



# News & Events

February 2016

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The American Club of Brussels is one of the oldest American clubs in Europe. An international club with an American heart, it was founded in 1921 to foster Belgian-American relations.

[www.americanclubbrussels.org](http://www.americanclubbrussels.org) – [info@americanclubbrussels.org](mailto:info@americanclubbrussels.org)



[Photos Past Events](#)

## Editorial



Dear American Club Members and Friends,

Many thanks to the some 100 of you who attended our 95th Anniversary Gala Dinner Dance on January 23 at the Bozar. It was a superb evening: excellent cuisine, relaxed ambience, live music to dance to and a majestic locale. What more could one ask for? It was a fitting tribute to the 95 years that the American Club of Brussels has been bringing people together.

Our 95th anniversary celebrations will continue on May 20 when we host a "Grease Party" – designed for young and old. Mark the date in your agenda now and read the details in this issue of the newsletter.

In order to make registrations for Club events more efficient and to guarantee a first-come first-served service, we will only be taking online registrations as of this month. You will be provided a link for the sign-up at the end of each event announcement.

A gentle reminder that the annual dues for individual members for 2016 were due in January. All individual members have recently received an invoice and we hope that you will pay your dues promptly.

We look forward to meeting and greeting you at one of our future events.

Best Wishes,  
Board of Governors  
American Club of Brussels

## Upcoming Events – Details: pp. 6 ff.



### Final Friday Drinks

Friday, January 29 – 6:30-9:00 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### **Lunch Hour Social at Le Quartier Latin**

Tuesday, February 2 – 12:30 p.m.

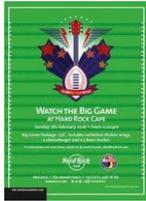
[Event details](#)



### **Guided Visit to the Belfius Art Collection – SOLD OUT**

Saturday, February 6 – 2:45 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### **Super Bowl**

Sunday, February 7 – 11:00 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### **Beer Bar Tour**

Tuesday, February 9 – 6:30 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### **CCB/ACB/AWCB Reading Group**

Wednesday, February 10 – 7:00-9:00 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### **Linguistic Café Session**

Sunday, February 14 – 3:00-4:00 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### **American Financial Forum**

Thursday, February 18 – 6:00 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### **Irish Club Ball 2016**

Saturday, February 20 – 7:00 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### **Art in the Metro**

Sunday, February 21 – 1:45 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### **Final Friday Drinks**

Friday, February 26 – 6:30-9:00 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### **Train World Museum**

Sunday, March 6 – 2:00 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### **"Grease" Party**

Friday, May 20 – 7:00 p.m. to midnight

[Event details](#)

## **Member News – Bridge**



### **F.B.I. (Fumblers Bridge Institute)**

A group of ACB members would like to restart an activity popular in the past, Fumblers Bridge Institute (FBI). This social bridge group is primarily for those who have not played recently and want to get back into the game. Or those who just wish to play with friends without the somewhat rigid rules of the organized bridge clubs.

We nibble, drink, chat and play. We even discuss the hands and use our own Cheat Sheet when frantic, all in good fun. If you take your bridge seriously and get mad when your partner trumps your trick, then we're not for you.

If you are interested in joining us one evening in a player's home (usually weekend evenings), or just want more information, give Lis Smith a call on 02/345.86.63 or 0476/34.13.10.



### English Comedy Brussels

It started as a one off-show in November 2011, with comedians passing the hat at the end of their performance. Now four years later, the English Comedy Nights have become very popular among internationals living in Brussels.

The shows usually take place every second Tuesday at The Black Sheep, just next to Place Flagey, one of the most animated areas of Brussels. The venue can host approximately 120 attendees, and the atmosphere is that of a comedy club, where you can share a laugh with friends while drinking a delicious GT or savoring your favorite burger.

The crowd is very international. Therefore the acts are chosen accordingly. Most of the actors are professionals from the UK or Irish circuit who are used to tour abroad, thus able to address crowds from varied backgrounds. However, you'll also quite often see comedians from Australia, Canada, the US, Scandinavia... Xavier Rossey, the man behind the scenes, strives to select the best possible acts, and also discover new talents. He also now books acts for shows taking place in such diverse places as the French Riviera, Monaco, Amsterdam, Berlin, Sofia...

