



American Club of Brussels

# News & Events

An International Club with an American Heart



April 2011

## Casino Night

Friday, April 29



Fancy an evening of poker and other classic casino games? Join like-minded ACBers and friends on Friday, April 29 at Viage, an entertainment complex dedicated to leisure, games, wining and dining, and shows in the heart of Brussels.

Located in an impressive venue on Boulevard Anspach, Viage Entertainment Center boasts a spectacular rooftop restaurant,

a string of theme-bars, an international showroom for the performing arts, and the best gaming facilities in town. See for yourself at [www.viage.be](http://www.viage.be).

Our evening at the casino will start at 7:00 p.m. Our personal event coordinator will welcome us with a short introduction to casino gambling, and explain the rules and customs of the different games. We will be treated to an hour of drinks *à volonté* in one of the theme bars. Then it's on to the gaming tables for those of us who want to try their luck, or up to the Kameleon Sky restaurant for dinner and a breathtaking view of the Brussels skyline. If a quick meal is more to your taste, there's the Saffron restaurant on the fourth floor, or you can relax with another cocktail or two in Viage's Cinna bar or at Brown's Sportsbar & Grill.

### Event Details

**Date:** Friday, April 29

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. **sharp**

**Place:** Viage, Boulevard Anspach 30, 1000 Brussels

**Price:** €17 for ACB and AWCB members; €25 for non-members

**Dress code:** Smart casual

**Sign up:** Reservations are due by noon on Tuesday, April 26 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 427-9195881-44 will confirm your reservation. Be sure to mention "Casino" in the communications section of the *virement*. Note that cancellations are possible until noon on Tuesday, April 26. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

**Note that membership in Viage is not required, but valid ID is compulsory for registration. The minimum age is 21.**

## Final Thursday Cocktails

Thursday, April 28  
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Renaissance Brussels Hotel**  
**(ground floor behind the restaurant)**  
**Rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Brussels**  
**(walking distance from Place du Luxembourg)**

Cash bar open to all. Newcomers to Belgium and prospective ACB members are especially welcome. Complimentary zakouskis will be offered. No reservation is necessary. Bring a guest or two.

## Dates to Remember

- Thursday, April 28: Final Thursday cocktails
- Friday, April 29: A fun evening at Viage Entertainment Center, Brussels
- Thursday, May 12: Dine-Out
- Thursday, May 26: Final Thursday Cocktails
- Saturday and Sunday, May 28-29: Memorial Day observances at American military cemeteries in Belgium
- Monday, June 6: Annual General Meeting
- Saturday, June 18: Guided visit to the Musée Horta, Brussels
- Wednesday, June 22: Dine-Out
- Thursday, June 30: Final Thursday cocktails
- Sunday, July 3: Independence Day celebrations at the American Women's Club of Brussels clubhouse
- Thursday, July 7: Ommegang pageant and dinner at La Maison du Cygne, Brussels
- Thursday, July 28: Final Thursday cocktails

## Notice to All Members of the American Club of Brussels

All ACB members, in accordance with the Club's Statutes and By-Laws, are invited to attend the

## Annual General Meeting

on Monday, June 6, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

at the

Renaissance Brussels Hotel, Rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Brussels

The purpose of the AGM is the approval of the financial accounts for the fiscal year 2010 and the budget for the fiscal year 2011.

## Private Guided Tour of the Musée Horta



Join the American Club of Brussels for a private guided tour in English of the Horta Museum in St.-Gilles on Saturday, June 18 at 10:00 a.m. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of the acclaimed Belgian architect, Victor Horta, and a visit to his home and adjoining studio is an ideal way to celebrate Horta's genius and the importance of his heritage.

Baron Victor Horta is the father of Art Nouveau architecture in Belgium, and the man who shaped so much of its capital city. Art Nouveau is famous for its use of natural light, organic forms suggesting growth and movement, ironwork, gorgeous cabinetry, mosaic floors, stained glass windows, and impressive stairwells. We will see all this and more during our visit to the two buildings that comprise the museum. Built in 1898 and completed in 1901, and now classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Horta Museum is at once a museum of architecture and a monument to Art Nouveau. It is an excellent starting point for visits by those who wish to expand their knowledge of Art Nouveau.

After the tour, which will take about an hour, those who are interested can continue on for a coffee in the neighborhood.

Please note that the event is limited to a maximum of 30 participants.

### Event Details

**Date:** Saturday, June 18

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Place:** Musée Horta, Rue Américaine 25, 1060 Brussels (trams 81, 82, 91, 92, bus 54: Janson or Ma Campagne stop)

**Price:** €15 for ACB and AWCB members; €20 for non-members

**Sign up:** Reservations are due by noon on Wednesday, June 15 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 427-9195881-44 will confirm your reservation. Be sure to mention "Horta" in the communications section of the *virement*. Note that cancellations are possible until noon on Wednesday, June 15. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

# Advance Notice of Upcoming Events

## Ommegang Dinner and Procession

Mark your calendars now for Thursday, July 7, when the ACB offers members and guests a unique opportunity to view the Ommegang procession on the Grand'Place while dining in one of the most elegant restaurants in Brussels.

La Maison du Cygne is housed in a former 17th century guild house that overlooks the Grand'Place. From the balcony and windows of a large private dining room, we will have an unparalleled view of the Ommegang as the pageant unfolds on one of the most beautiful squares in the world.

Sign up for this event as soon as details are announced. This is probably one of the best things you can do during your stay in Belgium.



## Reciprocal Clubs



As a member of the American Club of Brussels, you are automatically a member of the ever-growing Association of American Clubs (AAC), allowing you to benefit from membership privileges and use of

facilities from over 50 prestigious, private American clubs around the globe. You can also attend their events and activities at special membership rates.

