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BritClub News



Sarasota British Club
P.O.Box 21063
Sarasota, FL 34276

Board of Directors

President:	Gary Lee	706-1172	glee01@verizon.net
Vice President:	Sue Ford	751-3811	sueford47@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Eileen Schuler	753-4589	emkbentley@gmail.com
Secretary	Sandra Cherry	921-3162	yourcuppatea1@yahoo.com
Membership Chair:	Derek Curran	966-3983	derekmcurran@msn.com
Newsletter	B. Thompson	388-8018	lakewood2@gmail.com
Director at Large1:	Terry Sweeney	918-0550	tsweeneyau@aol.com
Director at Large2:	Shona Burtner	925-0462	skburtner@hotmail.com
Director at Large3:	Nairn' Gillet	366-9984	ngillet@yahoo.com
Past President:	Ken Jukes	927-6499	kena.jukes@yahoo.com



BritClub News

December, 2011 Sarasota British Club, P. O. Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276 Vol. 11, Issue 12

Coming Events

Board Meeting — Thursday December 1st @6:30 p.m. at the home of Ken Jukes. Members welcome but please call ahead, see Page 16, as space is limited.

Christmas Coffee Morning — Tuesday December 13th at 10:30am at the home of Sue Ford, see Page 15 for details

2011 Christmas Party, — Saturday, December 17th--Heritage Oaks Golf & Country Club, 4800 Chase Oaks Drive, Sarasota. Members \$40, non-members \$50
Note: reservations are due no later than 13th December.

President's Party, — Sunday 22nd January 3pm -5pm, at the home of Sue and Roy Ford, see Page 16

Curry Night at the White Horse Pub—Wednesday January 25th .
Landlady Fay is extending a welcome to the Club by adding an additional Indian evening. Please let me know of your interest so that we can let give her advance notice of our numbers. 941-388-8018 or lakewood2@gmail.com

Sarasota Fire Station Tour—Wednesday February 1st, see Page 15

Valentine Dance — Saturday February 11th, see Page 15

Horse Racing Trip — Sunday, March 4. to Tampa Bay Downs, Page 7 for details.

Our website is www.SarasotaBritishClub.com

From here you will find local information, Club news, coming events, photos from past events and many past newsletters .



Letter from President Gary Lee

Here we are on the brink of the bustling and festive Yuletide season. December also marks the last month of my term as SBC President. It has been a distinct privilege serving in that capacity and I have very much enjoyed the wonderful support and hard work of the Board over the last year. We have had a busy and productive year and have seen impressive turnouts of the membership for all our social events. I wish Sue Ford, the incoming Club President, and all other newly-elected Board members every success in 2012. As Immediate Past President next year, I very much look forward to serving with that energetic, talented and convivial group.



Speaking of impressive turnouts, the Club's Guy Fawkes Night last month at Twin Lakes Park drew some ninety-one members and guests, including several new members and happily, a number of children, who especially enjoyed the ample supply of sparklers. Fortunately, as well, the evening was much warmer than the previous year. Also as many of you may have seen, there was good coverage of the Night in the Observer newspaper and on their website. Kudos to Sue Ford and her helpers for organising and setting up for the event..

Our next big event, of course, is the Club's annual Christmas Party at Heritage Oaks Country Club on Saturday, 10 December. The word is out that again Sue Ford and her team have organised a super evening of dining, dancing, raffle prizes and lots of merriment. I'm only sorry that my wife Jane and I cannot attend as after a week in Mexico, our flight brings us back to Sarasota very late on the night of the event. Accordingly, I'll take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas and all the best in the New Year.