In February 2016, there will be no less than 5 shows taking place, because in addition to the Comedy Nights on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup>, you'll be able to see Paul Taylor on the 9<sup>th</sup>, and Ardal O'Hanlon on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> (these two shows are already completely sold out).

So if you want some time out, and crave for something more than the typical afterwork party, then the English Comedy Nights are for you. You'll meet people from all over the world, attend a great show, and enjoy the best medicine in the world... laughter.

#### **EnglishComedy Brussels**

**Shows from 8 p.m. @ TheBlack Sheep  
Chausée de Boondael 8, 1050 Brussels**

[englishcomedybrussels@gmail.com](mailto:englishcomedybrussels@gmail.com)

## Our Corporate Sponsors

The American Club of Brussels is supported by the following companies:  
(Special ACB member benefits listed below company logo)

				
	Sponsor of major ACB events	Sponsor of major ACB events	One free initial consultation (1 hour)	
				
		Sponsor of major ACB events		
				
				One free initial consultation (½ hour)
				
Free account with no transaction charges			10% discount for ACB members	



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## Final Friday Drinks

**Friday, January 29, 2016**

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



**Vesalius College  
Pleinlaan 5 Boulevard de la Plaine  
1050 Brussels**

The American Club of Brussels invites you for an evening of fun socializing and chatting! Everyone is welcome! Bring friends!

We've arranged special deals on beer and wine and the cash bar is open to all.

Final Friday events are held the last Friday of each month and take place at different and great locations throughout the city. So have a look at future events as well.

Although not required, if you register below, we'll keep you informed about future ACB events by email.

Check out the rest of the American Club of Brussels website for more details about the club and other great events. Joining the club is FREE for students!

## Lunch Hour Social



The American Club of Brussels invites you for a lunch hour of fun, socializing and chatting! Lunch Hour Social events are held the first Tuesday of each month and take place at different great locations throughout the city.

Everyone is welcome! Bring your friends!

"An imposing interior, raw, industrial, enhanced by wrought iron, wood-beamed ceilings. An exterior with a huge terrace, decorated with ivy, hedges and a pergola, providing a haven of serenity in the heart of the city. That's *Le Quartier Latin* décor."

<http://www.quartierlatin-xl.be>

**Event Details:**

**Date:** Tuesday, February 2, 2016.

**Time:** 12:30-2:00 p.m.

**Place:** Le Quartier Latin, Boulevard Général Jacques 212, 1050 Brussels (Ixelles).

**Price:** Depending on your own consumption.

**Please register** by Monday, February 1 at:

<http://www.americanclubbrussels.org/event-2148631>.

Even though no advance payment is required, we need to know how many of you to expect for the lunch reservation. Thank you.

**To find the ACB or if you need additional information:**

Text (or call) Carl Mir at 0494/27.97.63 and he will let you know where the group is sitting.

## A Bank Vault Full of Art

**SOLD OUT**



Join us on Saturday, February 6, at Belfius Bank and take an elevator up to a bank vault full of art. The Belgian bank Belfius (formerly Dexia) has been collecting Belgian art since 1960 and its collection comprises more than 4,500 works. It is considered to be one of the largest private collections in Belgium.

The permanent collection includes works from many Belgian artists of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (James Ensor, Rik Wouters, René Magritte, Paul Delvaux...) and contemporary art (Luc Tuymans, Wim Delvoye, Berlinde De Bruyckere, Hans Op de Beeck...)

We will see a selection of the most beautiful works from their collection, from the Flemish masters to contemporary artists, with special attention given to the works of Pierre Paul Rubens, on display especially for this occasion.

Our guide will once again be Mrs. Lieve Dejonghe, who has so expertly shown us several exhibitions and the Hôtel Solvay. The guided tour will last approximately 1½ hours. After the tour there will be the possibility to have coffee or a drink with the other participants.

Please note that this visit is limited to 20 people.

