

Guest Puzzle #22 – February 2010 "Draw a Blank" (by Arthur Schless)

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to eleven letters, and six are capitalized) then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right continue on the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Six across words and eight down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is removed. Those fourteen letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a four-word phrase related to the title and the pattern highlighted in the grid.

Across

1. Circus performer is unlikely Reno Red Cap
2. Noble went from club to club periodically
3. Notable departure from Bible
4. Hydrocarbon in front of instrument
5. Nearly stab outlaw's belly
6. Implied anti Catholic bloc backlash
7. South African's robe in disarray
8. Ambushed GI with ton of metal mass
9. Harsh in sound, like a stallion
10. Small pictures are fashionable
11. Old-fashioned tin cane eroded
12. Artist of Schubert era
13. Evaluate container after opening
14. Flattery nearly spoiled bishop at the beginning
15. Rabbi sick in valley
16. Redistribute loose toppings
17. Unfortunately espies 0 poems
18. City within Panama control
19. Type of TB that's essentially spotty
20. Oracle was a late Pharisee rabbi
21. Promise a hot whirlpool
22. Compassion and godliness without error
23. Athlete unlawfully takes Ritalin primarily
24. Zone in most western part of county has metallic element

Down

1. Portion laity divided for good reason
2. Long ago end of causeway had mineral deposit
3. Try at first to behave without being rude
4. Disease of Tripoli oldsters
5. Sugar making Boris move with energy
6. Economist beats musically
7. Train next to large building extension
8. General having drink with enemy chief
9. Region has new stadium
10. Fruiting spike of spearmint
11. Demand the premier tool
12. Club is troubled about cafe
13. Movie director once edited
14. Approval comes up from tutor
15. Lists of women users
16. Noise from right paddle
17. End retreat in Kentucky
18. Regal hijinks stand out inappropriately
19. Measure of deep interest
20. Glaze stirred with relish
21. Tennis point for Cobb
22. Cop hired to guard a source of gold
23. Mall attendees get coffee drink
24. I left pioneer excited to start again
25. One Roman cue circulated about Jesus having a ritual