November Board Meeting Precis

Meeting held at home of Derek & Lynn Curran. Treasurer's report shows balance of \$ 8, 421.08, which includes Holiday party reservations. Currently 242 members. At the AGM on October 15th the presented slate of 2012 nominees for the Board was approved by acclamation. Guy Fawkes' plans for November 5th going well, have 91 booked. Club will participate in the Legacy Trail celebration on November 5th and the Osprey Community Outreach on November 19th. Christmas party plans well under way, the Board decided to choose the All Faiths Food Bank as this year's charity, and \$1000.00 was approved. Sarasota Cricket Club will have a 6 a side match Thanksgiving weekend, and several Brit Club members will be attending their Gala dinner/dance on the 26th November. Suggestions were made for 2012 calendar, including a Caribbean night, Curry night at the White Horse, Tampa Bay Downs in March, New member teas to be resumed, and a celebration on June 2nd for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. December meeting to be held December 1st, venue to be decided.

Submitted by Sandra F Cherry, Secretary

Sue's Corner

Our Christmas party is filling up, please bring your family and friends, and don't forget there is a prize for the member that brings along the most people. Gary Lee our President & Gary's wife Jane unfortunately will not be in town for this function. I would like to say on behalf of myself and the Members of the 2011 Board and I am sure, along with you the Members—a "Big Thank You Gary, you have been a fabulous President"... I will have a hard job filling Gary's shoes next year.



As you will all be aware, I Sue Ford am to be SBC President for 2012. We will kick off the new year with **The President's Party** which will be held at my home on **Sunday 22nd January 3pm-5pm**. This will be 'bring a dish to share event' A-I nibbles i.e. Crisps, Nuts, Dips, Finger Sandwiches... J-S Savories...T-Z Desserts. The Club will provide sodas and fruit cocktails drinks. You are welcome to bring your own preferred drink. When you RSVP, the directions to my home will then be sent to you. All the new Board will be at this event and are looking forward to hearing what it is 'You' the Members want from the Club.

January 25th Also offers you the chance to join us for a Curry Night at The White Horse arranged by Brian Thompson

February 1st Have you ever wondered how a Fire Station deals with call-outs, if you would to join us to see inside the new station only built two years ago on Honore Avenue and learn more about the EMS. A tour of the station @11am on Wednesday February 1st has been arranged. Our new Fire Chief Mike Tobias is looking forward to showing us around this station that he and his team are very proud of.... Mike also will give us an insight to their procedure within the station. Please phone Sue Ford if you are joining us. No cost, parking is available.

February 11th. A 'Valentine Dance' held @ South-Bay Yacht Club will have a 60's theme, Entrance fee, food and music is in the price range of \$15 Members, \$20 for non members...come join the fun, I'm thinking of coming as Dusty Springfield, I'm telling you, just in case you haven't worked out why I am so heavily made-up. But, then again I might change my mind and surprise you. Our thanks go to David and Kathleen Mitchell for booking their Club House on our Club's behalf.

March 4th. Because of popular demand we have booked **Tampa Races for Sunday Brunch**, Entrance into Race Course, tax, gratuity and return bus ride \$54...non members \$59 ...Bus \$25 non members \$30" Bookings are being taken, Eileen Schuler is organizing this event. Please send checks to 102 Tidewater Drive, Bradenton. FL 34205.

In April there will be a Book, Plant and Cake sale...All monies will go to our chosen Charity at the end of the year. May I ask you please to remember us before going to Goodwill with your books? If you are willing to bake for us, please let me know... and to you gardeners within the club, before throwing away when cutting back your garden, please re-pot and bring your sibling plants to us for sell. Just one more thing, I will be asking for help to staff the stalls for the event. If you are willing to help, please contact our 2012 Membership Chair, Kath Curtin.

I am looking forward to the year ahead, I hope you are too.

God Bless you all

Sue Ford

Locations to Hold Our Events

We put out a call to all members who could offer their clubhouse as a location for a Sarasota British Club (SBC) events, and members have generously responded. So... A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE INDIVIDUALS. The Board will be busily organizing and coordinating events for those locations at our monthly meetings—we'll keep you posted. This keeps our events affordable to all members, and adds diversity for our get-togethers. The SBC will cover overhead charges, and our members generously volunteer to help with the set-up and clean-up. If other members can offer their clubhouse, please contact glee01@verizon.net with suitable dates and locations. Thank you for your support.