**Event Details:**

**Date:** Saturday, February 6, 2016

**Time:** 2:45 p.m.

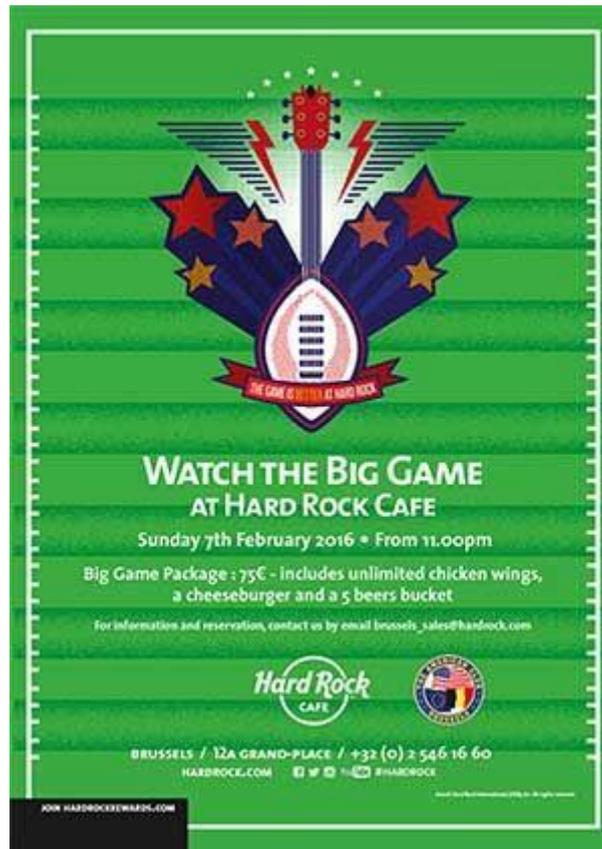
**Place:** Belfius Bank, Tour Centrale, Place Rogier 11, 1210 Brussels

**Price:** €20. ACB, AWCB, and CCB members receive a discounted fee of €15.

**Public Transportation:** Metro: Rogier; trams 3, 4, & 61: Rogier.

**Sign up:** Reservations are due by noon on Wednesday, February 3, online at [www.americanclubbrussels.org](http://www.americanclubbrussels.org), by email ([info@americanclubbrussels.org](mailto:info@americanclubbrussels.org)), or by telephone to the ACB Office Manager (0476/996.870). Payment to ACB at BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB) will confirm your reservation. Be sure to mention "Belfius" in the communications section of the *virement*. Cancellations are possible until noon on Wednesday, February 3. Participants cancelling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

## The Big Game at The Hard Rock Café



Click [here](#) for full-size poster.

On Sunday, February 7, enjoy entertainment and the Big Game on the Hard Rock Café's screens!

Big Game package: €75 including unlimited chicken wings, a cheeseburger and a five beers bucket!

From 11:00 PM to 4:00 AM.

The American Club is a sponsor of this event and encourages you to attend and enjoy the once a year excitement of the Super Bowl.

**Please register directly with Hard Rock  
and mention ACB:**

**[brussels\\_sales@hardrock.com](mailto:brussels_sales@hardrock.com)**

The Hard Rock Café  
Grand-Place 12A  
1000 Brussels  
Tel. 02/546.16.60

## Beer Bar Tour



The American Club of Brussels invites you to join us for a Historic Beer Bar Tour hour of fun socializing and chatting! The Historic Beer Bar Tours events are held the second Tuesday of each month and take place at different great locations throughout the city.

One of the first beer bars in Brussels, L'Atelier offers a great selection of over 100 beers. Beers are listed on a big board in categories to make it easier to find a beer you like!

Everyone is welcome and feel free to bring friends!

**Event Details:**

**Date:** Tuesday, February 9, 2016.

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** L'Atelier, Rue Elise 77, 1050 Brussels (Ixelles).

**Price:** Depending on your own consumption.

**Please register** by Monday, February 8 at:

<http://www.americanclubbrussels.org/event-2148773>.

Even though no advance payment is required, we need to know how many of you to expect for the lunch reservation. Thank you.

**To find the ACB or if you need additional information:** Text (or call) Carl Mir at 0494/27.97.63 and he will let you know where the group is sitting.

