



# The American Club of Brussels

# News & Events

An International Club with an American Heart

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## Chocolate Workshop



Are you a choc-aholic looking for a new experience in Brussels? If so, join us for an hour-long session on Saturday, February 15th when you can make chocolate at Zaabär Chocolatier & Epicerie in Saint-Gilles. The workshop will begin with a short demonstration by an experienced *chocolatier*, followed by an opportunity to create your own chocolate bars and truffles. Zaabär is known for its enchanting flavors and amazing creations using exotic fruits, flowers, and spices in combination with their rich, fine chocolate. Their shop on Chaussée de Charleroi near Place Stéphanie is both a sales outlet and a modern production area.

Please note that this visit is limited to 10 people, so do sign up quickly!

**Event Details:****Date:** Saturday, February 15, 2014**Time:** 2:30 p.m. (plan on arriving by 2:20 p.m.)**Place:** Zaabär Chocolates, Chaussée de Charleroi 125, 1060 Brussels**Price:** €25 for members, €30 for non-members.**Public Transportation:** Trams 92 or 97 to "Faider"**Sign up:** Reservations are due by noon on Wednesday, February 12, by email ([info@americanclubbrussels.org](mailto:info@americanclubbrussels.org)), online at [www.americanclubbrussels.org](http://www.americanclubbrussels.org), or by telephone to the ACB Office Manager (02/219.58.08). Payment to ACB at BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB) will confirm your reservation. Be sure to mention "Chocolate" in the communications section of the *virement*. Cancellations are possible until noon on Wednesday, February 12. Participants cancelling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

## Dates to Remember

- January 30: American Financial Forum
- February 2: Super Bowl
- February 7-9: Salon du Chocolat
- February 14: Chocolate Workshop
- February 23: Het Anker Brewery Visit
- February 28: Final Friday at the Metropole
- March 15: Irish Club St Patrick's Day Ball
- March 22: Plantin-Moretus Museum
- March 28: Final Friday
- April 5: Musée du Fin de Siècle
- May 17: Hôtel Solvay

## American Financial Forum

This complimentary seminar, to be held on January 30, will feature speakers who will address topics relating to the personal financial situation of Americans who reside in Belgium. The featured speakers will be

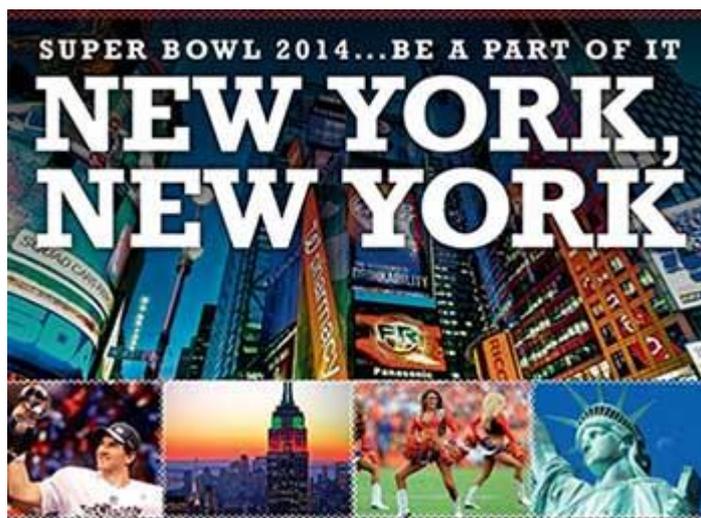
- Deloitte – Carolina Anon – Senior Manager of American Tax – Personal Taxes
- Dunhill Financial – Brian Dunhill – Managing Director - Investments
- De Broeck Van Laere & Partners – Mark Quaghebeur – Partner - Estate Planning

This event is supported by AmCham, the American Club of Brussels and the Association of Americans Resident Overseas (AARO). It will include information tables from many other financial organizations including but not limited to Franklin Templeton, Blackrock, The BRATS (authors of the book *Retiring in Belgium*), and Start-in-Brussels.

