



The American Club of Brussels News & Events

An International Club with an American Heart



June 2011

Dine-Out at .G-EA

(.G-EA means Earth in Greek)

Come along for an evening of fellowship and fine food on Thursday, June 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the .GEA restaurant on Rue Jourdan, a bustling pedestrian street located just off Avenue Louise in St.-Gilles. This is a charming Mediterranean restaurant with a Greek flavor. The ACB had a very successful Dine-Out at .G-EA last year, and everyone gave it great reviews.



MENU

Apéritifs offered by the house: *Kir vin blanc, Sherry, Porto blanc, Porto rouge, Pineau des Charentes, Campari, Martini blanc, Martini rouge, Ouzo*

* * *

Starters

Chiffonnade de Jambon San Daniele au melon

or

Scampis du Chef (délices d'Azis)

* * *

Main dishes

Entrecôte minute irlandaise grillée, salade composée, pommes frites, sauce béarnaise

or

Filet de saumon écossais, sauce à l'orange et riz noir

* * *

Desserts

*Authentique yaourt grec au miel de thym, fruits rouges frais
Café, Décaféiné, Thés, Cappuccino*

.G-EA

Rue Jourdan 24-26

1060 Brussels

Tel: 0484/75.92.94

The owner is preparing a very special menu for us at a very good price.

The price for the dine-out is €35 for ACB and AWCB members, and €40 for non-members, not including beverages. Please indicate your choice of dishes when you reserve.

Reservations are due by noon on Monday, June 6 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 "dine-out" in the communications section of the *virement*. Cancellations are possible until noon on Monday, June 6. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

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

Dates to Remember

- Monday, June 6: Annual General Meeting
- Thursday, June 9: Dine-Out at .G-EA, Brussels
- Wednesday, June 15: Young Membership Happy Hour at The Old Inn, Brussels
- 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 picnic at the American Women's Club of Brussels, Rhode-St.-Genèse
- 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 The Old Inn to meet up with your peers. As the pub is close to Place du Châtelain, it could be a nice opportunity to stop by the Wednesday evening market first before joining us for Happy Hour. All nationalities are welcome. Hope to see you there.

Event Details

Date: Wednesday, June 15

Time: 8:00 p.m. to ???

Place: The Old Inn, Rue Washington 76, 1050 Brussels; www.theoldinn.be, Tel. 02.649.06.12

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, please contact Niev Gallagher at niamh.a.gallagher@gmail.com or call 0491/52.07.50

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

Final Thursday Cocktails

Thursday, June 30
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 required. Bring a guest or two.

Guided Tour of the Musée Horta

Join the American Club of Brussels for a 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.

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. Both José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, and Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, will be there, so this is a fine opportunity to see your tax euros hard at work.

Our visit to the debating chamber will be followed by a question-and-answer period lead by Antoine Ripoll, spokesman for the chair of the European People's Party (EPP Group) in the European Parliament. Come prepared to ask and find out everything you've always wanted to know about the EP.

After the tour and Q&A session, which altogether should take about two hours, we will be treated to a well-earned 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: European Parliament, Bureau des accreditations (Accreditation Center), Place du Luxembourg, 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). Please mention "European Parliament" in your message when signing up.

Participants must give their date of birth and home address to the ACB Office Manager to obtain a visitor's badge. Remember to bring photo-ID with you to the event.

Independence Day Picnic



This year's Independence Day celebration takes place on Sunday, July 3 at the American Women's Club of Brussels' clubhouse at Avenue des Erables 1, 1640 Rhode-St.-Genèse. Jointly sponsored by the ACB and the AWCB, the event includes a co-ed softball tournament (at St.-John's International School in Waterloo), a patriotic ceremony, live entertainment, games for kids, a family-style picnic with hamburgers, hotdogs and drinks for purchase, potluck salads, assorted side dishes, and desserts. All proceeds will be donated to the American Overseas Memorial Day Association (www.aomda.org).

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

Reserve by email (info@americanclubbrussels.org), online at www.americanclubbrussels.org, or by telephone to the ACB Office Manager (02.219.58.08), and also to volunteer to bring a dessert and/or to help out at the softball game or picnic. There is no entry fee, but please reserve with the ACB by noon on Tuesday, June 28.

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 first 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.

Travel with the American Women's Club of Brussels

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, the flight from Delhi to Jaipur, all entrance fees, a game park 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.

It is now possible to extend the trip to include an additional four days in Nepal (Sunday, November 6 through Thursday, November 10), with visits to sites in and around Kathmandu and the Himalayas. Email mireille_bremer@yahoo.fr for more information.

Mireille Bremer will make a presentation about the “Thousand and One Nights” trip at the AWCB clubhouse at Avenue des Erables 1, 1640 Rhode-St.-Genève, on Monday, June 6, at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.



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 for a casual get-together at Cook & Book (Place du Temps Libre 1, 1200 Woluwe-St.-Lambert) on Friday, June 3 starting at 7:00 p.m. We will be in Block A, Music Section, where you will find a restaurant and bar (www.cookandbook.be).



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 and explain how the system works. There is no membership fee. The venue is the brasserie Les Enfants Terribles (Chaussée de la Hulpe 190, 1170 Brussels), near the International School of Brussels. The next meeting is Wednesday, June 26 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.

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.