The Canadian Club of Belgium, The American Club of Brussels  
& The American Women's Club of Brussels  
welcome you to our **Reading Group**  
on the **second Wednesday** of the month  
[7:00–9:00 p.m.]  
(CCB, ACB and AWCB members only)

We ask you to present a book of your choice (American or Canadian authors preferred) that you have read and really enjoyed. This will give all members, passionate about reading, a chance to read and discuss different literary genres.

Even if you have not read the selected book and if you do not have a book you wish to present, please feel free to join us anyway – even at the last minute.

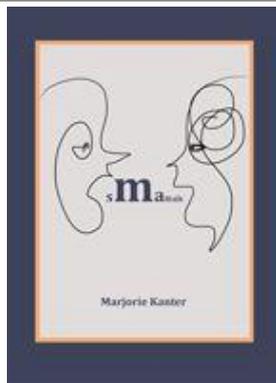
**Reading Group Contact**

(also for venue details)

Geneviève Bergiers • Tel. 02/660.57.65 • [genevieve@chiropractorbergiers.be](mailto:genevieve@chiropractorbergiers.be)

**February 10**

**Presented by Marjorie Kanter**



***Small Talk***

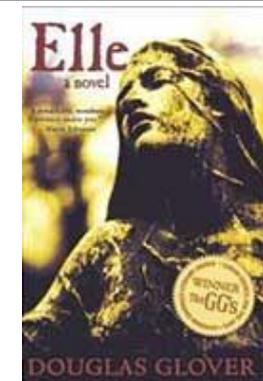
by Marjorie Kanter (USA)

- Marjorie Kanter was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and has lived in Spain for the past 30 years.
- *Small Talk* is a compilation of short literary or poem-like pieces based on the author's experience or imagination.
- Marjorie Kanter will read some of her texts and facilitate an interactive session that will include a discussion of some of the themes highlighted in her texts and present some ideas for sparking writing and journal keeping.

**Venue:** Le Grand Café, Boulevard Anspach 78, 1000 Brussels  
Tel. 02/513.02.03

**March 9**

**Presented by Laura Richard**



***Elle***

by Douglas Glover (Canada)

*Elle* is a lusty, subversive riff on the discovery of the New World, the moment of first contact. Based on a true story, *Elle* chronicles the ordeals and adventures of a young French woman marooned on the desolate Isle of Demons during Jacques Cartier's ill-fated third and last attempt to colonize Canada.

**Venue:** COOK & BOOK, Place du Temps Libre 1 (Wolubilis), 1200 Woluwe-Saint-Lambert  
Tel. 02/761.26.00  
Metro station Roodebeek. Easy parking nearby.

## Linguistic Café Session



The purpose of this gathering is for those learning **French or Spanish** to get a chance to practice their conversational French/Spanish basics. Conversely, French or Spanish speakers seeking to practice conversational English are also welcome. Please RSVP and join us as we practice our French or Spanish during 15 minute interval chats! This event is free for ACB, AWCB and CCB members; non-members pay a €5 fee. Coffee and drinks will be available for purchase at the bar beforehand.

### **Event details:**

**Date:** Sunday, February 14, 2016.

**Time:** 3:00-4:00 p.m.

**Venue:** Hotel Métropole (Bar "Le 31"), Place De Brouckèreplein 31, 1000 Brussels

**Directions:** The closest metro stop to Hotel Métropole is De Brouckère. There is no street parking available for this location. Please see maps of hotel location in relation to the metro stop here:

<http://www.metropolehotel.com/files/maps/map-en.pdf>

**Price:** €5. Free for ACB, AWCB and CCB members.

€10 no-show fee to ACB.

**Reservations** are due by the morning of the event at:

<http://www.americanclubbrussels.org/event-2148818>.

Payment in advance to ACB account BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB). Please mention "French" in the reference section of the bank transfer. Online payment with a credit card is also possible (through PayPal, but no actual PayPal account is required); pay when registering or use the link provided in the invoice.

**Cancellations** are possible until noon on Saturday ,February 13. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged €10.

## American Financial Forum



Planning for your financial future can be complicated. Add the complexities of being an expat and the new FATCA regulations and it is that much harder.

The American Club of Brussels is proud to be hosting the third annual American Financial Forum. This event will include several speakers on such topics as Financial Planning, Currency Transfers, Immigration, Taxes and Accounting and Estate Planning.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and the presentations will end at 7:30 p.m. with a Question and Answer session.