6:00 p.m.	Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m.	Deloitte
6:50 p.m.	Dunhill Financial
7:10 p.m.	De Broeck Van Laere & Partners
7:30 p.m.	Q & A
8:00 p.m.	Complimentary drinks

**Event Details:****Date:** Thursday, January 30, 2014**Time:** 6:00 p.m.**Place:** Renaissance Brussels Hotel, Rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Bruxelles**Price:** No Charge**Sign up:** Reservations to be made at <http://www.dunhillfinancial.be/events.html>

## Super Bowl XLVIII Tailgate, Viewing and All Around Party



Super Bowl Sunday, one of the quintessential non-holiday feasts, is something to be experienced with friends! Join the American Club of Brussels as we enjoy the Game, Commercials, Half Time show, Food and Good Fellowship!

7:00-9:00 p.m.	Tailgating games, food (if we can get a permit to bbq out on the street), pre-game on TV
9:00 p.m.	Video of past commercial favorites
10:00 p.m.	Football simulation game on wii or x-box
11:00 p.m.	Introduction of Brussels Tigers (Our local American football team)
12:00 a.m.	Last chance for boxes
Rest of night	Coverage of the game

**Event Details:****Date:** Sunday, February 2, 2014**Time:** 7 p.m. until the game is over...**Place:** The Big Game, Rue Henri Maus 5, 1000 Brussels**Price:** €10 for ACB members and Brussels Tigers; €15 for non-members

**Sign up:** Reservations are due by noon on Friday, January 31 by email ([info@americanclubbrussels.org](mailto:info@americanclubbrussels.org)), online at [www.americanclubbrussels.org](http://www.americanclubbrussels.org), or by telephone to the ACB Office Manager (02/219.58.08). Payment to ACB at BE55427919588144 (BIC/SWIFT: KREDBEBB) will confirm your reservation. Be sure to mention "Superbowl" in the communications section of the *virement*. Note that cancellations are possible until noon on Friday, January 31. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

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## Chocolate Feast – February 7-9, 2014



Belgium, a country of traditions, has always been one of the great homelands of chocolate on the world stage. Brussels is therefore very proud to be hosting the first "Salon du Chocolat" to be held on Belgian soil, from Friday to Sunday, February 7-9, 2014 at Tours & Taxis (shed 1).

Praised by all chocolate lovers and market experts, the Salon du Chocolat represents an international label. With more than 20 editions worldwide each year, from Paris to New York, not forgetting Salvador da Bahia, Tokyo, Seoul, London..., only one destination was missing from its roll of honor: the capital of Europe. For this first Brussels edition, more than 80 exhibitors, mostly Belgian but also from the international scene, will display their talents over 4,000 square meters of exhibition space.

The American Club has obtained 10 free passes for this **members-only special event**. If you are interested, please sign up quickly since the tickets will be given away on a first-come, first serve basis. Two tickets maximum per ACB member. To reserve your ticket(s), please contact the Club office by Wednesday, February 5, by email ([info@americanclubbrussels.org](mailto:info@americanclubbrussels.org)), online at [www.americanclubbrussels.org](http://www.americanclubbrussels.org), or by telephone to the ACB Office Manager (02/219.58.08).

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## Het Anker Brewery Tour



Join the American Club of Brussels for a tour of one of the oldest breweries in Belgium - the Het Anker Brewery in Mechelen. Founded in 1471 by a community of Beguines, Het Anker is an internationally noted brewery. It uses traditional recipes as the foundation of its brewing process and a variety of hops and herbs give their beers that characteristic taste and aroma. The brewery's Gouden Carolus Tripel and Gouden Carolus Classic have won the World Beer Awards [Best Belgian Style Tripel Pale Beer](#) and [Best Dark Beer](#) in 2012. Come and see how these beers are made and taste for yourself!

The visit begins at 10:00 a.m. with a one and half hour tour of the brewery combined with a tasting. The tour is followed by a three course lunch in the brasserie. Beverages are not included in the price as they are at the discretion of the diner and there is a special kids menu available as well. Children and families are welcome. The visit is a great way to spend a Sunday for fans of history and/or beer!

Please note that the tour is limited to 25 people.

