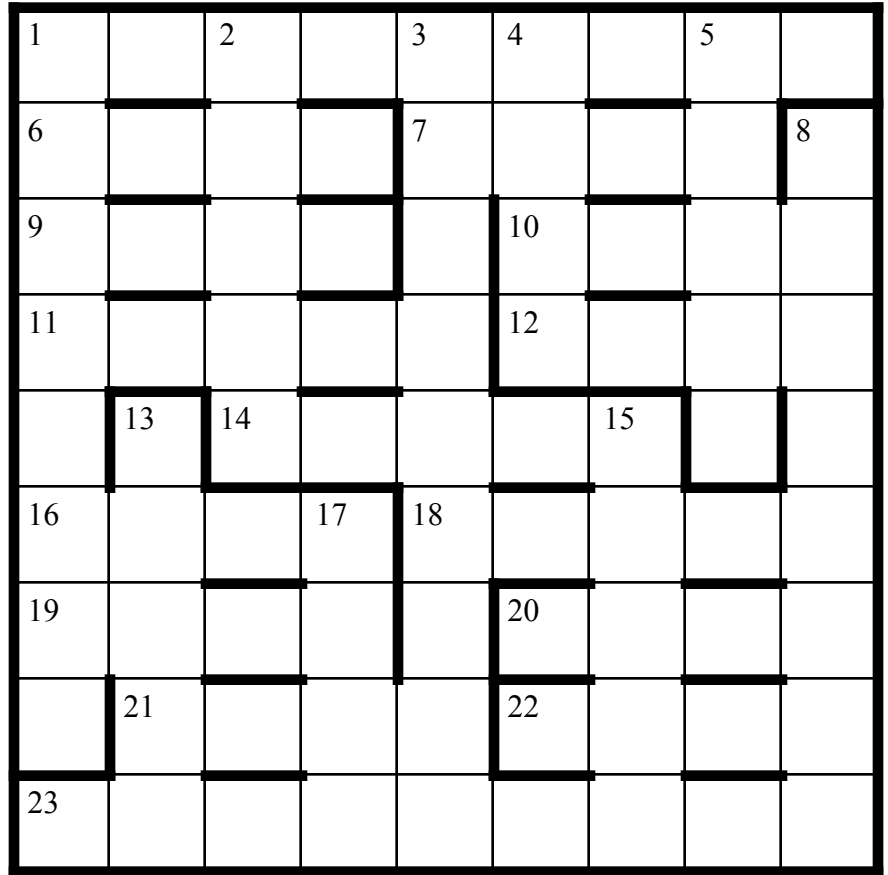


On The Night After Hanukkah

by Ucaoimhu

'Tis the season for random frolicking. In particular, as you enter each of the Down answers, one letter (the same letter in each) will unexpectedly move. (Enumerations on the clues refer to the answer before alteration; one of the altered grid entries is a two-word phrase.) One third of the Across clues work normally; their answers, in clue order, will tell you loud and clear what these moving letters are. The remaining Across clues each have an extraneous letter, which must be removed before solving; these letters, in clue order, will tell you how the moving letters have been additionally displaced.



ACROSS

1. Sly rune Bob mistranscribed under the influence of alcohol (9)
6. Janet's essentially in denial, as Freud put it (4)
7. Boy, in the end, bore burden (4)
9. Stair upset old Dorothy (2-2)
10. Note: Cal is not imaginary (4)
11. Kink acquired by marrying author with untidy lawn (2-3)
12. Last of all is, ultimately, Max Simpson wearing pearls (4)
14. Stopped losing head, and relaxed (5)
16. Also doves touch large hammer, say (4)
18. Redirected danger towards actress Cheri from *Saturday Night Live* (5)
19. Read Muppet is mole in disguise (4)
20. Spiny Norman's latest first-rate record design (4)
21. Ms. Hathaway forbade stripping (4)

22. Err at the start of Gregorian chant (4)
23. ***** idiot stakes both sides of the wager (9)

DOWN

1. A French songbird started to be less than noble? (8)
2. Small cap at the bottom of the chute (5)
3. Impresses knot-unraveling solver (5 4)
4. Discover almost-tragic Shakespearean king (4)
5. Support used when painting white parts from ermine-like creature (5)
8. Scams involving aluminum and sodium chloride treatments (8)
13. Songwriter Porter's heard hot items (5)
15. Scottish fiends expel odd characters from odder isles (5)
17. TV host Jay put up with a first-year law student (3 1)