BUSINESS GLIMPSES: We would like to hear from our members who have found their business niche in and around Sarasota. If you would like to write to us, we'd enjoy catching a glimpse of your business enterprise in our local economy. Your article can be sent to lakewood2@gmail.com, and we will select one 'Business Glimpse' each month.



The Club would like to thank the following merchants for their cooperation in spreading the good word about our Club by allowing the *Brit*

Club News to be distributed in their premises: **Word of Mouth (3), Champions Pub, Tastefully British, 4 & 20 Pasty Company, The Open Pub & Restaurant, The King George Pub, Beckham's, The White Horse Pub, McAllister's, Scot's Corner, British Open Pub & Restaurant of Venice, Bentley's Resort Hotel, Scrambles, Ezpiez, Yellow Strawberry Salon (LWR), Simon's Coffee House.**

Also John and Hillary Drinkell at the **UPS Store** in Clark Road for printing this Newsletter and flyer. Please thank them by patronizing them whenever you can, and let them know you appreciate their support.

JOKE

A guy took his blonde girlfriend to her first football game. They had great seats right behind their team's bench. After the game, he asked her how she liked it.

"Oh, I really liked it," she replied, "especially the tight pants and all the big muscles, but I just couldn't understand why they were killing each other over 25 cents."

Dumbfounded, her boyfriend asked, "What do you mean?"

"Well, they flipped a coin, one team got it and then for the rest of the game, all they kept screaming was... 'Get the quarterback! Get the quarterback!' I'm like...Helloooooo? It's only 25 cents!!!!"



Sarasota real estate market for October outpaces last year

Property sales for October 2011 in the Sarasota real estate market outpaced last October, with 577 this year compared to only 487 at the same time last year. This represents an 18.4 percent increase, and could be a harbinger for a busy season.



Overall, sales in 2011 are on pace to exceed last year, a remarkable fact considering that 2010 sales were at the highest level since 2005.

The inventory of available properties for sale in Sarasota, after dropping precipitously over the course of 2011, was again up slightly in October to 4,525 from last month's 4,430 level. The inventory sunk to a 10-year low of 4,408 in August 2011.

The October 2011 median sale price for single family homes dropped to \$149,838 from last month's figure of \$165,000. But the amount was higher than last October, when it was \$147,500. These figures have remained remarkably steady for the past year, indicating a more stable market.

"There is no doubt that agents are reporting a very active marketplace, with many showings, good foot traffic and high interest in Sarasota properties," said SAR President Michael Bruno. "The start of the season has been busy and productive, and we hope this trend continues in the coming months."

The months of inventory rose slightly to 7.1 months from 6.7 months for single family homes, and dropped considerably for condos, to 9.7 months from September's 11.1 months.

For distressed property sales, the market for foreclosures and short sales remained at 43 percent, the same figure as in September 2011. The figure has stabilized this year, and is much lower than the rate in the second quarter of 2010 when it rose to over 51 percent.

On the national scene, NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun predicted home sales would increase by 4 percent next year and home prices would inch up 2 percent. He made the statements during the Economic Issues & Residential Real Estate Business Trends forum at the NAR annual conference on Nov. 11th. In 2013, he projected sales to pick up another 6 percent and prices to rise another 3 percent.

Bruno, who attended the NAR conference in California, said he was encouraged by what he heard regarding the future outlook.

"We remain optimistic for the near and long term due to the strength of our local market in the midst of continuing national and regional economic weakness," said Bruno. "We are all hopeful that the financial health of our feeder markets in the northeast and overseas also starts to improve. If this happens, it would be logical to assume a stronger late 2011 and early 2012 buying season here."

GBP/USD November update

For the month of November the GBP/USD high was 1.6066 on November 9th and a low of 1.5705 November 22nd.

What's bad for Euroland is good for the dollar, and things are not looking too clever in Euroland at the moment. New governments in Athens, Rome and Madrid, only one of them democratically elected, have failed to convince investors that the euro zone will survive with its current composition. That worry has meant money moving from the euro into the dollar and, to a lesser extent, into the pound.

