



American Club of Brussels

News & Events

An International Club with an American Heart



May 2011

A Dine-Out with a Difference

Thursday, May 12

1st Annual AOMDA FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

**A FUN EVENING FOR
A GREAT CAUSE!**

Live Music

Food & Drinks

Kids Welcome!

Prize Raffle

Please join us for an informal evening of
AMERICAN FOOD & MUSIC

 **MAY 12, 2011**
from 6.30 to 10 pm

All proceeds benefit the American Overseas Memorial Day Association (AOMDA) Foundation.

ADVANCE TICKET SALES ONLY!!
Tickets: €15 EUR (includes meal & first beverage);
Kids just €5
Where: De Kam Cultural Center,
Beekstraat 172, 1970 Wezembeek-Oppem

Tickets & Info:
Laura Hoffman
RSVP@AOMDA.ORG
TEL 0475 65 81 88

Brody Letson, TMA ticket sales
LETSONBE@STATE.GOV
TEL 02 811 50 75



The American Club of Brussels' monthly Dine-Out takes an 180° turn this May. But it's an about-face for a cause. It's the first-ever event to raise money for the American Overseas Memorial Day Association (AOMDA) Foundation. An all-volunteer organization, the AOMDA organizes the annual Memorial Day ceremonies that honor the 14,000 American soldiers and airmen who are interred in Belgium's three American military cemeteries.

Plan on stopping by on May 12 to enjoy a real, honest American hamburger, a brew or two, and some of the best bluegrass music this side of the ocean performed by the legendary group, *The Sons of Navarone*. Join the fun for an hour, or stay for the duration, while supporting this worthwhile cause.

The Memorial Day ceremonies in Belgium are moving events that pay tribute to the past and to the price paid in human blood for a free Europe. As American Ambassador Howard Gutman noted in his addresses last year, the ceremonies are also a moment to look to the future. That is why the AOMDA is finding new ways to perpetuate the remembrance of America's war dead, and to connect with future generations. Youth outreach programs in local classrooms create interactive journeys of discovery that make use of the cemeteries and the stories of fallen soldiers to explore Europe's history, the contributions of America and its allies, and ultimately the common values that unite freedom-loving peoples of all nations.

Thursday, May 12 is sure to be both a fun and meaningful event. If, for some reason, you can't attend the First Annual AOMDA Foundation Fundraiser, you can make a donation to the ING account 310-1202144-12.

Event Details**Date:** Thursday, May 12**Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. +**Place:** De Kam Cultural Centre, Beekstraat 172, 1970 Wezembeek-Oppem (tram 39: Beek stop)**Price:** €15 includes hamburger meal and first beverage; €5 >10**Dress code:** Informal**Sign up:** Reservations are due by noon on Thursday, May 5 by email (info@americanclubbrussels.org), online at 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 “AOMDA May Dine-Out” in the communications section of the *virement*. Cancellations are possible until noon on Thursday, May 5. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.**Tickets are by advance sale only. Photo ID will be required along with name on guest list.**

Final Thursday Cocktails

Thursday, May 26
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

- Friday, May 6: Young Membership Happy Hour at FatBoys Sports Bar & Grill
- Thursday, May 12: Dine-Out at De Kam Cultural Centre, Wezembeek-Oppem
- 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
- Thursday, June 9: Dine-Out
- Saturday, June 18: Guided visit to the Musée Horta, Brussels
- Wednesday, June 22: Guided visit to the European Parliament
- 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

Young Membership Happy Hour

Are you a young (under 35) resident of Brussels with an interest in the U.S.A.? Are you a young American living/working/studying in Brussels? If you answered “yes” to either of these questions, join us at FatBoys Sports Bar & Grill to meet up with your peers. All nationalities are welcome. Hope to see you there.

Event Details

Date: Friday, May 6

Time: 7:00 p.m. to ???

Place: FatBoys Sports Bar & Grill, Place du Luxembourg 5, 1050 Brussels; www.fatboys-be.com

Price: None, aside from the cost of your beverage(s)

Contact: If you have any questions, can't find the group, or would like to know more about the American Club of Brussels, contact Christopher Ballard at CTBallard@gmail.com or 0475/32.20.94

Visit us on Facebook: American Club of Brussels – Young Members

Memorial Day... Why Should We Remember Them?