### **MENU**

Soup of the season

\* \* \*

"Cuckoo" from Mechelen (chicken)  
with market vegetables,  
natural sauce with Gouden Carolus Ambrio  
or  
Grilled butterfish with a potato-vegetable cassoulet  
and a vine tomato gravy

\* \* \*

Duo of javanais and bavarois

## **KIDS MENU**

Chicken breast with apple sauce

or

Fish steak with tartar sauce

or

Hamburger with ketchup

or

Mini Steak with lettuce

Main dishes are served with fries or croquettes

\* \* \*

Children's ice cream

### **Event Details:**

**Date:** Sunday, February 23, 2014

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Place:** Het Anker Brewery, Guido Gezellelaan 49, B-2800 Mechelen. We will meet at the Beguines gate.

**Price:** €35 for member adults, €13 for member kids (under 12 years of age); €45 for non-member adults and €20 for non-member kids (under 12 years of age)

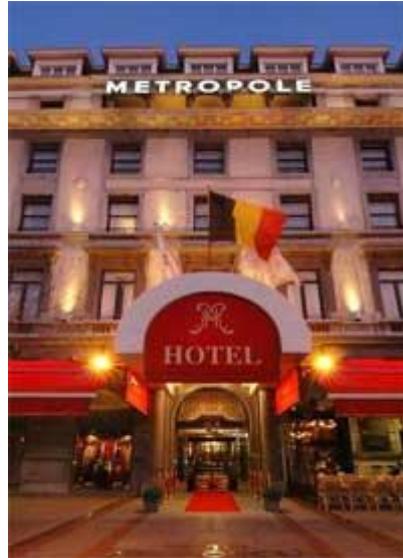
**Menu:** Please indicate your menu choice when signing up.

**Sign up:** Reservations are due by noon on Wednesday, February 19 by email ([info@americanclubbrussels.org](mailto:info@americanclubbrussels.org)), by telephone to the ACB Office Manager (02/219.58.08) or online via [www.americanclubbrussels.org](http://www.americanclubbrussels.org). Payment to ACB at BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB) will confirm your reservation. Be sure to mention "Brewery Tour" and menu choice in the communications section of the *virement*. Cancellations are possible until noon on Wednesday, February 19. Participants cancelling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

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# Final Friday Cocktails

**Friday, February 28**  
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



**Metropole Hotel (ground floor near the bar)**  
**Place de Brouckère 31**  
**1000 Brussels**

The [American Club of Brussels](#) is happy to welcome our friends from  
[ACAB](#) (American Clubs and Associations in Belgium)  
And anyone else that would like to join us...

Cash bar open to all. Newcomers to Belgium and prospective ACB members are especially welcome.

No reservation is required. Bring a guest or two.

## The American Club of Brussels Wants You

Would you like to have fun, make new contacts and help the Club? Then become a "Meet and Greet" host at our monthly Final Friday Cocktails.

No experience necessary. Your job definition is to greet attendees and ensure that people feel welcome and meet other people.

Your Club runs on volunteer power, so please volunteer for this essential task.  
Contact Brian Dunhill at [brian@dunhillfinancial.be](mailto:brian@dunhillfinancial.be) for further information

## St.Patrick's Day Ball



The Irish Club of Belgium's annual St.Patrick's Day Ball will take place on March 15 at the Steigenberger Grand Hotel (formerly The Conrad) on Ave. Louise 71, 1050 Brussels. Again this year, **the American Club will host a table and members may attend for the Irish Club member price.**

This charity event commences at 7:00 p.m. with a champagne reception and is followed by a five-star meal. After dinner there will be entertainment by "Damhsa" and D.J. Clutz. This year proceeds will support The Childhood Leukemia Unit in St.Luc University Hospital, Brussels.

Ticket prices are €80 for members of the Irish Club of Belgium and €95 for non-members. The event is strictly black-tie and only open to adults (minimum age of 18).

**Sign-up:** Before noon on Friday, March 7, at the ACB office, by email ([info@americanclubbrussels.org](mailto:info@americanclubbrussels.org)), online at [www.americanclubbrussels.org](http://www.americanclubbrussels.org), or by telephone to the ACB Office Manager (02/219.58.08).

