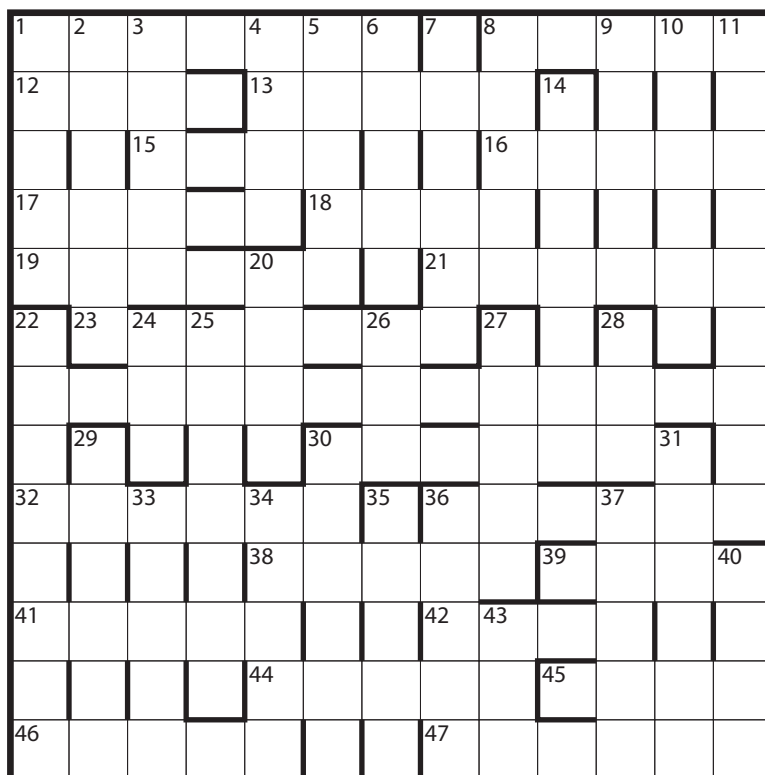


HERE'S TO THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

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
- 30 *Odessa's* at sea, carrying good, experienced sailors
- 32 Rudely stop just about every kind of service
- 36 Swamp creatures eating up spring flower
- 38 Quartet bent over backwards displaying aquarium fish
- 39 Swedish band with one member cutting ahead for rum-soaked dessert
- 41 Ultimately, spirits' dismal hole!
- 42 Roman road is quite rutted toward the middle
- 44 Harmonize with a person like Maria Callas almost
- 45 Charges iron mesh except for edges
- 46 Verdi finally abandoning terrible dirge's least desirable parts
- 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 $\pm 16\%$ 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)
- 33 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