

Solutions to Andrew's 40th-birthday Mini-ganza

BANNER: "A.M.G. 'Zine", "Enigma." – The banner is a parody of the banner in "The Enigma," the magazine of the National Puzzler's League. My initials are AMG; taking the made-up phrase "A.M.G. 'Zine", deleting one letter from it (the 'Z'), and reversing the remainder, you get "Enigma".

1. "O" – the stick figure is from the Sherlock Holmes story "The Dancing Men"
2. "GO" – the dots on the squares are supposed to allude to a go board
3. "DUO" – the game can't actually be Uno, since one of the cards is a "J". The 120 pairs of dots in groups of five are a cribbage board, and the three hands of four cards each arranged with two in front of one player are the way cribbage hands look at the end of the hand when they are scored.

The pone's hand (pone = opponent) is worth 4 (two pairs)

The dealer's hand is "fifteen-two, fifteen-four, fifteen-six, and a triple three-card run makes 21"

The crib is "fifteen-two, fifteen-four, fifteen-six, a double-three-card-run is 14, and his nobs (there's that Jack!) makes 15."

Treating the numbers as indexes into the alphabet gives DUO, which is confirmed by the cards appearing to be Uno cards.

4. "KIRK" – the composers of each piece, in order, are: Joel, Bach, Mozart, Handel, Saint-Saens, and Beethoven. The musical excerpts are usually from the first measure, but for the Bach it's the second measure, the Handel is the fifth, and the Beethoven is the fourth. Taking those letters from the composers' names yields JAMEST.

A leader named JAMES T is KIRK. Your confirmations are: the translation of *chazak veematz* is "be strong and take courage" – or, in this case, take Courage, the name of the composer of the theme to *Star Trek*; Casey Kasem's signoff ends "Keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars."

5. "BORER" – the five characters in this story are Biblical figures who each appear in exactly one book, which gives the chronological ordering. Their puns and favorite jobs are given in this table. For each one, the same letter appears in the same position in both the pun and the job.

Name	Book of Bible	Pun	Job	Letter
טדבו מבנ-פבמו טנבתק	Genesis	bit	bake	B
טבעו נניתק	Exodus	worm	loop	O
מבטנבתפלו	Leviticus	auger	shear	R
חבטדו טנולו תק	Numbers	weevil	knead	E
בימבטנו תק	Minor prophets	drill	trap	R

Your confirmation is that the puns are all things that make holes, or borers, and in Hebrew "borer" is the word for the *melacha* of "selection"

6. "RANDOM" – Each picture depicts two items: BORAX-BOX, BENDER-BEER, DOMINOS-DINOS = RA+ND+OM. The flavortext confirms this. And I lived at Random Hall when I

was in college.

7. "FEIFFER" – The first, second, and third panels should make you think about using a seven-segment display with seven "digits" and the remaining panels give you instructions on which segments are lit. The artwork is your confirmation.
8. "SOUS-CHEF" – The answers in clue order are: ADE, BRAID, CHICKPEA, HEN, KIDNEY, KNIFE, POLENTA, SKIRT, SNAIL, TICTAC, TORCH. While most of these are five letters long, you can place POLENTA and CHICKPEA unambiguously. From there you can place the remaining words, following the rule that when two squares are connected by a ligament, they contain the same letter. Reading the ligated letters, you get KITCHEN AIDE, which clues SOUS-CHEF, which is the entity in a kitchen that is responsible for "following directions."
9. "TYPEFACES" – Each font sample contains a single typo. Those spell out "CAESAR XIII" which indicates a Caesar-shift of thirteen places, or "rot-13" as it's called. What should you shift? The correct letters, which are "GLCRSNPRF." (including the period, which isn't a letter so you can't shift it so you should ignore it). Shifting those (and ignoring the period) gives TYPEFACES, which is confirmed by the whole stinkin' puzzle setup!
10. "PARTY FAVOR" –



META: Entering the ten answer words in the pyramid and transferring the letters yields the following quote and its source: "A CUP OF COFFEE MAKES A GOOD FRIEND FOR FORTY YEARS – TURKISH PROVERB."

Thank you, my good friends, for joining me in this celebration of forty years!