Now it seems that what's bad for America is also good for the dollar. The failure of Congress and the not so "super committee" to agree on a deficit-reduction plan is worrying investors, encouraging them to fill their boots with treasury bills and bonds. Investors have nowhere else to go even with America's top-grade credit ratings at risk.

Sterling has not lost much ground but it is facing south. Another visit to the lows of last December and October could be on the cards.

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Brit Cruising with Style

A November Sunday afternoon in Old Tampa Bay..a peaceful day..A peace soon broken as the Brit Club clamber aboard..amid laughter ..the odd curse, general mayhem..the mighty ship destined to take us far into the Spanish Main.

On the Stroke of Four and without further ado ..and not a pirate including Captain Jack in view ..we set sail, setting a course for the exotic Islands of the Main..the bar, the restaurants and casino, not necessarily in that order.

The Internal Telephones ringing .. dinner dates made old friendships renewed new friendships blossoming.. A day at sea.. Roatan our first port..Then on to Belize..the former British Honduras. Where, according to the locals you can't get a decent cuppa since the Brits left.. onto Costa Maya - this place is a little gem..friendly locals..all sorts of treasure to haggle/barter walk away from ..walk back to ..Two British Ladies with two new sparkling rings to match the sparkle in their eyes shirts..dresses..watches..dark eyed obsidian idols whose dour countenances brings memories of another time..all for sale.

Off then to Cozumel ..A vibrant splash of a city..the world's treasure all in one place..if that is.. you believe everything the vendors tell.

Then back aboard ..next stop Tampa..all over in a flash disembark.. Happy to be going home..Happy there is next year's cruise to look forward to..

Mary Shelley



Sunday, March 4, 2012. HORSE RACING TRIP TO TAMPA BAY DOWNS

RACING EXCITEMENT NEVER TASTED SO GOOD!

Sunday brunch in the Skye Terrace Dining Room with panoramic views of racing action. We will travel by coach to Tampa Bay Downs (pick up points in Sarasota and Bradenton)...and we will stay until we know the winner of the last race! Experience the thrill and excitement of thoroughbred racing. Members \$54 including brunch, coach fare, entrance fee, program, tax & gratuities. Non-members \$59.

We can offer some seats in the coach for those interested in booking transportation only for \$25 member and \$30 non-member. You will be responsible for entrance fees, etc.

Hurry! Hurry! Book immediately. This is a popular event and seating is limited! Please send your check payable to the Sarasota British Club to our Treasurer at 102 Tidewater Drive, Bradenton, FL 34210.

Any questions or to put your name on the reservations list, please contact Eileen Schuler (941-753-4589 or emkbentley@gmail.com).

Skye Terrace Dining Dress Code: Shorts and Skorts are not allowed. Gentlemen are required to wear collared shirts.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Club would like to welcome new members: Platon and Jonquil (John) Adamson who joined us for the Guy Fawkes evening and became members. Jonquil is from Nottingham and began her career as a nurse in England. Jonquil immigrated to the US in 1987 to New York City. Platon was born in Salisbury, Rhodesia after his parents immigrated from Kenya and the UK. Platon came to the US in 1963 with his parents and has lived in Florida ever since. Their interests are cruising, travel and boating. They hope to be able to join the Brit Club cruise next year.

Also we welcome Christine Drewniak and David Farrell who also joined us for the Guy Fawkes and became members.

Please remember to let me know if you change your mailing address/email or telephone number so I can keep the membership list up to date. My email address is: kathmcurt@msn.com and my telephone number is: (941) 379-9861.

Kath Curtin

Membership (2012 Chair)



Don't forget that the Sarasota British Club is on Facebook. The Club's logo is the profile picture.

Check out the numerous photos from recent events. Why not 'friend' us for another way of keeping in touch with the Club and its members. Why not add your event photos to the 'wall'.

Change

The farthing has flown; the ha'penny too,
And the penny that opened the door to the loo.
Gone are the shillings we kept for the meter;
A twist to the right, and on went the heater!
As lads in grey shorts, we saved "one and six";
Enough for the bus, and a seat at the flicks.

