

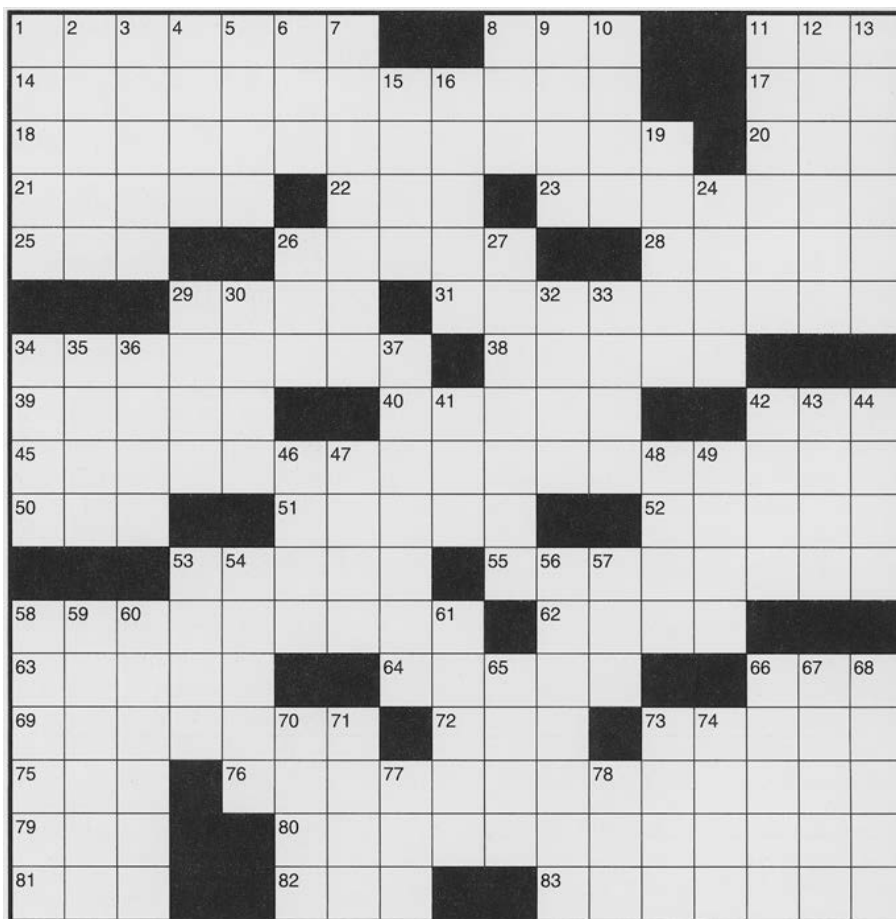
## Funny Business, by David J. Kahn

### ACROSS

- 1 Gum-yielding trees
- 8 Blue
- 11 Not agin
- 14 Broadway comedy by 31-Across
- 17 Flamenco shout
- 18 Recipient of the award in 2004
- 20 Game with 108 cards
- 21 Sign of spring
- 22 Mineo of "Exodus"
- 23 Cruise, say
- 25 "Told ya!"
- 26 Blue spectral type
- 28 Western film title hero
- 29 Classic calypso song
- 31 Recipient of the award in 2006
- 34 Poets, at a reading
- 38 Becomes wearisome
- 39 Summers of old?
- 40 Heard in court
- 42 Broadcaster of the award presentation
- 45 With 76-Across, annual Kennedy Center award named for an iconic author who died in 1910
- 50 NBC comedy show co-created by 18-Across, briefly
- 51 Sensations before migraines
- 52 Big can producer
- 53 Leaves out
- 55 Salon employees
- 58 "You look \_\_\_!" (80-Across catchphrase)
- 62 Weeds out weeds
- 63 Olympics blades
- 64 Combustible piles
- 66 Cornfield cry
- 69 Austere
- 72 Axle, e.g.
- 73 Painter Veronese
- 75 Costa del \_\_\_
- 76 See 45-Across
- 79 Operate
- 80 Recipient of the award in 2007
- 81 \_\_\_ xing
- 82 Electees
- 83 Cockney area of London

### DOWN

- 1 Country setting?
- 2 Tedious task
- 3 Mountain roost
- 4 Traffic marker
- 5 Midmonth day
- 6 U.S.N. leader
- 7 Clip out
- 8 Place to unwind



Answers on page 67

- 9 Draft choices?
- 10 Strike out
- 11 Graveyard shift time
- 12 Possible cause of strange weather
- 13 End a shutdown
- 15 One \_\_\_ (ball game)
- 16 Old Polish lancer
- 19 Fresh
- 24 Walk-way connector?
- 26 "Later"
- 27 Offerings from Ray and Flay
- 29 "The \_\_\_ Van Dyke Show" (sitcom created by 36-Down)
- 30 Squabbling
- 32 Robert of "The Sopranos"
- 33 City in Lombardy
- 34 \_\_\_ horn (shofar)
- 35 "Voice of Israel" author
- 36 \_\_\_ Reiner, recipient of the award in 2000
- 37 Agitates
- 41 "Messenger" molecule
- 42 Sgt.'s charges
- 43 Fire
- 44 Sp. ladies
- 46 Cry
- 47 Camera setting
- 48 Two-time middleweight champ Tony
- 49 Crimson rivals
- 53 No longer hung up on
- 54 Legendary hostess Perle
- 56 What slow and steady wins, in a saying
- 57 Casual greetings
- 58 Goof
- 59 Place side by side
- 60 Got better
- 61 Sally Field role, 1976
- 65 Risqué
- 66 French nobleman
- 67 Take out \_\_\_ (borrow)
- 68 Series opener?
- 70 Both: Prefix
- 71 Rebuff from Reinhard
- 73 \_\_\_ Ed.
- 74 Czech Rep. neighbor
- 77 "Kidnapped" author's monogram
- 78 Piece-keeping grp.?

the men's side, they are shouting, singing. On the women's side, we weep.

And now I'm there, at the Wall itself, though I can't see it through the flood of tears. My pain, my loss, pour like tributaries into a river of grief stretching backward and forward through the generations. The sorrow my wife and children are enduring, the sorrow of my constantly breaking heart, merge with the grief that all children of Abraham have suffered, are suffering, will suffer. God, I sob, and now I'm pounding the Wall, save Your children from ourselves. And now I'm sobbing for the One I'm praying to, because I see the mouth of that river of grief, and the ocean into which it empties is God.

Suddenly, I've cried myself out. I lift my head and smile at a woman, much older, whose cheeks are also streaming. She smiles back. We have nothing in common but the broken hearts that brought us here. For the moment, that's the only gender that matters.

Orthodox Judaism assigns men and women different daily blessings for the miracle of being. Men say, "Blessed are You, O Lord, who has not made me a woman"; women euphemistically accept the short end of the gender stick by saying, "Blessed are You, O Lord, who has made me according to Your will." Jewish feminists justly despise this separate-and-unequal system, but women get the better blessing, an affirmation that we are what we should be, what we need to be, that our existence is purposeful, meaningful, a blessing.

You made me, God, I say when I say that blessing. I belong in this world, just the way I am.

I've turned my back on the Wall, toward the hot, bright, empty square. No sorrow now, no rage, no bitterness. Only gratitude for who and what and where I am, calling out to me, like the angel to Abraham: *Blessed be You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has made me according to Your will.*

I whispered that blessing to myself for years, echoing a voice I thought I could never follow. Now I say it aloud, and add the blessing—this is part of the daily ritual too—that follows:

*Blessed be You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has made me a daughter of freedom.* ♫

