

# Wind Up With Santa by Ucaoimhu

Now that Hanukkah has wound up, this stream is getting a surprise visitor during a brief rest period. Specifically:

1. In each column, one Down entry has a “special” square that will hold an appropriate letter pair (always the same pair); if the entry’s *n*th square is special, note whether its clue’s *n*th word has an (a) **N** or **S**, and (b) **I**, **O**, or neither. In the filled grid, trace a twelve-square path starting one square *west* or *east* of the middle column’s special square, then making, for each grid column left to right, one king’s move that (as per that column’s (a) and (b)) goes (a) **North** or **South** and (b) **In** towards the middle column, **Out** away from it, or neither. For either starting square, the letters on the path will give the endpoint of one of two busy periods for Santa (one is better known in the US than the other).

2. We are now exactly between these endpoints. For any Across entry *lacking* a special square, one word in its clue has a string of 1–3 letters you must delete before solving. The strings’ *first* letters (in clue order) will give, roughly, the gap between each endpoint and now; for specific times that would make this estimate exact, swap in each *second* letter (if any) to get a time during either endpoint, and then swap in each *third* letter (if any) to get the time now.

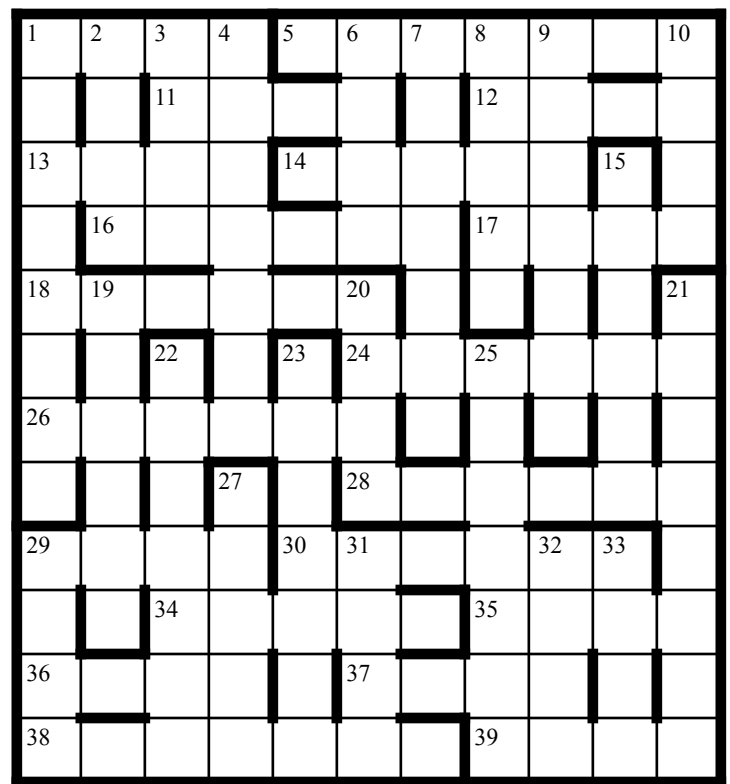
3. Centered in two grid rows are two appropriate items that the path shape from 1 may bring to mind; however, that shape is instead intended to depict a windup and pitch that is attributed to Santa in a ninth-century tale. If any Across or Down entry’s *n*th-from-last square is special, note the *n*th-from-last letter of its clue; in clue order, these will tell you one way to choose the starting square in 1, and also describe the pitch (indicating what objects were pitched).

4. Each Down clue not used above has wordplay yielding a letter string with one letter replaced by one of two letter pairs. Left to right in the grid, the letters replaced by one pair will give the target of 3’s pitch; those replaced by the other will say what the pitched objects were and the target wasn’t. Also, each pair itself will describe the objects.

5. Finally, if an Across entry’s *n*th square is special, note the first and last letter of its *n*th word; in clue order, all the firsts and then all the lasts will give one more description of the objects from 3, while all the lasts and then all the firsts will form a possible name for this Twitch stream.

## ACROSS

1. What provides a tune, as Henry provided none (*hyph.*)
5. A date’s jeers creating occasions for PSAs, e.g. (2 wds.)
11. Warhol is an originator of ideals? Yes
12. Once again, Jane unhooked back of crown
13. Ewe will kiss ram thou initially didst imitate
14. Asian city’s alto harp’s first seen in folk tales, e.g.
16. Dairy endlessly modified idle top for Hanukkah
17. Grain shall rest behind quiet young swine
18. Michael Bloom mentioned non-Bing computers
24. Someone who’d recognize a Kitchener Bundt pan  
Gussie’d unveiled



26. Malt ye brewed, showing Noah rebelliousness
28. Knights getting back heat instruments
29. Rules about top foamer soaking German
30. Decided they’d speak of John from *Harold and Kumar II* (2 wds.)
34. I see Marlovian’s stomach turned slightly (2 wds.)
35. Starts to trample freon flasks, umbrellas, and bean curd
36. DNA constructor chases M. Patrick Dennis’s auntie
37. Episodes of a weekend TV program featuring comedy, and soon loos, that will have no airings (*abbr.*)
38. Syncope confused the bard
39. Rotate Msgr. Morse’s long symbols for fish

## DOWN

1. Hath round auk bisected more falconish flyer? (2 wds.)
2. Cold faucet that’s not coated with down
3. *M\*A\*S\*H* actor/hockey player Bobby inhales argon
4. Iowa unit not gabbing much among themselves (2 wds.)
6. Couple or trio of audits catching ya
7. Much soil ruined text on the edge of the paper
8. Never smoothly talking with that guy about propellers
9. Old Norse adopting *energy*, *height*, and *teensy* (*hyph.*)
10. Greek T-like flip-flops are striking
15. Unruly roe hair with more silvery colors
19. *High Sierra*’s Lupino digs potatoes
20. Timeless tale’s claims
21. Reporting “Human Being Wounds Hen” is silly
22. Nehemiah at last, last Maine sporting event (2 wds.)
23. On the dais, entire auto had hidden flat object (2 wds.)
25. Un-jacked-up Jethro Tull evacuated small villages
27. One sextet of gauchos hears kingly OT guy
29. Eighth symbol before Jay Mohr’s reversed ◊
31. Winch or pulley is getting hot on the outside
32. Naught replaces frosh’s false nonsense
33. Mercian king’s PA buffs Fiat with no odd features