Insomnia Café

Solution: The yellow high-lighted letters are the message: OTHERS MINUS 1. This tells you to take the remaining letters/numbers: GSJFOET5MJGF and take one away from each one ($G \rightarrow F$, $S \rightarrow R...$). Solution: **FRIENDS4LIFE**. (BTW, "Insomnia Café" was the original name for the show when it was first being developed!)



Chandler

Solution: The twelve "truths" are circled below:

Across (from the top down): $7 \times 2 = 26 - 12$ $1^4 = 1$ 8 + 3 - 21 + 19 = 9

18 = 3 - 5 + 205 + 13 = 15 - 1 + 20/5

8 = 16/2

Down (left to right)

15/5 = 12 – 9

23 = 21 + 2

4 + 19 = 18 + 13 - 8

12/3 = 5 - 1

20 = 20

 $24/3 = 2^3$

Their interesections (commonalities)

in order are

4, 9, 19, 3, 18, 5, 20, 5, +, 13, 1, 20, 8

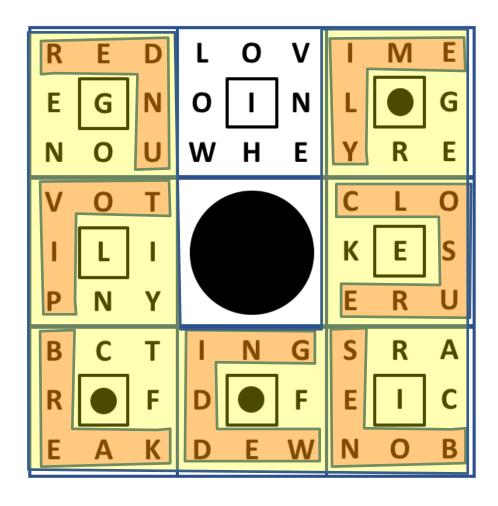
These numbers match up with letters DISCRETE MATH.

22	=	4	X	6	=	8	+	15	+	4
=	12	-	26	=	2	X	7	=	24	٨
1	=	4	٨	1	=	12	=	2	/	3
=	3	+	3	=	7	/	6	x	3	=
9	=	19	+	21	-	3	+	8	=	24
-	23	=	12	X	2	=	5	-	2	X
12	=	18	=	3	-	5	+	20	^	2
=	21	+	16	=	19	-	2	=	3	=
5	+	13	=	15	-	1	+	20	/	5
/	2	-	26	=	2	X	5	+	5	Х
15	+	8	=	16	/	2	+	8	+	9

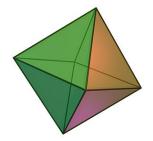
DISCRETE means separate, distinct, disconnected. The homophone DISCREET means careful, cautious, inconspicuous.

Ross & Rachel

Solution: The clues are given so that the seven words are in alphabetical order: BONES, BREAK, CLOSURE, EMILY, PIVOT, UNDER, WEDDING. (Note: each of these clues are ones that will be recognized by fans of the show – and will certainly add to the fun-factor – but they are not necessary to solve the puzzle). When these are circled in the grid, the unused letters spell out: LOVE GOING NOWHERE LIKE NYC TRAFFIC. Also, the seven circled letters in orange (together with the dots provided) represent pig pen symbols which (in order left to right, top to bottom) give the first 7 letters to the solution: G R I D L O C. The final meta letter comes from the seven squares used in yellow (together with the big central dot) which is the pig pen letter K. Solution = GRIDLOCK



Phoebe



Cut out the shape and then fold it and tape it into an octahedron.

Start with the "G" (bold star, five points, on the dog's front right paw) and proceed to the next face. The direction the letter is facing AND the direction of the longest point of the star both serve to point to which star on the next face (next constellation) to go to next. This takes us to the monkey constellation, the "I" star (also five points) and that points to the oven mitt constellation, the "G" star, and so on... If it's tricky to tell exactly which star is being pointed at around the corner in the next constellation, know that each star is used just once AND that each star has a different number of points, five through nine that allows them to be ranked (from "dimmest" to "brightest"), and that is the order in which the stars are visited within each separate constellation. It may also be helpful to mark each star as it is used, so that none is used more than once.

The 40-character sequence is "GIGSATCENTRALPERKFORETOLDHERTRUECALLING!" (GIGS AT CENTRAL PERK FORETOLD HER TRUE CALLING!)

Then to fill in the eight letters for the solution, 7:2 means seventh word (TRUE), second letter (R). 5:6 means fifth word (FORETOLD), sixth letter (O). This spells out the solution: ROCK STAR

"ROCK STAR" is also a play on the words "ROCK" (as in crystal, which the octahedron is shaped like) and "STAR" (as in astrology and the stars on each face.)

The eight images each have significance for fans of the show and are just intended to add to the "fun-factor." In no way are they needed in solving the puzzle.

