



# The American Club of Brussels

# News & Events

An International Club with an American Heart

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## April 2012

- Guided Visit to the Museum of Musical Instruments
  - Final Friday Cocktails
  - Dates to Remember
  - High Tea America, the Promised Land
    - Red Star Line Festival
    - *Belgenland* Ballroom
    - High Tea America
  - Guided Tour of the Bibliotheca Wittockiana
  - Community News
    - Canadian Pub Night
    - Interested in Fine Arts and Architecture?
    - The Brussels American Community Chorus
  - News from the American Women's Club of Brussels
    - Upcoming Trips
  - *Out & About in Belgium with Nancy Kapstein*
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## Guided Visit to the Museum of Musical Instruments



Join the American Club of Brussels for a visit to the most magical museum in Brussels – the Museum of Musical Instruments (MIM). Part of the Royal Museums of Art and History, the MIM is housed in the former Old England department store, a beautifully restored Art Nouveau building designed in 1899 by Paul Saintenoy. Our Discover the MIM tour will take us through the collection highlights, which include Belgian musical instruments (think bagpipes and saxophones), European musical traditions, and non-European musical instruments. Using high-tech headphones, we will be able to sample the sounds of many of these wonderful instruments.

The guided visit lasts one-and-a-half hours, and as an extra treat, there is a free, one-hour violin and piano concert featuring works by César Franck, Leoš Janacek, and Sergei Prokofiev starting at 3:00 p.m. in the concert hall on the sixth floor.

**Note: This event is limited to a maximum of 15 participants.**

### **Event Details**

**Date:** Saturday, April 14

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

**Place:** Musée des Instruments de Musique (MIM), Rue Montagne de la Cour 2, 1000 Brussels

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

**Sign up:** Reservations are due by noon on Tuesday, April 10 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 BE55 4279 1958 8144

(BIC/SWIFT: KREDBEBB) will confirm your reservation. Be sure to mention "MIM" in the

communications section of the *virement*. Cancellations are possible until noon on Tuesday,

April 10. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of

the event.

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## Final Friday Cocktails

Friday, April 27

6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Renaissance Brussels Hotel**

**(ground floor near the bar)**

**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.

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## Dates to Remember

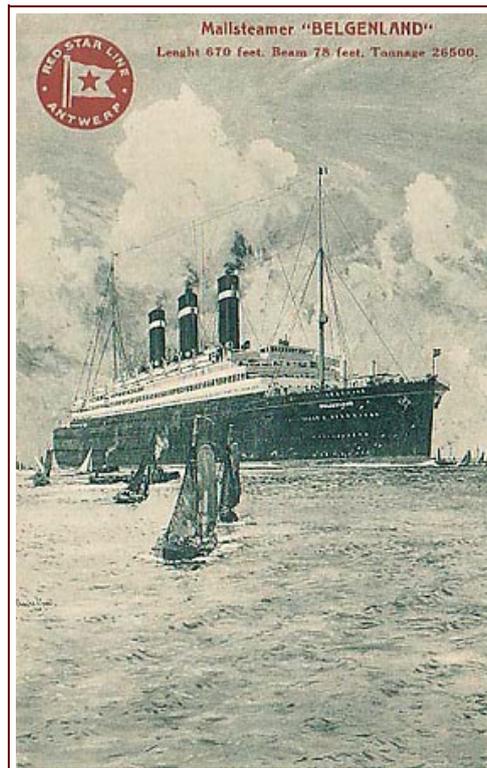
- Tuesday, April 3: Pioneers' Dinner with Khazar Ibrahim, the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to NATO, Château Ste.-Anne, Auderghem
  - Saturday, April 14: Guided visit and optional free concert at the Museum of Musical Instruments in Brussels
  - Thursday, April 19: Dine-Out
  - Friday, April 27: Final Friday Cocktails
  - Sunday, May 6: "America Day" at the Red Star Line Museum in Antwerp
  - Saturday, May 12: Guided visit to the Bibliotheca Wittockiana in Brussels
  - Friday, May 25: Final Friday Cocktails
  - Monday, June 4: Annual General Meeting
  - Friday, June 29: Final Friday Cocktails
  - Sunday, July 1: American Independence Day celebrations with the American Women's Club of Brussels at their clubhouse in Rhode St.-Genèse
  - Friday, July 27: Final Friday Cocktails
  - Friday, August 31: Final Friday Cocktails
  - Thursday, September 13: Joint Gala Dinner with AmCham Belgium with U.S. Ambassador Howard W. Gutman
  - Friday, September 28: Final Friday Cocktails
  - Friday, October 26: Final Friday Cocktail
  - Tuesday, November 6: U. S. Election Night party
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# High Tea America, the Promised Land

## Red Star Line Festival

For millions of Europeans, the journey to a new life in America started in the warehouses of the renowned Red Star Line shipping company in Antwerp. And this is where the new Red Star Line Museum will open its doors next spring. While the museum is under construction, the public is invited in for a peek for a few days this year. From Saturday, April 28 to Sunday, May 13, everyone is welcome to enjoy the Red Star Line Festival.

