



The American Club of Brussels

News & Events

An International Club with an American Heart

May 2012

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Dine-Out at Le Chou de Bruxelles



Come join us on Wednesday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m. for a genuine *Bruxellois* dinner. Le Chou de Bruxelles is located in Ixelles, not far from Avenue Louise. Their specialty is mussels prepared in about 30 different ways – every one delicious. Le Chou's atmosphere is cozy, with decorations and souvenirs that recall past Belgian glories from Jacques Brel to Manneken Pis.

This was an extremely popular ACB Dine-Out about two years ago, and we look forward to another successful get-together with old and new friends over a fine meal.

MENU

Apéritif offered by the restaurant

* * *

Starters

Duo of croquettes (shrimp and cheese)

or

Beef carpaccio

* * *

Main dishes

Mussels and frites

or

Sea bass filets with vegetables

* * *

Dessert

Speculoos ice cream

* * *

Coffee with *digestif* offered by the restaurant

**Le Chou de Bruxelles
Rue de Florence 26
1050 Brussels (Ixelles)
02/537.69.95**

Event Details

Date: Wednesday, May 23

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Le Chou de Bruxelles, Rue de Florence 26, 1050 Brussels (Ixelles)

Price: €35 for ACB and AWCB members, and €45 for non-members, not including beverages. You may choose your dishes at the restaurant.

Sign up: Reservations are due by noon on Monday, May 21 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 BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB) will confirm your reservation. Be sure to mention "dine-out" in the communications section of the *virement*. Cancellations are possible until noon on Monday, May 21. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

Final Friday Cocktails

Friday, May 25
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.

Dates to Remember

- Sunday, May 6: "America Day" at the Red Star Line Museum in Antwerp
 - Saturday, May 12: Guided visit to the Bibliotheca Wittockiana in Brussels
 - Wednesday, May 23: Dine-Out at Le Chou de Bruxelles
 - Friday, May 25: Final Friday Cocktails
 - Monday, June 4: Annual General Meeting
 - Wednesday, June 20: Dine-Out
 - 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
 - Thursday, July 5: Ommegang dinner at La Maison du Cygne in Brussels
 - 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 Cocktails
 - 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 built in 1923. 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 refuge 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 the United States, wrote *De kleuren van Amerika (The Colors of America)* about multicultural America, with its beautiful and ugly aspects, its successes and its failures. As a finale, 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 immigrated to the United States on a Red Star Line ship in 1893.

Note: This is not an ACB-sponsored event. Contact the organizers (www.redstarline.be) for more information.

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

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 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), online at www.americanclubbrussels.org, or by telephone to the ACB Office Manager (02/219.58.08). Payment to ACB at BE55427919588144 (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.

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

(includes wine and water)

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

* * *

***Dos de Cabillaud de la Mer du Nord
sur Tombée de Witloofs et Beurre Blanc***
(North Sea Codfish
with Belgian Endives and a White Butter Sauce)

* * *

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 3 and Thursday, July 5). 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. Descendents 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 5

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

- Dinner: 8:00 p.m.

Place: Salon Louis XIV, La Maison du Cygne, Grand'Place (entrance: Rue Charles Buls 2), 1000 Brussels

Price: €75 for ACB, AWCB and Irish Club of Belgium members; €85 for non-members

Dress code: Coat and tie requested

Sign up: Reservations are due by noon on Monday, July 2 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 BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB) will confirm your reservation. Be sure to mention "ommegang" in the communications section of the *virement*. Cancellations are possible until noon on Monday, July 2. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

Community News

Canadian Pub Night / Soirée au Pub

Join members of the Canadian Club of Belgium on Friday, May 4, from 7:00 p.m. at de Valera's Irish Pub, Place Flagey 17, 1050 Brussels (Ixelles) for friendly conversation and a few beers. No reservation is required. This is an open event and everyone is welcome.

Resonances: International Chamber Music Festival

Thursday, May 3 through Sunday, May 6



For the third edition of this prestigious international chamber music festival, Director Amy Norrington has gathered 18 outstanding musicians to present a program ranging from Bach and Beethoven to Zemlinsky and Messiaen. Concerts take place in historic venues with outstanding acoustics, including the Eglise St.-Nicolas in La Hulpe, the Ferme-Eglise de Froidmont in Rixensart, the ancient Grange du Douaire in Ottignies, and the Grange du Château de Halloy in Spontin (pictured above). Tickets are available online at www.festival-resonances.be.

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, *The Young Brontës and Art*, will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 9 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.

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.

The Brussels Bookswappers Club Happy Second Birthday!

One Wednesday evening a 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 Le Chapelier Fou (formerly Aux Enfants Terribles), Chaussée de la Hulpe 190, 1170 Brussels (Watermael-Boitsfort), near the International School of Brussels. The next meeting is on Wednesday, May 23 starting at 7:00 p.m. at the bar on the first floor. If you wish to receive further information or to be put on the club's mailing list, contact Karen at abkginfo@skynet.be.

Relay for Life



The international community of Brussels, with the support of the Belgian Foundation against Cancer and in partnership with St.-John's International School, will host its second annual Relay for Life on Saturday and Sunday, June 2-3, on the St.-John's campus in Waterloo.

Relay for Life is a unique overnight event that celebrates the lives of cancer survivors, remembers loved ones lost, and unites the community in the fight against cancer by raising awareness and funds. Relay for Life takes place in over 20 countries and is entirely organized by volunteers. In Belgium, 97 percent of funds raised go directly to cancer research and to support local cancer patients and their families.

At Relay, teams of all ages take turns walking or running around a track for 24 hours; the 24 hours are symbolic of the constant battle patients and their families endure in their fight with the disease. Ceremonies, side activities, entertainment, and refreshments make this an inspiring and festive event. Last year's Relay for Life in Belgium raised more than €40,000. For more information and to register a team, to volunteer, or to sponsor, visit www.relayforlife.be or contact relayforlifebussels@j2intl.com.

Out & About in Belgium with Nancy Kapstein

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

<p>The American Club of Brussels</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The ACB is a great way to expand your circle of friends and to discover more of the delights of Belgium. Try us.</p>
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