**Payment:** Irish Club of Belgium, account number ING BE62310148650061. Please mention "ACB ball" in the communications section of the *virement*.

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## A Visit to the Plantin-Moretus Museum



The Plantin-Moretus Museum is unique. The oldest printing presses in the world are there, intact and ready to roll. The offices and shop echo with conversations between Christoffel Plantijn and his aristocratic and scholarly clients from all over the world.

You will be able to feast your eyes on the home of the Plantin and Moretus families! As you stroll through the drawing rooms, you will soak up the atmosphere of life in Antwerp in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and be able to admire the impressive art collection which includes portraits by Peter Paul Rubens.

Continuing on your way through the rarefied libraries lined with the breathtaking 30,000 old editions that make up the Moretusses' collection, you will marvel at the magnificent manuscripts and some of the finest examples of European typography.

There will be an optional lunch beforehand. Complete details on the lunch will be in the next *News & Events*, but save the date now! Join us for a very special guided tour of this book-lover's paradise.

Please note that this visit is limited to 25 people.

**Event Details:**

**Date:** Saturday, March 22, 2014

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. for the guided tour

**Place:** Plantin-Moretus Museum, Vrijdagmarkt 22-23, 2000 Antwerpen

**Price:** €20 for members, €25 for non-members.

**Public Transportation:** Tram 3 from the Centraal Station to the stop "Groenplaats"

**Sign up:** Reservations are due by noon on Wednesday, March 19 by email ([info@americanclubbrussels.org](mailto:info@americanclubbrussels.org)), online at [www.americanclubbrussels.org](http://www.americanclubbrussels.org), or by telephone to the ACB Office Manager (02/219.58.08). Payment to ACB at BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB) will confirm your reservation. Be sure to mention "Plantin" in the communications section of the *virement*. Cancellations are possible until noon on Wednesday, March 19. Participants cancelling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

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## Board Reelects Marcia Doyle as President

At its December 19, 2013 meeting the Board of Directors unanimously elected Marcia Doyle as President for 2014.

The newly elected President presented the following slate of candidates for the club's Executive Committee to the Board. The slate was unanimously approved.

1st Vice President	John Stuyck
Vice President	Maggie Nicholson
Vice President	Jo Ann Broger
Vice President	Brian Dunhill
Secretary	Katherine Woodcock
Treasurer	Marcia Doyle

## In Memoriam



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of **Alan Calnan**, who passed away peacefully in his sleep on Sunday, January 19. Alan was a long time member of the American Club of Brussels and held the office of President from 1988 to 1990 as well as being the Chair of the Pioneers and a member of the Board of Directors for an extended period of time. A graduate of Brown University, Alan served in the U.S. Navy and was a Korean war veteran. In addition to the American Club of Brussels, Alan also served on the Board of Directors of the Fulbright Commission for 15 years and was the Chairman of the Board from 2005 to 2008.

He represented all that was the best of an international citizen, always out-going, gracious, friendly, droll, gentle, and welcoming. A long-term resident of Belgium, he was a true ambassador for his country. He embodied and personified the spirit of the American Club of Brussels. Our deepest condolences to Hanne and the entire family, who do not wish to receive calls or notes at this time. We are holding Alan in our hearts and prayers. We will truly miss him.

## Introducing – Serendip Spa & Yoga

*We are pleased to introduce to you this month the eleventh corporate member to be profiled in News & Events. Melissa Rancourt, co-owner of Serendip Spa & Yoga, is an American from the east coast and has been living in Brussels for the past twelve years.*



Serendip Spa & Yoga is a luxurious, holistic wellness center situated in the heart of Brussels at Place Stéphanie, just off Avenue Louise. Inspired by an oriental atmosphere, the staff offers traditional massages and specialized treatments using ancient techniques derived from century old traditions and ancient wisdom. Serendip Spa offers five-star luxury in a unique space of wellness, harmony and tranquillity.