American Memorial Day is here again, with events planned for the weekend of May 28 and 29. For Americans living in the United States, Memorial Day is a day off from work, with family picnics, and unbeatable sales. However, when you reside in Belgium, it is the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for your family to experience what Memorial Day is all about.



Commemorations of America's commitment to guarantee freedom for the U.S., her friends and allies have been held each Memorial Day weekend in Belgium since 1923. One meaningful role Americans play during their years here is taking part in these ceremonies. If you haven't done so already, don't miss this opportunity. Attending a Memorial Day ceremony is a chance to reflect upon the freedom we enjoy today, paid for in the 20th century by over 345,000 brave American men and women who died during World Wars I and II. Over 14,000 American servicemen are buried in Belgium in three American military cemeteries.



Each gravestone marks the resting place of an American who died fighting tyranny and oppression in the name of human dignity and the freedom of mankind. Each gravestone also represents the tragic loss of a beloved husband, brother, father, or son.

Memorial Day ceremonies in Belgium are not only a tribute to these fallen heroes. They are an unforgettable opportunity to remind us all – young and old – of the reason America is called upon to fight wars that are never good, but sometimes necessary. Next-of-kin, as well as

American and Belgian veterans, senior military officers, diplomats, high-ranking government officials, and other distinguished guests attend these ceremonies.

United States Military Representatives and senior Belgian politicians offer their tributes. The U.S. Air Force performs a fly-by tribute to the fallen. Belgian schoolchildren sing both *The Star Spangled Banner* and the Belgian national anthem, and deliver special poetic tributes at some cemeteries. The uplifting and dignified ceremonies help us to recall the self-evident truths that are the foundation of America itself, "...that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Former U.S. President John F. Kennedy once said "a nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers." Memorial Day ceremonies ensure that the heroic spirit of many brave men and women will live on in this century, so that we might never forget the expensive lessons learned at the price of human blood.

Everyone is invited to attend the Memorial Day ceremonies in grateful remembrance. You can also help to honor these brave soldiers and airmen by making a contribution to the AOMDA Foundation [ING account 310-1202144-12]. A volunteer, non-profit organization supported solely by private donations, all money is used to ensure that the sacrifices of yesterday will never be forgotten, with special emphasis paid to youth outreach programs that perpetuate remembrance and understanding among future generations.

For directions and additional information: www.aomda.org



Photos: Mark Hubis

This article first appeared in the May 2009 issue of the American Club of Brussels Newsletter, and is reprinted here with Laura Hoffman's kind permission.

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.

Guided Tour of the Musée Horta



Join the American Club of Brussels for a private guided tour of the Horta Museum in St.-Gilles on Saturday, June 18. 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 this fascinating and important architectural movement.

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 this 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), online at 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*. 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.

Guided Tour of the European Parliament

Join the American Club of Brussels on Wednesday, June 22, for a guided tour of the European Parliament and to observe a live plenary session from seats in the Tribune hemicycle. Our visit to the debating chamber will be followed by a question-and-answer period, so come prepared to ask and find out everything you've always wanted to know about the European Parliament. This is a special glimpse into the workings of the EU without spending a euro.

After the tour, which should take about two hours, we will be treated to a complimentary drink.

This event is limited to a maximum of 30 participants.

Event Details**Date:** Wednesday, June 22**Time:** 2:45 p.m. for 3:00 p.m.**Place:** Visitors' entrance, Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels**Price:** Free of charge**Sign up:** Reservations are due by noon on Friday, June 10 by email (info@americanclubbrussels.org), online at www.americanclubbrussels.org, or by telephone to the ACB Office Manager (02.219.58.08).**Note that participants must give their date of birth and home address to the ACB Office Manager to obtain a visitor's badge.**

Ommegang Dinner



Once again, 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.