Gone is the florin; the silver half crown,
For a circus seat, when it rolled into town.
Long gone are the days of "three penny bits",
When a "tenner" would buy a night at the Ritz.
With no credit cards, we had to have cash;
A "couple of bob" for bangers and mash.

But the powers-that-be passed decimal laws
So the coins of our time lie forgotten in drawers.
And it's sad to see the Mark and Escudo
Along with the rest, giving way to the Euro.
But this island nation is standing its ground,
And fiercely defends its faith in the Pound.

Poems by
Richard Langdon Cook

Taken with permission from Richard's 2010 book of light-hearted verse entitled "The Bright Side of Life", available locally from Scots' Corner or from Barnesandnoble.com or Amazon.com at \$12.95

Richard is a Londoner who retired after 42 years with Johnson & Johnson and now lives with his wife in Sarasota.

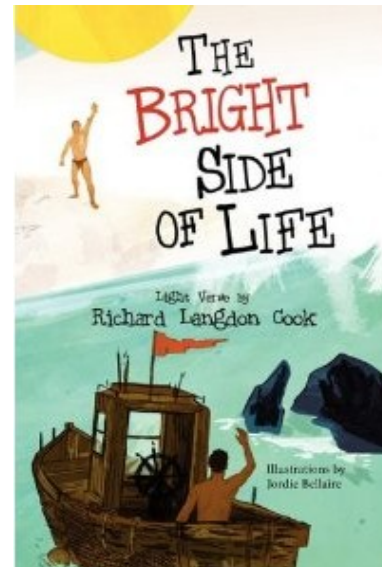


Sand

Bonjour Mes Amis! I'm a grain of sand
On a beach in front of the Lido Grande.
I really adore this place in the sun,
Where parties abound and deals are done.
Folk still reminisce about Cary and Grace,
Recalling the smile on her beautiful face.

On a warm windy day, to my surprise,
I have found myself in a starlet's eyes
And once, at mid-day, I enjoyed a martini
Spilt by a blonde, in a diamond bikini.
But I have been singed by a Cuban cigar,
Carelessly flicked by a studio tsar.

My most treasured moment, a long time ago,
Was when I was sat on by Brigitte Bardot!
Now, slipping between the cutest of toes,
I follow Madonna wherever she goes.
My parents retired to a beach in Torquay
I do hope one day they will come to see me!



JOKE

A drunken cowboy lay sprawled across three seats in the posh Amarillo Theater. When the usher came by and noticed this, he whispered to the cowboy, "Sorry, sir, but you're only allowed one seat."

The cowboy groaned but didn't budge. The usher became more impatient. "Sir, if you don't get up from there I'm going to have to call the manager."

Once again, the cowboy just groaned. The usher marched briskly back up the aisle, and returned shortly afterward with the manager. Together, the two of them tried repeatedly to move the cowboy, but with no success.

Finally, they summoned the police. The Texas Ranger surveyed the situation briefly then asked, "All right, fella, what's your name?"

"Fred," the cowboy moaned.

"Where ya from, Fred?" asked the Ranger.

With terrible pain in his voice, and without moving a muscle, Fred replied, "The balcony....."

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

In 1988 Vinny Testaverde became the Bucs' starting quarterback, with a 47.6% completion rate for 3,240 yards and 15 touchdowns, and 35 interceptions. During his tenure in Tampa, He claimed that colour blindness was the reason for so many mis-directed passes. Apparently he couldn't tell his team-mates from the opposition.

Testaverde received taunts from fans and radio personalities about his colour blindness. In 1988 a radio station in Tampa rented a billboard that had Testaverde standing in front of a blue background. The billboard read: "Vinny thinks this is orange! "



