

Funeral plants and flowers should be shared by mourners

DEAR ABBY: My father passed away recently. Flowers and plants were sent to the funeral home. After the funeral mass, the flowers were sent to the cemetery for the gravesite services. Afterward, I was asked to go to the funeral home to pick them up.

When I arrived, I saw my sister-in-law taking the plant her employer had sent into her car. She said it was HER plant. The next day, my other sister-in-law went to my mother's house to retrieve the plant HER company had sent.

Abby, I have never heard of this. I thought that because the flowers and plants had been sent to my mother, it should be up to her to decide whether or not she wants to distribute them. After all, she's the one suffering the greatest loss. What is the proper procedure for plants to be distributed after a funeral? — **CHRISTINE IN MISSOURI**

DEAR CHRISTINE: The plants should be shared. Your mother is not the only person who is grieving. Your sisters-in-law are married to the sons of the deceased, so they should have the plants their employers sent to the funeral.

When there are more flowers and plants than the family can enjoy, people often have them delivered to nursing homes or homes for the elderly or disabled,



DEAR ABBY

where they can lend a burst of color and good cheer.

P.S. Thank-yous to the senders should be sent by your sisters-in-law for the plants they took.

DEAR ABBY: It seems strange to write to you, but I'd like to share this story about how small acts of kindness can multiply.

On a dark, miserable afternoon, I was out grocery shopping. The woman in line in front of me had two small children and two full carts of groceries. When all her bags were loaded, she began frantically searching in her purse for her car keys. When she couldn't find them, she realized that, in her haste, she had locked them inside her car. I asked if I could drive her home to get a spare key and she agreed.

I helped her into her house with her bags of groceries, then drove them all back to the store for her car. "How can I ever thank you?" she asked. My reply was, "No thanks are

needed; just pass it on."

Two weeks later, I was at a party when a couple walked into the living room and the woman excitedly said, "There she is!" It was the woman from the market. She rushed over and proceeded to tell everyone how we met.

Then she said she'd had her chance to "pass it on." I asked what she told the person who had thanked HER, and she said, "I said what you did, 'No thanks are needed – pass it on!'"

Small kindnesses bring big rewards. If anyone has been the recipient of an act of kindness, remember to pass it on. It's the Golden Rule.

Thanks, Dear Abby – you "pass on" kindness with each column you write. — **LIVING THE GOLDEN RULE IN WASHINGTON**

DEAR LIVING THE GOLDEN RULE: I am a firm believer in passing it on and have long shared that philosophy with friends. However, regardless of how long you preach, the best sermon is a good example.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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	6			1	5	8	
		3				6	
	8		4				
			1	2		7	
	4	1	3		6	8	2
			9		7	4	
					7		5
	9					6	
	2	8	5				9

Instructions for play: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. It's fun. It's challenging. It's addictive!

Solving time is typically from 10 to 30 minutes, depending on your skill and experience. The solution for today's puzzle will be published in Saturday's paper. Or you can go to www.sudoku.com to find the solution.

2	8	3	1	9	4	7	5	6
1	7	4	6	3	5	9	8	2
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5	4	8	9	1	2	6	7	3
9	2	7	4	6	3	5	1	8
3	1	6	7	5	8	2	9	4
4	3	1	5	7	6	8	2	9
8	9	5	3	2	1	4	6	7
7	6	2	8	4	9	1	3	5

Previous Puzzle

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, your energy needs an outlet. Exercise is a productive way to expend yourself, so stretch at your desk, skip the elevator for the stairs or take a walk at lunchtime.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Untangle yourself from conflicts at work, Taurus. This is not the time to get involved in anything that may put your chances for a promotion in jeopardy.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

You are full of intellectual energy, Gemini. Answers to trivia show questions come easily to you and you're ready to solve the world's most pressing problems.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, give your finances serious consideration this week. Find a solid plan for saving and stick with it because you are going to need extra funds in a few months.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Expect some great news to come your way this week, Leo. This news may impact your personal or professional life, or even both. Ready yourself.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, be flexible with your schedule so you can go with the flow as much as possible this week. Try something silly that will put you in a good mood.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Don't sweat the small stuff, Libra. Others are more focused on the bigger picture so you don't need to fret over everything. Relax and things will come together nicely.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Watch out for any impulses that are out of character for you, Scorpio. You could be feeling like abandoning your usual modus operandi in favor of taking a more risky approach.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

