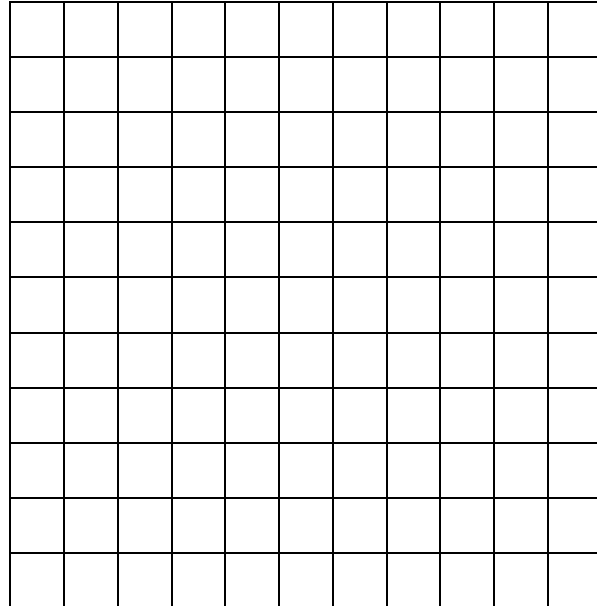


Puzzle # 137 — October 2012 "Three Squares"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to eleven letters, two are capitalized, and three consist of more than one word) 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. Five across words and five down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is omitted. Those ten letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a two-word phrase that suggests how the three mystery entries, each of which lacks a key word, might be completed. Thanks to Kevin Wald for test-solving and editing this puzzle.



Across

1. *Mystery entry*
2. Recover note and letter held by cleric
3. Consider breaking tree up
4. The French goat butchered smoothly
5. Fine weapons and croplands
6. Settled discord without a bit of love or hate
7. Trumpeter has stroke
8. Discharged, Victor and Oscar died unhappily
9. More flavorful treats I baked
10. Tebaldi's triumphant debut in new arena
11. *Mystery entry*
12. Starting a fire? Use sulfur instead of gram of gas
13. Chip maker's phony line about temperature
14. Gain for tailor
15. Boldness never failed
16. Sinclair's lifting device
17. Girl, standing initially in aisle, collapsed
18. In agitation, brother's made Henry act quickly
19. Cap starts to come off in front
20. It acted badly in principle
21. *Mystery entry*

Down

1. Endless faith died and proved false
2. One in front of aircraft causing a racket
3. Southeastern island's cache
4. MgO, for instance, cured cat in a day
5. Tragedy engulfs old people
6. Disney's core element
7. Boy at academy started a musical composition
8. Gem of singular quality
9. Sound of swan or seal
10. Tense Titus grabs gold
11. Better if friend withholds commentary
12. Dismiss 500 in cut instead of 100
13. "Jobs, perhaps," notes a longshoreman
14. Condition of pot, which Kelvin has left for Faraday
15. Announce better pay
16. Father and uncle in Spanish courtyard
17. Brave, quiet character in *Waiting for Godot*
18. Ancient vat has radical arc
19. Bloody unusual
20. Shill started to make a pitch for beer
21. Courts rejected holding right reverend in pain
22. Two letters in color
23. A day in ancient Rome comes to an end
24. Strain has broken down lifter