Serendip combines three distinct services all centered on wellness: a spa (offering treatment massages and facials); a store (natural and organic products for body and facial care); and yoga classes (private, group & workshops). Guests appreciate the relaxing environment, the eastern decor and the cosmopolitan team, coming from Thailand, Tibet, Europe, Nepal, Mongolia, and the USA. All staff members are highly experienced professionals who combine modern techniques with ancient savoir-faire – all of which makes Serendip Spa unique in Brussels.

The Serendip yoga studio has a vast array of options for first time yogis up to advanced practitioners. The week begins with the group's signature courses: Yoga Massage and Candlelight Yoga – a gentle way to get into the busy week. Throughout the week, Gentle, Restorative Yoga, Vinyasa & Dynamic Yoga are offered during the evenings and Friday at lunch time. On Sunday, we end the week with Matrix Yoga and Meditation classes. Each month wellbeing workshops and certification (for yoga & massage) training courses are offered. Evening events are also open to the public – such as Wine & Canvas to promote new & rising artists, community fundraising events for societal needs, corporate wellness and yoga community gatherings.

In February Valentine offerings will be available all-month long: Yin Yang Couple Massage, Yin Yang Thai Massage, Luxurious Gift Baskets, Gift Certificates, Couples Private Yoga, Sweethearts Yoga Class with Nutrition Cooking Demo and Family Yoga time.

	<p><b>Serendip Spa &amp; Yoga</b> <b>Place Stéphanie, 16-18</b> <b>1050 Bruxelles</b> <b>Tel. 02/503.55.04</b> <a href="mailto:info@serendipspa.com">info@serendipspa.com</a> <a href="http://www.serendipspa.com">www.serendipspa.com</a></p> <p><b>Open 7 days a week</b> <b>Mondays-Saturdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.</b> <b>Sundays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.</b></p>
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# Community News

## Expatriate Refresher Course

Have you been living in Belgium for a while but feel as if you've lost momentum and are stuck here? The Expatriate Refresher Course can chase away your winter blues!

The Expatriate Refresher Course is a series of six morning workshops which aims to help seasoned expats who are suffering from Brussels fatigue to reflect on, re-evaluate and reboot their experience of life in Belgium.

A previous participant said the course was "very helpful and energizing and it has already changed the way I think about some things. Your tips are practical and very relevant to being an expat and parent here. It's good to take some time to reflect and maybe think about some changes. It's also enlightening to spend time listening to others in the same position and realize some things are a product of a situation and quite common experiences or feelings."

The course will take place at the **American Women's Club of Brussels**, Avenue des Erables 1, 1650 Rhode St Genèse, over a series of six Thursday mornings, 10h-12h30, and will run February 6, 13 and 27, and March 13, 20 and 27, 2014. The course costs €220 (€200 for AWCB members) and includes tea, coffee & home baking.

To find out more, or to reserve your place, please email [therapyBXL@gmail.com](mailto:therapyBXL@gmail.com) or visit [www.therapyBXL.com](http://www.therapyBXL.com).

## Call for Singers

The **Brussels American Community Chorus** welcomes singers from any country, both adults and students 12 years and older. No experience or audition is needed. Beginning on January 27, we will meet every Monday from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Kraainem. The music includes Broadway songs. Contact [lamdm@attglobal.net](mailto:lamdm@attglobal.net) for further information.



**The American Club of Brussels** c/o Renaissance  
Brussels Hotel  
Rue du Parnasse 19  
B-1050 Brussels  
Tel: 02/219.58.08

[info@americanclubbrussels.org](mailto:info@americanclubbrussels.org)  
[www.americanclubbrussels.org](http://www.americanclubbrussels.org)

**The American Club of Brussels** is one of the oldest American clubs in Europe, founded in 1921 to foster Belgian-American relations. Although our members comprise more than 20 other nationalities from all walks of life, the ACB retains its American flavor. Some of us are long-time residents in Belgium. Many of us are newcomers. We all enjoy ourselves and the club's wide variety of social and cultural activities.

The ACB is a great way to expand your circle of friends and to discover more of the delights of Belgium. Try us.

