



# The American Club of Brussels

## News & Events

An International Club with an American Heart

January 2012

## Dine-Out at De la Vigne à l'Assiette

Wednesday, January 18

De la Vigne à l'Assiette is one of Brussels' best kept secrets. Join the American Club of Brussels on Wednesday, January 18 at 7:00 p.m. at their first Dine-Out of the New Year, and discover for yourselves an unassuming bistro serving top quality food and wine at reasonable prices. It's bound to become an immediate favorite.



### MENU

#### Starter

*Roulade de courgettes  
au fromage de chèvre et fines herbes*  
(Zucchini roll  
with goat cheese and fine herbs)

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#### Main dishes

*Pavé de lieu jaune grillé  
et champignons farcis au pistou de basilic*  
(Grilled white fish  
with pesto-stuffed mushrooms)

or

*Suprême de volaille rôtie  
et chicons braisés au miel*  
(Roast chicken breast with  
honey-braised Belgian endive)

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#### Dessert

*Panna cotta à la vanille bourbon  
et crème de chocolat noir*  
(Panna cotta with vanilla bourbon  
and dark chocolate)

**De la Vigne à l'Assiette**  
**Rue de la Longue Haie 51**  
**1000 Brussels**  
**Tel: 02/647.68.03**

#### Event Details

**Date:** Wednesday, January 18

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

**Place:** De la Vigne à l'Assiette, Rue de la Longue Haie 51, 1000 Brussels

**Price:** €30 for ACB and AWCB members, and €35 for non-members, not including beverages. You may choose your main dish at the restaurant.

**Sign up:** Reservations are due by noon on Monday, January 16 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. Specify

“dine-out” in the communications section

of the *virement*. Cancellations are possible

until noon on Monday, January 16.

Participants canceling after this time, as well

as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the

event.

## Celebrate Three Kings' Day with the ACB



### First Friday Cocktails

Friday, January 6  
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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

Cash bar open to all. Newcomers to Belgium and prospective ACB members are especially welcome. No reservation is required. Bring a guest or two.

Complimentary hot catered snacks will be offered, and there will be a special *Galette des Rois*, an almond-flavored pastry topped with a gold paper crown. A prize in the form of a plastic bean or a tiny porcelain figurine is hidden inside the cake, and whoever finds it gets to wear the crown for the day. Will you be the lucky one?



## Dates to Remember

- Friday, January 6: **First Friday** cocktails
- Wednesday, January 18 : Dine-Out at De la Vigne à l'Assiette, Brussels
- Friday, January 27: Final Friday cocktails
- Wednesday, February 15: Dine-Out
- Friday, February 24: Final Friday cocktails
- Wednesday, February 29: Deloitte Tax Seminar
- Saturday, March 10: James Bond theme dinner-dance
- Friday, March 30: Final Friday cocktails

## 2012 Membership Renewals

ACB membership fees for the coming Club year are due on January 1, 2012, and are effective until December 31, 2012.

### Membership Categories and Rates

- Regular individual: €140
- Retiree (65+): €70
- Corporate: €550
- SME corporate: €275
- Young (under age 35): €70
- Students: €40
- Students at Boston University or Fulbright scholars: €30
- Non-resident: €35

Please make your payment to ACB at BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB). Note that the spouse/partner of a paid-up member enjoys equal and full membership rights – except voting rights – without paying a second membership fee.

By popular demand, spouses/partners can now have their own email address and contact data registered in the Club database. Send an email to [info@americanclubbrussels.org](mailto:info@americanclubbrussels.org) with the following information: your family name, first name, date of birth, email address, and the family name and first name of your spouse/partner.

## A Reminder: Membership Benefits

A number of special benefits are available to all ACB members. They are:

- A free, two-month subscription to *The Bulletin*;
- A free bank account for one year at the KBC;
- A free, one-hour consultation on U.S. tax matters with Deloitte;
- The ISB Advantage Card that provides discounts or special offers at shops, restaurants, and services in the Brussels area. Visit [www.isb.be/advantage](http://www.isb.be/advantage) for more information about the card.