### *Belgenland Ballroom*



The historic building in Montevideostraat will be transformed into the *Belgenland* Ballroom, inspired by the ballroom on the S.S. *Belgenland II*, the Red Star Line's largest and most luxurious steamship. This is an ideal location to hold a party that will feature all kinds of music, including klezmer, jazz, big band, and swing, mixed with talks, theater, dance initiations, comedy, films, walks, and exhibitions.

### High Tea America

On Sunday afternoon, May 6, you will be treated to high tea in the lounge of the Red Star Line while listening to talks about Antwerp, America, and the rest of the world.

Putting America on center stage, Belgian TV personality Marcel Vanthilt will journey with you and a few guests to America, the Promised Land. Philip Heylen, Alderman for Culture and Tourism, will tell us why he pledged his heart to the New World. Wilfried Van den Brande, a bass-baritone from Antwerp, greatly admires the American composer Cole Porter. He will talk about his passion and sing from *The Great American Songbook*. The author Dirk Musschoot will tell us about Flemings who sought salvation in America. Joris Van Parijs is the biographer of Cyriel Buysse, the Flemish writer who crossed the Atlantic numerous times between 1886 and 1893. The Red Star Line specialist *par excellence*, Robert Vervoort, will also give a talk. Bert De Vroey, a VRT journalist and an expert on America, wrote *De kleuren van Amerika (The Colors of America)* about multicultural America, with its beautiful and ugly aspects, its

successes and its failures. Finally, we will give the floor to two very special Americans: Howard W. Gutman, U.S. Ambassador to Belgium, and Linda Emmet, the daughter of the American composer Irving Berlin, who was a Red Star Line emigrant.

#### **Event Details**

**Date:** Sunday, May 6

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Place:** Montevideostraat 3, 2000 Antwerpen

**Price:** Admission free

**Information:** [www.redstarline.be](http://www.redstarline.be)

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## Guided Tour of the Bibliotheca Wittockiana



The Bibliotheca Wittockiana houses one of the most beautiful and prestigious private collections of antique and modern book bindings in the world. Named after its owner, the industrialist and passionate book-lover Michel Wittock, it is the only institution of its kind. Among the most important items in the permanent collection are Mary, Queen of Scots' bedside book, a leather-bound book with Marie Antoinette's hand-written ex-libris, and many Art Nouveau and Art Deco volumes. As an unusual sideline, the museum also has a large collection of silver children's rattles and teething rings, mainly from the 17th and 18th centuries.

The museum holds about four temporary exhibitions each year. The current temporary exhibition, *Decorum*, focuses on modern bookbinding.

Our guide for this very special event will be the head curator of the library, who will no doubt provide many insights into the collection and its founder.

**Note: This event is limited to a maximum of 12 participants.**

#### **Event Details**

**Date:** Saturday, May 12

**Time:** 2:30 p.m.

**Place:** Bibliotheca Wittockiana, Rue de Bémel 21-23, 1150 Brussels (Woluwe St.-Pierre)

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

**Sign up:** Reservations are due by noon on Tuesday, May 8 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 BE55 4279 1958 8144 (BIC/SWIFT: KREDBEBB) will confirm your reservation. Be sure to mention "library" in the communications section of the *virement*. Cancellations are possible until noon on Tuesday, May 8. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

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# Community News

## Canadian Pub Night / Soirée au Pub



Join members of the Canadian Club of Belgium on Friday, April 13, from 7:00 p.m. at Fat Boys Sports Bar & Grill (Avenue de Cortenberg 38, 1000 Brussels) for friendly conversation and a few beers. No reservation is required. This is an open event and everyone is welcome.

Be aware that there are two Fat Boys locations in Brussels. We will be at the Shuman location and not at the one on Place du Luxembourg.

## 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, *Great Buildings and Gardens of Portugal*, will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4 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).

## 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).

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# News from the American Women's Club of Brussels

## Upcoming Trips

The American Women's Club of Brussels welcomes ACB members to join them on their Discover Belgium guided visits this spring:

1) Guided visit to the Villa Empain, a beautiful example of Art Deco architecture, recently restored and opened to the public. It is now part of the Boghossian Foundation which organizes temporary exhibitions on the site.

Wednesday, April 18

Meet at 10:15 a.m. in front of the villa, Avenue Franklin Roosevelt 67, 1050 Brussels (Ixelles)  
Cost: €20



2) Guided visit to the Royal Greenhouses, the Chinese Pavilion, and the Japanese Tower.

Thursday, April 19 (date to be confirmed)

Meet at 9.30 a.m. outside Metro Montgomery (corner of Boulevard St.-Michel and Avenue de Tervuren on the side facing toward Tervuren). Go by pre-metro, tram, and bus. Return by 2.00 p.m. to Montgomery. Bring a sandwich and a drink.

Cost: €25



For more information on Discover Belgium walking tours, contact Mireille Bremer at [mireille\\_bremer@yahoo.fr](mailto:mireille_bremer@yahoo.fr) or Andrée Jacquet at [andreejacquet@hotmail.com](mailto:andreejacquet@hotmail.com) or 010/45.09.33 or 0479/520.059.

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**Out & About in Belgium**  
with Nancy Kapstein

A link to the April issue will be sent to you soon.

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**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.