You have lots of social energy this week, Sagittarius. Others are relying on you, and you are likely to have many admirers by the week's end. Take this opportunity to impress.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, daily life can be tiring, but you need to find a way to muster a little more energy. Get adequate rest and eat right so you have the energy you need in the week ahead.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Life gets a bit interesting this week, Aquarius. Embrace change, even if the concept of change is alien to you. It is good to get out of your shell.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, now might be a good time to reflect and take a break from the hustle and bustle. See if you can fly solo for a little while.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 27
Cory Booker, Politician (45)

APRIL 28
Penelope Cruz, Actress (40)

APRIL 29
Jerry Seinfeld, Comic (60)

APRIL 30
Johnny Galecki, Actor (39)

MAY 1
Emilia Clarke, Actress (27)

MAY 2
Donatella Versace, Designer (59)

MAY 3
Eric Church, Singer (37)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Headliner
5 José's home
9 Director Sergio
10 Ticket category
12 Cutting severely
13 Ultra-serious
14 Odometer reading
16 Parched
17 Jargon suffix
18 Auditions
20 Layers
22 Sunset setting
23 Fleet-related
25 Fluffy
28 Confidential
32 Throb
34 Gun grp.
35 Dined
36 Illness indicator
38 Winter weather
40 Popeye's love
41 Computer shortcut
42 Identifies
43 Calendar span
44 Peepers

DOWN

- 1 Like "the little woman"
2 Drudge
3 One of the Brontës
4 Sailing contest
5 Batter of verse
6 Brouhaha
7 Bring under control
8 Tips off flower
9 Disables
11 Secret meeting
15 Seriousness
19 Hogwarts messengers
21 Picnic pests
24 Showy
25 Twitch
26 Expenditure
27 Rip off
29 Eventually

SAUCER	STAB
ABRADE	THRU
DANCES	REED
ANTEUP	
ISTO	STRAP
NTH	MASSIVE
CUE	ARA
NAT	
AMPLIFY	CIA
SPAIN	SELL
USEDUP	
RAPT	ATONCE
EPEE	MAKEUP
BERN	SHEETS

Previous Puzzle

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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4-26

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Record company
6 Writer Kingsley
10 Nimble
11 Wood strips
13 Wild fear
14 Assume as a fact
15 Salt Lake City player
16 Cabinet wood
18 Future embryos
19 Spider-Man's alter ego
22 Attempt
23 Swiss river
24 Turning tool
27 Deep chasm
28 Region
29 LAPD alert
30 Wonder Woman's alter ego
35 "— Misérables"
36 Earth: Prefix
37 "... man — mouse?"
38 Old anesthetic
40 Less colorful
42 Purloined
43 Many a time

- 44 Church area
45 Dance units

DOWN

- 1 Accept eagerly
2 Quartz variety
3 Psychologist Alfred
4 Quarterback Manning
5 "The Russia House" author
6 First Greek letter
7 Chinese chairman
8 "Don't worry"

ACTS	BLAST
THAIS	EAGLE
BAMBI	TREES
ASP	DESKSET
TEASET	APE
ACES	GOD
ROMA	ATON
LIP	RULE
IVE	SUNSET
MINDSET	PAR
PEPUP	ELITE
IRINA	SIRES
DATER	DENS

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4-28

Daily Cryptoquote – Here's how to work it:

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

CRYPTOQUOTE

MDY ZOXYFM IGXEJGEY OF

BVFMIL BGKY JS VZ FOBSIY

J X O B S V F O X E C V W K F .

— E Y V W E Y Y I O V M

Previous Cryptoquote: THE MOST VALUABLE OF ALL TALENTS IS THAT OF NEVER USING TWO WORDS WHEN ONE WILL DO. – Thomas Jefferson

COMICS

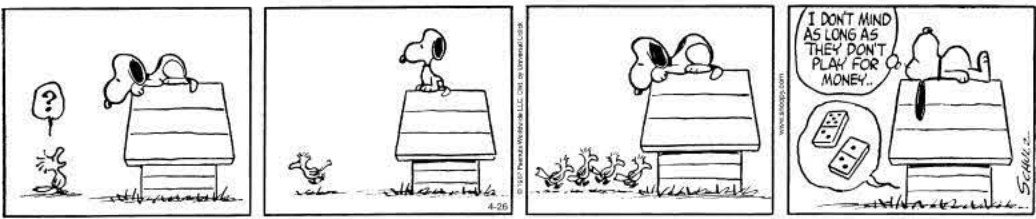
Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