If you are interested in any or all of these benefits, please send an email to the ACB Office Manager ([info@americanclubbrussels.org](mailto:info@americanclubbrussels.org)) indicating which ones you would like to receive. In the email, please give us your postal address, since the ISB Advantage Card can only be sent by regular mail, not email.

## Deloitte Tax Seminar

As a U.S. citizen, you know it's your obligation to file a tax return on your worldwide income every year. But perhaps the U.S. Tax Code isn't clear enough when it comes to your situation? Or you're just plain confused by the new tax changes? So what do you do? Come along to Deloitte's tax seminar, and ask the questions and get the answers to all your U.S. tax needs. A team of Deloitte experts is prepared to give you an update on the latest U.S. tax changes and planning strategies, and set you on the right path.

Topics to be covered during the seminar include:

- Income tax updates;
- Estate tax;
- New reporting requirements for foreign financial assets;
- Increased focus on Passive Foreign Investment Companies and Foreign Trusts.

### Event Details

**Date:** Wednesday, February 29

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., followed by Q&A and cocktails

**Place:** Deloitte, Berkenlaan 8A (Grand'Place Room), 1831 Diegem

**Price:** €10 for ACB and AWCB members; €15 for non-members

**Sign up:** Reservations are due by noon on Friday, February 24 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. Specify "Tax Seminar" in the communications section of the *virement*. Note that cancellations are possible until noon on Friday, February 24. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

## Advance Notice

### James Bond Theme Dinner-Dance

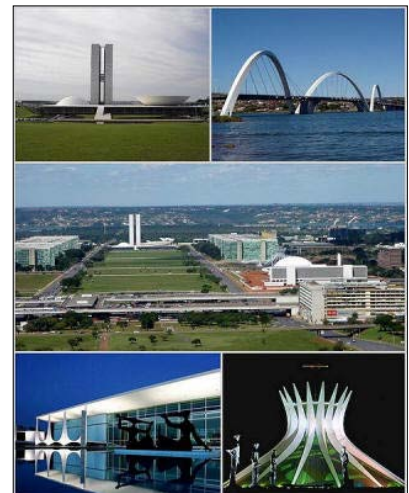
Dust off your dancing shoes and get ready to party with the ACB. We're planning on a fabulous evening of wining, dining, and dancing on Saturday, March, 10, at the Renaissance Hotel in Brussels. The evening's theme is James Bond, and we will have the chance to dance (and sing along, if you are so inclined) to music from the classic Bond movies. You might even get to see a real Aston-Martin and meet Q. Black tie preferred. Details to follow.

## Community News

### Interested in Fine Arts and Architecture?

If your answer is yes, then BRIDFAS may be for you. The goal of the British Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Brussels (BRIDFAS) is to stimulate an understanding and enjoyment of the arts through illustrated lectures and visits to exhibitions. All talks are delivered in English by experts in their field.

The next lecture, *Europalia: Baroque to Brasilia*, will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11 at the Maison Communale, Avenue Paul Hymans 2, 1200 Brussels (Woluwe St.-Lambert). Welcome drinks will be offered starting at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit [www.bridfas.org](http://www.bridfas.org).



## Canadian Pub Night / Soirée au Pub

Join members of the Canadian Club of Belgium on Friday, January 13, from 7:00 p.m. at Cook & Book [Place du Temps Libre 1, 1200 Brussels (Woluwe St.-Lambert)] for friendly conversation and a few beers. We will be in block A, music section, where you will find a restaurant and bar:

[www.cookandbook.be/access.html#plan](http://www.cookandbook.be/access.html#plan). No reservation is required. This is an open event and everyone is welcome.

