## Deepening Desuetude

A NUMBER OF YOU FAILED TO NOTE my email address change. I collected as many of your submissions as I could before my former employer turned off the tap, but it's possible that some of you, through your own negligence, won't be included in the solver list below. It's important to keep current.

I've been able to relax even more than expected because of a puzzle that was sent to me by my redoubtable test solvers Bob Fink and Jerry Miccolis. What a lucky antediluvian am I! I get another break. Between that and the quarantine, if I were any more relaxed, I'd be dead.

I leave you with Bob and Jerry's intro:

## Contingencies' Cunningly Convoluted Cryptic Concoction

The first part of this puzzle is a standard cryptic crossword. The answers include one two-word phrase and no proper nouns or obscure words. There is one alternate spelling. All words are playable in Scrabble. As always, be wary of punctuation, which has been known to deceive.

Once you've completely filled the grid, you'll need to uncover the deeply encoded 26-letter phrase within it-a purposely and particularly permutated payoff phrase that self-referentially describes what you will have constructed. A set of blank cells is included on the next page for your convenience.

The decoding algorithm may not be immediately obvious, but you will find two helpful pointers in the successfully completed grid. One pair of symmetric entries identifies what you will need to extract from all the grid entries to populate the 26 blank cells. That will still leave you with myriad possibilities. A second pair of symmetric entries suggests a way to view the associated clues to narrow those possibilities down to one. More explicit hints can be found upside down in the box below if needed.

Delightful deciphering!







## Across

5. Whirl within westward planetary galewinds (6)
6. Notable night before, with New Testament nearly unabridged (8)
7. Adherent's afflicted arm is red (8)
8. Vowed end to vodka voraciousness (6)
9. Kept in KLMN-order as kinky baptized heal (12)
10. Heath hit highest (7)
11. Quarterly, qualified entrants query proposed keepers of quarters (7)
12. Concatenation of consistent consonants (commonly), complete with continued calculation (12)
13. Born-again bumbling broadcaster Burgundy broadcasted brainy bit (6)
14. One-track Orlando operation for oilman or oddball (8)
15. Twirling, teen aced to timely take lead (8)
16. Zeke, Zac, or Zeppo, e.g., (not Zoe, Zelda, or ZsaZsa, e.g.) get on, get by (6)

## Down

1. Fished around forenoon, forlorn for food (8)
2. Dynamic deflection endlessly disrupts disheartened director Reiner (6)
3. Provide pallet before a puzzler's pivotal pieces perplex (8)
4. Loaded, Lewis tore dress lining (6)
5. Jay, Jo, Jed, Jane \& Joel chill while Jennifer tails Jura warbler (8)
6. Replacement ringed by robbers at Zales (6)
7. Ganja gorger is sure gonzo (4)
8. Salacious surgeon scamming after skimming (8)
9. Unguilty plea by Unger, uninitiated until now $(2,6)$
10. Educating Egyptian emperor on elastic element in Enterprise and Endeavour (8)
11. Muzzle manufactured from manipulating my ties (6)
12. Yeager, Yackey and Young remain yare (6)
13. Xavier, examine xenon, xylopia, xylem \& xylene; ultimately, dub Xe "X-factor" (6)
14. Inadequate incline (4)
$\square$
$\square$


## Previous Issue's Puzzle-Phraseology

## Across

1. $\mathrm{CH}(\mathrm{A})$ INS—Hidden in "research insects"
2. (P)LATTER—Anagram of "rattle"
3. (O)ZONE-Z ("unknown") + ONE ("person")
4. TEEN(S)IEST—Anagram of "teen's tie"
5. (I)CONS-Double definition
6. (T)EARDROPS—Anagram of "order pas"
7. SEN(I)ORS—SENATORS - AT
8. RELI(V)ES—Double definition and pun ("Whoppers twice")
9. (E)THAN-First letters in "those having antagonistic natures"
10. $\operatorname{FOR}(\mathrm{A})$ GES—Outside of "formidable bacteriophages"
11. POS(T)ERS—Anagram of "spores"
12. (T)RAVELERS—Anagram of "reversal"
13. (I)RATE-Double definition
14. S(T)IMULATE-SIM ("Mis-adjusted") + U ("you said") + ET AL reversed ("and others")
15. G(U)IDE-Odd letters in "griddle" (referring to André Gide)
16. (D)ANGLES—Anagram of "Angels"
17. TRU(E)ST—Anagram of "Struts"

## Down

1. COOKIES—Double definition
2. $\mathrm{A}-\mathrm{GO}-\mathrm{GO}-\mathrm{A}+\mathrm{GO}$ ("square") + GO ("energy")
3. NEEDS TO—Anagram of "denotes"
4. PIETÀ-Outside of "Piedmont terracotta"
5. ASSAD-AS SAD ("so much melancholy")
6. THE LOUVRE—LOU + V ("visited briefly") inside THERE
7. STATISTS—Anagram of "Stats sit"
8. TUSKS—Outside of "Tuscaloosas razorbacks" \& literally
9. NARRATION-NATION ("Community") surrounding ARR ("arrangement")
10. REE-(F)REE
11. RAPESEED—Anagram of "a speeder"
12. ENO—Reversal of ONE ("Ideal lover")

TOM TOCE is a retired FCAS living in New York City and is a member of the Jeopardy Hall of Fame. Solutions may be mailed to him at ttoce@nyc.rr.com. In order to make the solver list, you should send him your solutions by April 1 (no kidding!), 2021.

19. FATES—Anagram of "Feats"
21. SWINGER—SINGER ("Recording artist") around W ("a sip of whiskey")
22. SIEVERT—SIT outside of EVER ("constantly")
24. EQUAL-Inside "Elaine qualifies"
25. EXAMS—Pun on EX-AMS ("none before noon")
27. ALICE—Anagram of "Celia"

## Phrase

A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

## Solvers

Anthony Amodeo, Dean Apps, Jack Brauner, Bob Campbell, Lois Cappellano, Mick Diede, Dave Dougherty, Deb Edwards, Bob Fink, Mendy Friedman, Phil Gollance, Pete Hepokoski, Catharine Hornby, Max Jackson, Ruth Johnson, Joe Kilroy, Eric Klis, Mike Kosciuk, Ken Kudrak, Ben Lynch, Dave McGarry, Jon Michelson, Jim Muza, David and Corinne Promislow, Daniel Rhodes, Jay Ripps, Bill Scott, Andrew Shewan, Karen Skoglund, Zig Swistunowicz, Team KT (Katie Anderson \& Megan Taylor), T. O. C. E. (Josh DenHartog and Sean Donohoe)

