A Cute Puzzle
by 530nm330Hz (Andrew M. Greene)

I found a quip that seemed appropriate to today’s occasion. I hope you find it, too.

Note: This is actually page 2, but there was no room on page 1 for the title or instructions. I barely had room for the crossword and the clues. So turn the page over, solve the crossword puzzle there, and then come back to this side of the page when you’re done. Don’t worry, I’ll wait! (Seriously: This instruction is not a puzzle.)

Take the three numbers to the left of each row, and convert them into a clue, using the crossword puzzle answer corresponding to each number. You will probably need an Internet search engine such as Google to answer these clues. Some numbers have both “across” and “down” answers; pick the one that works.

You may have noticed that there’s a number missing from each clue. It’s missing in the crossword puzzle, too. Just note that the missing number may be at the beginning, middle, or end of the clue.

The last clue? Oh, don’t worry. It will come later in the puzzle. Just wait for it.

Now you’re ready to assemble the quip, by transferring letters from the answers above. The spaces between words are for you to discover.

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Oh, now would be a good time for me to give you the last clue, wouldn’t it? Here you go:

What is the occasion that inspired this puzzle?