HERE’S TO THE LADIES WHO LUNCH
by Mark Halpin

A trip to the gym, classes in optical art, a matinee, planning a brunch, perhaps a piece of Mahler’s ... how can you fit it all in?

In this puzzle, you can’t. Some entries are too long for their spaces, and so some elements will need to be removed. These can be repositioned elsewhere, with guidance from the unclued entry spanning the grid. All adjustments result in legitimate entries.

ACROSS

1 Beginning to spread paté ingredients (very small slices)
8 "The First Noël" arranged as solo
12 E.g. if chemists die we barium with potassium and some rock
13 Lincoln and others transformative to USA
15 "X" mark is smudged, partially
16 Mongol invader’s farewell at end of war
17 Jobs involved in technology; see “TV modification”
18 Cooked meat is not very flavorful
19 Reverend Spooner’s run away from my destructive bug
21 It’s heard of to make beer in the vicinity of a sultanate
23 Reset a target for Harvard-Yale competition
26 Odessa’s at sea, carrying good, experienced sailors
30 Swamp creatures eating up spring flower
32 Quartet bent over backwards displaying aquarium fish
36 Swedish band with one member cutting ahead for rum-soaked dessert
38 QUAVER pathetically meeting old southwest cowboy
39 Swaps creatures eating up spring flower
41 Low digit shown as two minus one plus irrational number
42 Lush, rocky peak with grand, vaulting caverns
43 Secondary list of options (stupid, muscle-bound clod having been removed)
46 Befuddled stoner is burning stuff
47 Scary: a senior, oddly, heeds Nancy Reagan’s advice (2 wds.)

DOWN

1 Relaxing baths start to mitigate nervous tic
2 Result after polishing!
3 Unsavory kind, taking Ecstasy, covered with tattoos
4 Lessen the difficulty of ± 16% of this grid’s fill, per conversation
5 Pair of runts by pigpen likely to squeak, perhaps
6 Reportedly, Carnegie’s industry is to act like a pirate
7 Mechanical sweeper replaced a broom
8 Daisy’s cousin tears madly about
9 A lot like a minyan?
10 “Tidy teen”? An abomination!
11 Stripes separating ears is an attribute of a fabled bird
14 Quaver pathetically meeting old southwest cowboy
20 Puts down maker of potato chips
22 Truly loathed feat: taking drinks upside down
24 Cockney cad is a slippery character
25 Lush, rocky peak with grand, vaulting caverns
26 Low digit shown as two minus one plus irrational number
27 Unusually hardy monster
28 Mentioned certain politician’s means of disguise
29 Chicory or kale? Both, per assortment
30 Magician’s subterfuge is barely noticeable to the audience
31 Secondary list of options (stupid, muscle-bound clod having been removed)
32 New store displaying latest in expensive sound equipment
34 Finally, finally, America got Al Jazeera news broadcast (2 wds.)
35 Befuddled stoner is burning stuff
36 Stressful situations not featuring singular shrieks
37 Mongrel scares pet
40 Columnist Joseph beleaguered pals about nothing
43 Squad members run all over the place loudly