The AAC is an alliance of American clubs, societies, and associations worldwide that shares useful information and provides reciprocal membership benefits. AAC members share the common goals of representing American spirit and culture, and fostering mutual understanding and friendship between their respective host countries and the United States.

To add value to membership in the individual clubs, reciprocal benefits are extended to all AAC member clubs. Local members are invited to participate in events and activities of any fellow AAC member club at membership rates. A member of the American Club of Brussels, for example, can enjoy a discount to the annual gala of the Czech-American Club of Prague. They are also welcome to use the facilities of AAC member clubs, where available, such as the American Club of Sydney's magnificent clubhouse overlooking Sydney Harbor, or special entry to lunches with internationally recognized and prestigious speakers of the American Club of Lisbon.

For more information and links to participating clubs, visit the AAC website: [www.associationofamericanclubs.com](http://www.associationofamericanclubs.com). Before departing, contact the ACB Office Manager to organize your letter of introduction. It is also a good idea to check out each club's policies and procedures, which are generally available on their website.

## Taco & Trivia Nights

Everyone is welcome to attend Taco & Trivia Nights held Thursday evenings at the U.S. Army's 3-Star Lounge in Brussels. An all-you-can-eat taco bar costs €8 for adults, €6 for children under 10, and there's no charge for kids under two. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. The quiz gets going at 7:30 p.m. Form your own team or join one to test your knowledge of useless facts.

The recreational facility, located at USAG (United States Army Garrison, Leuvensesteenweg 13, 1932 St.-Stevens Woluwe), boasts four TV screens, including one giant screen, comfy seats, and a well-stocked bar. Games such as pool, darts, ping-pong, and foosball are available.

For more information, and to register if you are not a member of the U.S. military community, contact [susan.turney@us.army.mil](mailto:susan.turney@us.army.mil). To access the base, you will need to supply identification (passport or ID card and number) for each family member attending. If you wish to access the base by car, Susan will also need to know the make and model of your vehicle, and its license plate number. Otherwise, there is plenty of street parking.

## Trips with the American Women's Club of Brussels

### Delft and Keukenhof



There's no place prettier than Holland in the spring. Enjoy a day trip to lovely Delft and colorful Keukenhof gardens on Saturday, April 30 to take in some of the best sights in the Low Countries at this time of year. Led by Andrée Jacquet, the trip by bus includes a guided visit of the historic center of Delft, a guided visit to a porcelain factory, a scenic drive through the Dutch countryside passing flowering tulip fields, entry to Keukenhof, and three hours of free time at the gardens to admire the unforgettable seasonal display.

Based on 25 participants, the cost is €65 per adult and €53 for children under 12. For more information, contact Andrée Jacquet at [andreejacquet@hotmail.com](mailto:andreejacquet@hotmail.com) or call her at 010.45.09.33.

### Visit Rochester, England, and the Dickens Festival



Here's a great trip for the whole family, and it's scheduled for the Ascension Day school break from Thursday, June 2 through Saturday, June 4. Enjoy three days in lovely Kent, England, at the Dickens Festival in Rochester as well as visits to other major attractions in the area, including Leeds and Scotney castles, Sissinghurst gardens, and the Historic Dockyard Chatham.

The cost is €250 per person for adults and €190 for children sharing a room with their parents. This price includes transportation by bus, hotel and breakfast, all visits and guided activities. For more information, contact the tour guide, Andrée Jacquet at [andreejacquet@hotmail.com](mailto:andreejacquet@hotmail.com). To sign up if you are not a member of the AWCB, contact the AWCB representative Judy Furukawa at [oldriver54@msn.com](mailto:oldriver54@msn.com).

## North India in the Autumn

The AWCBC is organizing a “Thousand and One Nights” trip to North India departing Brussels on Saturday, October 29 and returning on Sunday, November 6. The nine-day trip includes visits to Old and New Delhi; Jaipur (the “Pink City”); Amber, the former state capital of Rajasthan; the tiger reserve at Ranthambore; and Agra, with its Red Fort and the Taj Mahal.

The price of €2,750 per adult in a double room includes direct flights Brussels/Delhi/Brussels with Jet Airways, accommodation in 4-star hotels or resorts, full board from Day 2 to Day 8, local transport in air conditioned buses, flight from Delhi to Jaipur, all entrance fees, game drive in a four-wheel drive vehicle, First Class air conditioned train from Ranthambore to Bharatpur, and the services of a professional English-speaking guide. For further information, contact the AWCBC Tour Director at [mireille\\_bremer@yahoo.fr](mailto:mireille_bremer@yahoo.fr).

## Community News

### Soirée au pub / Canadian Pub Night

Join the Canadian Club of Belgium for a casual get-together at KWAK Brasserie (Avenue Emile Vandervelde 2, 1200 Brussels) on Friday, April 8 starting at 7:00 p.m. We will be on the first floor. No reservation is required. This is an open event and everyone is welcome.

### The Brussels Bookswappers Club

Every fourth Wednesday of the month, booklovers get together to swap books that are gathering dust on their shelves. All you have to do is come along with any number of books you wish to exchange with other titles left at the club by its members. Fiction as well as non-fiction is welcome, and there is a special section for children’s books. You are encouraged to bring books in English as well as in all other major languages.

A team of Meeters & Greeters will welcome you to the club and explain how the system works. There is no membership fee. The venue is the restaurant/brasserie Les Enfants Terribles (Chaussée de la Hulpe 190, 1170 Brussels), near the International School of Brussels. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 27 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. If you wish to receive further information or to be put on the club’s mailing list for future meetings, contact Karen at [abkginfo@skynet.be](mailto:abkginfo@skynet.be).

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**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.