MENU "Made in Brussels"

(includes wine and water)

Terrine de Foie Gras de Canard et Filet d'Anvers
(Terrine of Duck Liver and Smoked Ham)

* * *

Waterzooi de Coucou de Malines au Légumes Croquants
(Chicken *Waterzooi* with Crispy Vegetables)

* * *

Gaufre de Bruxelles et Crème au Speculoos
(Brussels Waffle with *Speculoos*-flavored Cream)

* * *

Le Moka et ses Mignardises
(coffee and sweets)

The Ommegang takes place each year on the first Thursday in July and the preceding Tuesday (this year, Tuesday, July 5 and Thursday, July 7). Ommegang (literally “walk-around”) is a faithful recreation of a splendid pageant that was performed in 1549 for Emperor Charles V, his son Philip II, and the knights of the Order of the Golden Fleece.

Staged at night on the illuminated Grand’Place, the two-hour extravaganza includes flag-throwers, folk dancers, archers, acrobats, jesters, jugglers, fire-eaters, falcon-trainers, folkloric giants, stilt-walkers, and the famous Gilles of Binche. Descendants of the nobility of the time play the roles and wear the coats of arms and sumptuous costumes of their ancestors.

This is a spectacular affair, and one of the biggest festivals in the country. Our dinner evening at La Maison du Cygne offers, literally and figuratively, a window on this amazing event. Bring your camera.



Event Details

Date: Thursday, July 7

Time: Open cash bar: 7:00 p.m.

Dinner: 8:00 p.m.

Place: La Maison du Cygne, Grand’Place (entrance: Rue Charles Buls 2), 1000 Brussels

Price: €75 for ACB and AWCB members; €85 for non-members

Dress code: Coat and tie requested

Sign up: Reservations are due by noon on Monday, July 4 by email (info@americanclubbrussels.org), online at 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 “Ommegang” in the communications section of the virement. Cancellations are possible until noon on Monday, July 4. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

Independence Day Picnic

This year’s Independence Day celebration will take place on Sunday, July 3 at the American Women’s Club of Brussels clubhouse in suburban Rhode St.-Genève.

Volunteers are always needed to help organize games and sporting events, so please let ACB President Maggie Nicholson know if you can lend a hand. And if you enjoy grilling, volunteers are also needed to help with the barbecue.

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. 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

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. To sign up if you are not a member of the AWCB, contact the AWCB representative Judy Furukawa at oldriver54@msn.com.

North India in the Autumn

The AWCB 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 AWCB Tour Director at mireille_bremer@yahoo.fr.

Community News

Soirée au pub / Canadian Pub Night

Every first Friday of the month, members of the Canadian Club of Belgium meet at a pub for friendly conversation and a few beers. No reservation is required. This is an open event and everyone is welcome.

Join us this month at Brasserie Kwak (Avenue Emile Vandervelde 2, 1200 Brussels) on Friday, May 6 starting at 7:00 p.m. We will be upstairs on the first floor.

Art Perspectives International Exhibition

Art Perspectives International (API) is a group of international artists of various disciplines and cultural backgrounds living in and around Brussels. This exhibition brings together over 20 artists using a variety of techniques and media including painting, sculpture, photography, ceramics, glasswork, drawing, and jewelry. The ACB's very own Lis Smith is one of the participating artists. Come along to support Lis and see her work.

Event Details

Date: Thursday, May 19 through Sunday, May 29

Opening hours: Thursday, 19 May (vernissage) 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Thursday, May 26 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Friday, May 20 and Friday, May 27 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, May 21 and Saturday, May 28 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, May 22 and Sunday, May 29 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday, May 25 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Place: Rue Bodenbroek 8, 1000 Brussels, Place du Grand Sablon (between Mercedes and NH Hotel). Parking available on Place du Grand Sablon, and Parking Polaert (Palais de Justice)

Contact: www.artperspectives.eu and apicontacts@gmail.com

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 on Wednesday, May 25 will be a special one, as the club celebrates its first birthday with dinner, readings, and music. Reservations are required. Contact Karen at abkginfo@skynet.be for more information.

The American Club of Brussels
c/o Renaissance Brussels Hotel
Rue du Parnasse 19
B-1050 Brussels
Phone: 02.219.58.08
info@americanclubbrussels.org
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.