Central Perk could be googled by people not familiar with the show: it is simple the name of the coffee house they all hang out in and where Phoebe often performs, but again, this is not critical knowledge for solving the puzzle.

JOEY

Solution: Start with the F and head north (up) for the first leg of the trip (8 letters) FORSYT(H)IA (missing an H). From the ending letter A, there are lots of choices AM(B)ER, AP(P)LE or A(M)PLE, (G)AITY, (F)AINT, AGAP(E)... But only one of these matches one of the clues: Fruit that floats = APPLE. And so on, with each ending letter being the next starting letter. The missing letters (in order of the clues, not the order in the trip) spell out the solution shown below.

Paying a foreign friend one of these used to take months. VI(S)IT

Place to purchase a "My parents went on a cruise, and all I got was this lousy T-shirt" T-shirt. GIFTS (H) OP Long before Starbucks served up this drink, Starbuck served as first mate on the Pequod. FRAPPUC(I) NO Fruit that floats. AP(P) LE

Fishy antecedent. (S) O M E T H I N G

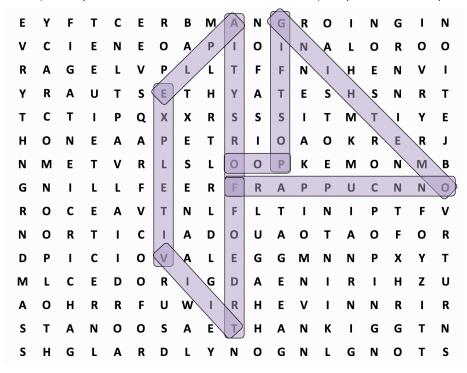
First ahoy! This bush is one of the first to bloom each spring. FORSYT (H) I A (anagram of First Ahoy!)

The adventures at sea are awesome, but all that swabbing and hoisting is exhausting. TR (A) DEOFF

The number two deck. POO(P)

What an indelicate seaman is likely to use in conversation. **EXPLETIV** (E)

SHIP SHAPE (Check your answer with a 90* turn to the left!) Do you see the shape of a ship!?



EXTRA CHALLENGE: So what is the significance of the eight "corner letters" - the letters where one word ends and the next begins? Each corner letter in semaphore code shows the precise direction to turn:

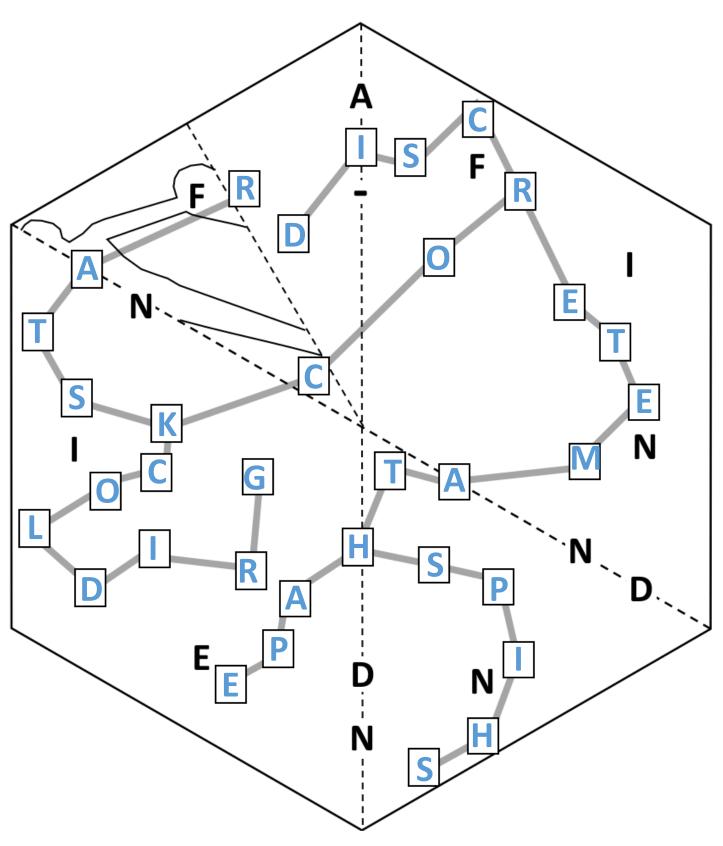
A in semaphore is \checkmark and that is the direction to turn at the A:

