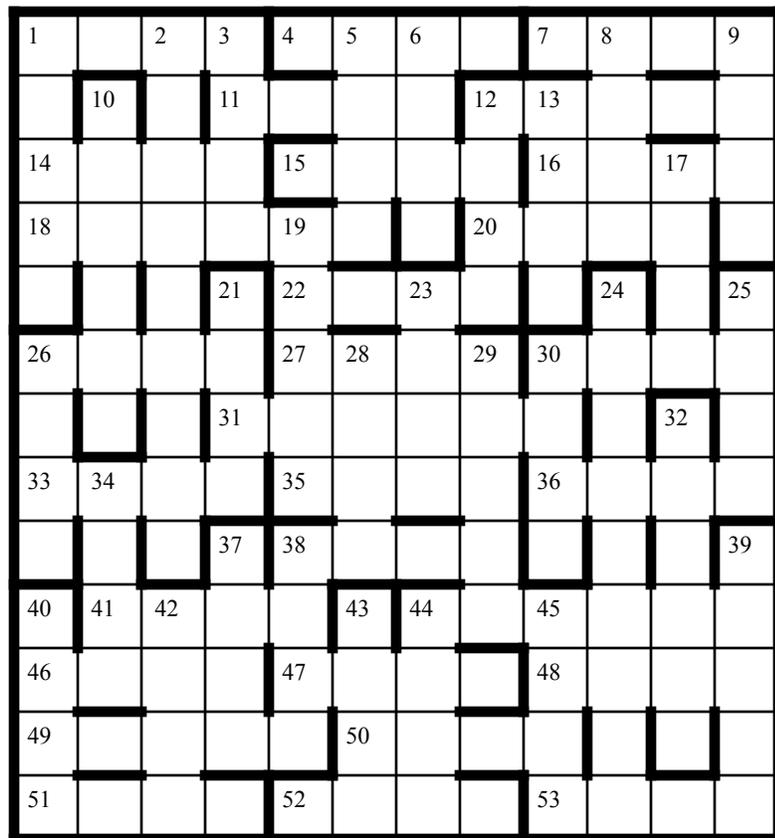


Purim Retrospective by Ucaimhu

At this party a week after Purim, we can look back and expand upon the true meaning of Purim (seen at 12 Down). Specifically, “Purim” is the plural of the Hebrew פּוּר; in tribute to this, eight apparently four-letter Across entries are really nine or fourteen letters, bending like a ך or curling like a ף. The remaining Across answers are entered normally; for each, if it includes n letters that are part of a ך or ף, cross off n letters from the start and from the end of the clue (n may be 0). The first letters remaining in these clues will say where in each ך or ף to find a three-letter sequence that you must circle in the grid; in grid order, these sequences will form a cryptic clue for another reason this puzzle is late.

All Down answers are entered normally, but the wordplay in each Down clue yields a letter sequence with one extra letter. In half it will be the first letter; these letters will form five direction-and-distance combinations. In the other half, it will be a letter from A to E, indicating one of these combinations; in each case, draw a line in the grid, starting at the center of the letter *before* the extra one, and ending at the center of the square at the given distance and direction from the starting square. Then thicken each such line into a long, thin wedge, thick at the start and tapering to a point at the end. The resulting image, described by the final un-crossed-out letters in the normal Across clues, will trace Purim even further back.



ACROSS

1. Musical work's ending is something fishy and adult
4. Mythic ship is back, to get refitted at the bow
7. True nuts read a language of old Italy
11. Adjusted a map for a group that rates movies (*abbr.*)
12. Codified rules about northern areas where dandelions flower
14. Arriving most recently at exam held by faceless Greek philosopher (2 wds.)
15. A deliverer of drugs uttered a salutation to the author of "The Cask of Amontillado," etc.
16. Tenscore will embrace a little advanced math, in short
18. Complains about second-rate cobblers' molds
20. With 10 Down, an Italian lowland a pair from Oslo covered with "Ø" (2 wds.)
22. Go air the sloppy, sloppy study of letters
26. A fragment of something animated by Tinseltown's foremost Manxman, perhaps
27. Again maps ranges around Eastern church with skill
30. It follows "Burkina," "Foxtrot," and "Alfa," thus
31. "Fish with propellers" reportedly gets trial
33. Extraordinary achievement of Colorado U
35. *A long German river reed* is anagrammatic
36. Delighted cry from three altos — chiefly, Hannah
38. For instance, Midshipman Troy's pastry
41. A berry consumed by health nuts Jack and Gail when naked
44. Good repute of track competitions Earl backed
46. One former NBC host beheaded the brother-in-law of Tamar
47. Goofy Vine showing a word before *vidi*, e.g.
48. In part, help an amah, at plan time, with vegetation that is made into headgear (3 wds.)
49. Line from girl left in Ohio
50. Avoid passing topless, stupid man
51. Flagon containing a PX's darn unusual flower (2 wds.)
52. Managerial one with short skirt disheartened short rat in dive
53. Extended periods of night at first obstructing the goddess of dawn

DOWN

1. Colonel hollowed out bland yellow cheese (5)
2. Drive at the east end of Tacoma, Washington, with high-volume distributed info storage (4 5)
3. Iowa City chair designer (4)
5. Gershwin's gripping yttrium beams (4)
6. After jacuzzi, soldier leaps chasms (4)
8. Beat up while holding W-2 in Scotland (4)
9. Susa, containing hundred-and-second tier of the judicial syst. (4, *abbr.*)
10. Dale, Victor, and everyone will meet Susan on *LA Law* (6)
12. Don't keep suppressing true, true meaning of Purim (4)
13. Hurt, angry utterance made on German TV, live (4)
17. Retriever loves Asian country (4)
19. That creature blundered, ditching Dutch and French land (5)
21. Car feature resembling inverted, truncated spud (1-3)
23. 1,400 drinking excellent, excellent brand-name frozen beverage (4)
24. Zap couple at the beginning of abortive tea party or dance (9)
25. Chic Hawaiian island blackballing U-boat builder (4)
26. About to nab someone who prescribes stimulating leaf (4)
28. Some Norse literature editor hugged by actress Lupino (4)
29. Deer organs (5)
30. Result of getting no exercise and no dessert (4)
32. Actor Hunter provided skill (6)
34. Caviar raised north of an Algerian port (4)
37. Harshly critiques power-filled minibuses (4)
38. Recording device from Saint Ives bisected disc (4)
39. Gather actress West flipped over chowderhead (5)
40. *Othello* character shunning a low, false game (4)
42. A singular expert erected Cervantes's house (4)
43. I had clothing trimmed well and put together (4)
44. One leaving North Muncie — or, in the pres. case, 4 (4, *abbr.*)
45. Vermont park is superior to most of key hwy. (4, *abbr.*)