which is where power and pleasure come from.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll attract people to your cause. Once they get involved, it becomes their own.

The fact that this purpose means something different to each person who gets involved is further proof this is a worthwhile effort.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've figured out this puzzle before, but that gives you little advantage. This disassembled jumble must once again be built piece by piece. At least now you know it can be done.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Avoidance would be an effective coping technique except for the lingering fear that the thing you're avoiding will eventually catch up to you. Spin around quick, and face it head-on.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There will always be people who have what you want. Use them as inspiration, not discouragement. Their attainment in the one area has nothing to do with your ability to reach your goals.

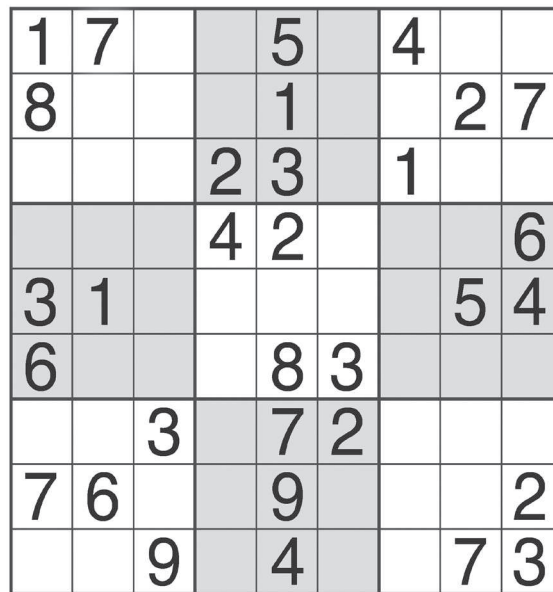
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Clearly, you've become attached to a certain outcome. You didn't anticipate this would happen. Your unpredictable feelings come part in parcel with being human.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Chasing is an active strategy but not a powerful one. You should not have to chase that which is your equal. Equals are magnetized by a reciprocal attraction. Chasing makes things run.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 19). You were born to lead. Your plans are inspired, and the way you communicate them will lead others to help you build amazing new circumstances, business and relationships. For you, the best part is seeing loved ones thrive with the care and modeling you so successfully give. Savvy negotiating nets an October win. Cancer and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 2, 4, 1 and 9.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