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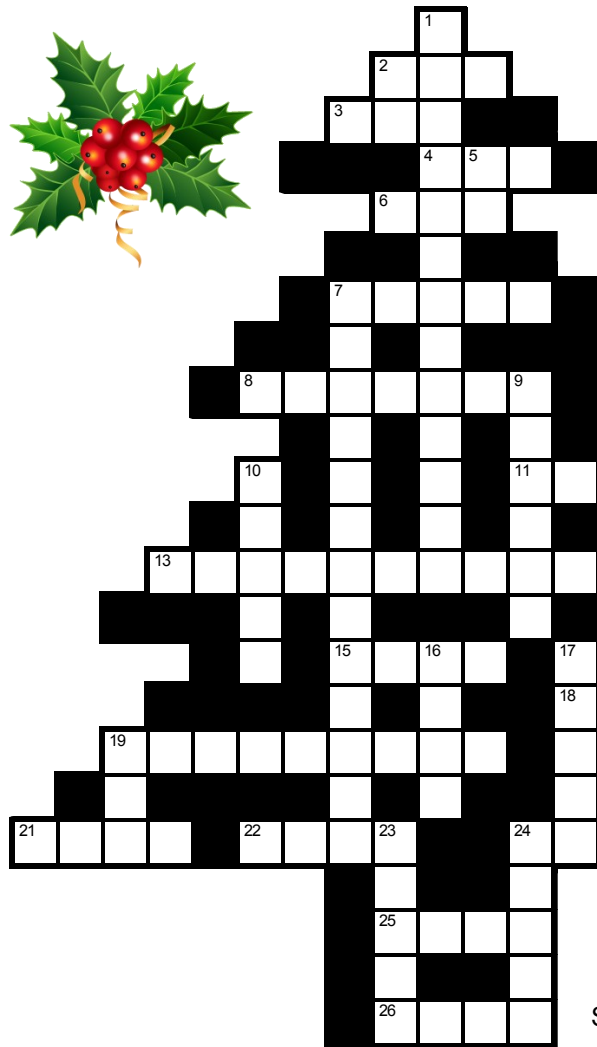
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Christmas Crossword



- 14 Could be the Entrée or Dessert (3)
- 15 To make melodious sounds (4)
- 18 Old World vine (3)
- 19 Capital of an ancient kingdom (9)
- 21 Nonfunctional replicas of something else (4)
- 22 Christmas transport (4)
- 24 Offspring (8)
- 25 The Christian god (4)
- 26 A celestial body (4)

Down

- 1 Get-together (6,7)
- 2 State in New England (2)
- 5 Born (male form) (2)
- 7 A staple of the Holiday table. (9,4)
- 9 Worthy of respect or dedication (6)
- 10 A group of people gathered together for pleasure (5)
- 12 Adjective for the Holiday (5)
- 16 Period extending from Dec. 24 to Jan. 6 (4)
- 17 The time when something begins (5)
- 19 Emotion of great happiness (3)
- 20 Popular colour at Christmas (3)
- 23 Small replicas of persons. (5)
- 24 Durable aromatic wood (5)

Solution on Page 12

Across

- 2 You might need one if you go visiting (3)
- 3 A cloth border doubled back and stitched down (3)
- 4 Hostelry (3)
- 6 Fermented alcoholic beverage (3)
- 7 Don't forget these at Christmas (5)
- 8 Veggies (7)
- 11 Often yellow (3)
- 13 Master of (10)