## Barn Dance the Winter Blues Away



Ever been to a barn dance? They are loads of fun, especially when there's live country music and a caller. Friends International, an international group of professional people resident in Belgium, plans to host a typical barn dance on Saturday, January 21, complete with Phil Dew and his toe-tapping band, the Ticker Fixers. A caller will tell you what "steps" or moves to take, as you are guided through various dances in time with the music, and there will be plenty to eat and drink as the evening rolls on. All proceeds benefit local charities.

### Event Details

**Date:** Saturday, January 21

**Place:** De Kam Cultural Center, Beekstraat 172, 1970 Wezembeek-Oppem

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

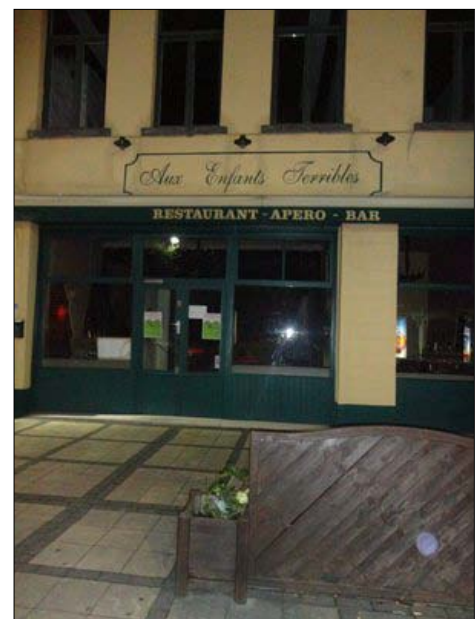
**Cost:** €15 (includes food)

**Contact:** Tel: 02/653.65.90 (after 5:00 p.m.); email [christine.royce@telenet.be](mailto:christine.royce@telenet.be)

## The Brussels Bookswappers Club

Every fourth Wednesday of the month, booklovers get together to swap books that are gathering dust on their shelves. Come along with any number of books you wish to exchange for 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 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 Aux Enfants Terribles [Chaussée de la Hulpe 190, 1170 Brussels (Watermael-Boitsfort)], near the International School of Brussels. The next meeting is on Wednesday, January 25 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, contact Karen at [abkginfo@skynet.be](mailto:abkginfo@skynet.be).



## Short Courses in English Literature

Kate Macdonald, Assistant Professor of English Literature at Ghent University, is offering a new series of short courses in English literature in central Brussels beginning in January. Each course will meet five times at two week intervals, and will involve lively discussions, structured thinking, writing (but only if you want to), an essay for grading, and feedback at the end of the course. Classes will be limited to 20 students.

Course 1: British Political Fiction from 1900-1950, includes works by Erskine Childers, Constance Maud, Rose Macaulay, George Orwell, and Nancy Mitford.

Course 2: American Women and Work, includes works by Louisa May Alcott, Edith Wharton, Willa Cather, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, and Barbara Kingsolver.

### Details

**Dates:** Course 1 meets Tuesday, January 17, Tuesday, January 31, Tuesday, February 14, Tuesday, February 28, and Tuesday, March 13; Course 2 meets Tuesday, April 17, Tuesday, May 1, Tuesday, May 15, Tuesday, May 29, and Tuesday, June 5

**Time:** 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Place:** Swedish Church and Cultural Center, Avenue des Gaulois 35, 1040 Brussels (Etterbeek). Métro Merode (lines 1 & 5), trams 81 & 83, buses 22, 27, 61 & 80

**Fee:** €75 for each course

**Sign up:** email Kate at [kate.brussels@yahoo.com](mailto:kate.brussels@yahoo.com)

## The Brussels American Community Chorus

The Brussels American Community Chorus invites adults and children over 12 to sing. All nationalities are welcome. Men are especially needed. There is no audition, and no experience is required. Rehearsals are every Monday from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Kraainem. The chorus sings to enjoy music and to support the community. It performs several times a year at American and Belgian events. For details, contact [Lamdm@attglobal.net](mailto:Lamdm@attglobal.net).

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.