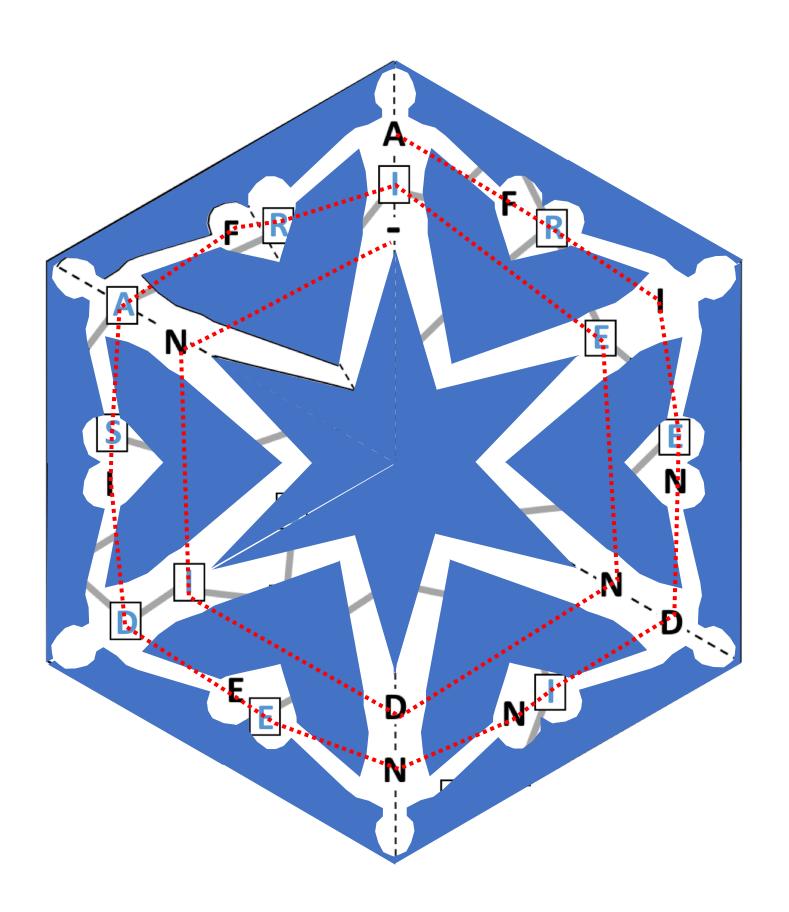
The next corner is E which in semaphore is and that is the direction to turn at the E:

The fact that all the clues and the puzzle itself all have to do with ships and boats and seamen and floating and hoisting and decks... should have all pointed toward this semaphore connection!

META

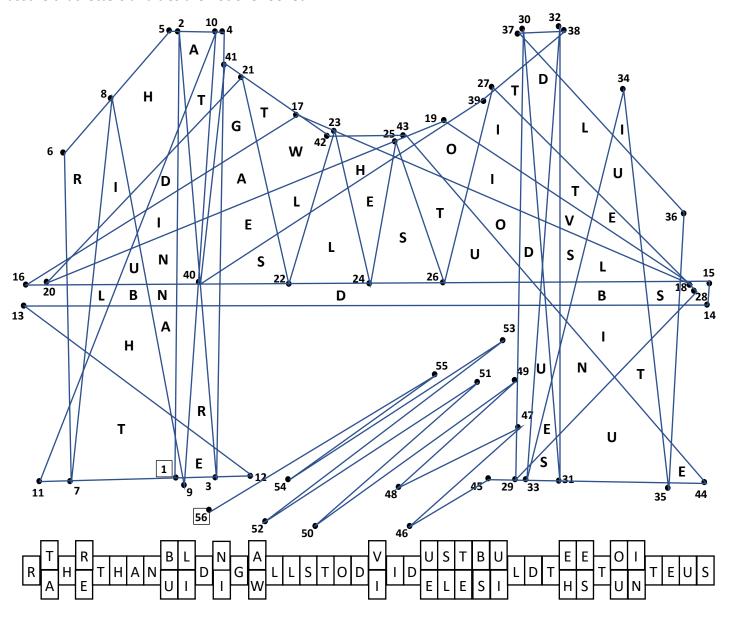
Solution: Take the four answers and fit them in to the four strings of boxes. There only is one way to do this such that the overlapping letters work out. Then cut out the hexagon (solid line #1), then fold it in half down the middle (dotted line #2), then folds #3 and #4 should leave you with an equilateral triangle, which you then fold in half (#5). You then cut along the lines #6, #7 and #8. When you then unfold this "snowflake" pattern, you will find our six friends holding hearts between them in a circle. The letters on the cut-out piece spell out in a clockwise circle – two revolutions (24-hours a day): A-F-R-I-E-N-D-I-N-N-E-E-D-I-S-A-F-R-I-E-N-D-I-N--. A FRIEND IN NEED IS A FRIEND IN-. The solution is of course the word **DEED**. ("Not just in words, but in actions too.")





BONUS

Solution: Use a ruler and a pencil, start with #1, then #2... It isn't until the 8th dot is connected that a letter finally gets walled in completely: the R in the upper left hand corner. Then as the 11th dot is connected, an A and a T get walled off simultaneously – a tie. These get filled in to the grid below. Note: the grid helps a lot to assure that letters and ties are not overlooked.



With a little flexible thinking, this reads:

Putting the numbered letters in order gives the solution: BRIDGES.. Hmmm.. A puzzle with an important (timely?) social message. Is that allowed?