Murphy's Military Laws

Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than you are.
 No battle plan ever survives contact with the enemy. (Field Marshall Helmuth Carl Bernard von Moltke).
 Friendly fire ain't.
 The most dangerous thing in the combat zone is an officer with a map.
 There is always a way.
 The problem with taking the easy way out is that the enemy has already mined it.
 The buddy system is essential to your survival; it gives the enemy somebody else to shoot at.
 The further you are in advance of your own positions, the more likely your artillery will shoot short.
 Incoming fire has the right of way.
 If your advance is going well, you are walking into an ambush.
 If your attack is going well, you have walked into an ambush.
 The quartermaster has only two sizes, too large and too small.
 If you really need an officer in a hurry, take a nap.
 The only time suppressive fire works is when it is used on abandoned positions.
 The only thing more accurate than incoming enemy fire is incoming friendly fire.
 There is nothing more satisfying than having someone take a shot at you, and miss.
 Don't be conspicuous. In the combat zone, it draws fire. Out of the combat zone, it draws sergeants.
 If your sergeant can see you, so can the enemy.
 Never worry about the bullet with your name on it. Instead, worry about shrapnel addressed to 'occupant'.
 All battles are fought at the junction of two or more map sheets . . . printed at different scales.
 All battles are fought uphill;
 All battles are fought in the rain.
 Logistics is the ball and chain of armoured warfare. (Heinz Guderian)
 The army with the smartest dress uniform will lose.
 What gets you promoted from one rank gets you killed in the next rank.
 A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow. (George Patton)
 If orders can be misunderstood, they have been.
 Tracer works both ways.
 If the enemy is in range, so are you.
 War is like love. To triumph, you must make contact. (Attributed to Napoleon)
 Boldness becomes rarer, the higher the rank. (Karl von Clausewitz)
 Never reinforce failure. Failure reinforces itself.
 Teamwork is essential, it gives them someone else to shoot at.
 If you can't remember, then the claymore is pointed at you.
 The enemy diversion you have been ignoring will be the main attack.
 A "sucking chest wound" is nature's way of telling you to slow down.
 Only 5% of an intelligence report is accurate. The trick of a good commander is to isolate the 5%. (Douglas MacArthur)
 Tactics is for amateurs; professionals study logistics.
 When a front line soldier overhears two General Staff officers conferring, he's fallen back too far.
 It isn't necessary to be an idiot to be a senior officer, but it sure helps.

SUDOKU solutions from Page 5

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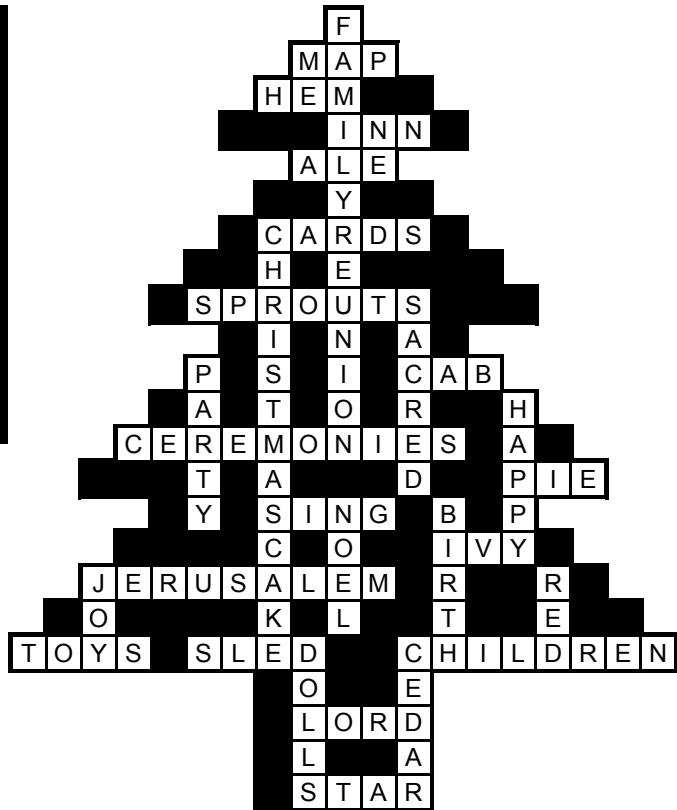
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4	3	1	2	6	5

2

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

3

Solution to the crossword from Page 6



5	6	4	2	3	1
1	3	2	5	4	6
2	1	3	6	5	4
6	4	5	1	2	3
3	5	6	4	1	2
4	2	1	3	6	5

4

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

1

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

3

6							2
		4					
	4	3			2	6	
		6	4			3	
5				1			4
					6		

2

1				5	4	6	
6	4					2	
	5						
		1	3				

4

SUDOKU

Puzzles where you have to fit numbers 1-9 in each cell without repeating a number in any row or column or 3X3 outlined boxes, or 1-6 in a 3X2 grid

Nos.1 & 2 are Easy level, the 3 & 4 are Medium level. Solutions on Page 12

Techniques for solving Sudoku puzzles can be found at <http://www.sudokuclam.com/hints.html>