Further details, including the names and biographies of the speakers, will be published on the Club website as they become available.

### **Event Details:**

**Date:** Thursday, February 18, 2016

**Time:** 5:30 p.m., registration; seminar, 6:00–7:30 p.m.; followed by Q&A and possible optional dinner. Further details on the optional dinner will be published on the Club website as soon as they are available.

**Place:** American Women's Club of Brussels, Avenue des Erables 1, 1640 Rhode-St-Genève.

**Price:** €5 for ACB, AWCB, CCB and DAB members, €10 for non-members.

**Reservations** are due by Tuesday, February 16 at:

<http://www.americanclubbrussels.org/event-2148836>.

Payment in advance to ACB account BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB). Please mention "Financial Forum" in the reference section of the bank transfer. Online payment with a credit card is also possible (through PayPal, but no actual PayPal account is required); pay when registering or use the link provided in the invoice.

**Cancellations** are possible until Tuesday, February 16. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

## Irish Ball 2016



IRISH CLUB  
OF BELGIUM

**Tickets on sale now!**

**Date:** Saturday, February 20, 2016 – 7 p.m.

**Venue:** Steigenberger Grand Hotel, Avenue Louise 71, 1050 Brussels.

**Price:** Irish Club & ACB members €89. Non-members €99.

**More info:** [www.irishclub.be](http://www.irishclub.be)

**Sign up:** [irishball2016@gmail.com](mailto:irishball2016@gmail.com)

Over 18's only  
Dress code: black tie/evening wear

Click [here](#) to view poster

## A Guided Visit to Art in the Metro



Join us on Sunday, February 21 for an unusual guided visit of several metro stations in Brussels.

As you may have noticed, most, if not all, Belgian metro stations have unique art work done by Belgian artists. And, of course, if you've never taken the metro, you are in for an extremely delightful adventure!

We will meet at the ticket booth in Merode station. From there, we will go to Herrmann-Debroux, back to Merode, then on to Stockel and back to Merode, where the tour will end. The tour will last about 1½–2 hours, depending on how long we have to wait for trains.

Our guide will once again be the excellent Lieve De Jonghe.

Please note that this visit is limited to 18 people and is a members-priority event. Non-members may sign up as of February 10.

After the visit, those who wish to may join us for a drink or a coffee in the neighborhood.

### **Event Details:**

**Date:** Sunday, February 21, 2016.

**Time:** 1:45 p.m.

**Place:** Metro stop Merode, where tickets are sold.

**Price:** €15. ACB/AWCB/CCB members receive a discounted price of €10.

**Public Transportation:** Metro lines 1 & 5: Merode; Buses: 22, 27, 61, 80: Merode; Tram 81: Merode.

**Reservations** are due by Wednesday, February 17 at:

<http://www.americanclubbrussels.org/event-2149571>

Payment in advance to ACB account BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB). Please mention "Metro Art" in the reference section of the bank transfer. Online payment with a credit card is also possible (through PayPal, but no actual PayPal account is required); pay when registering or use the link provided in the invoice.

**Cancellations** are possible until noon on Wednesday, February 17. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

## Final Friday Drinks

**Friday, February 26, 2016**

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



**Hotel Metropole  
Place De Brouckère 31  
1000 Brussels**

The American Club of Brussels invites you for an evening of fun socializing and chatting! Everyone is welcome! Bring friends!

We've arranged special deals on beer and wine and the cash bar is open to all.

Final Friday events are held the last Friday of each month and take place at different and great locations throughout the city. So have a look at future events as well.

Although not required, if you register below, we'll keep you informed about future ACB events by email.

Check out the rest of the American Club of Brussels website for more details about the club and other great events.

## A Guided Visit to Train World



Join us on Sunday, March 6, in Brussels for a guided visit of the new museum, Train World.

A unique site, connected to the city, the Schaerbeek station is situated in the middle of the Belgian railway network. Based in the heart of Europe, it lies on the route of Belgium's very first railway track, between Brussels and Mechelen. It is a true gem in Belgian railway architecture. The railway garden connects it with a new industrial hangar. Together with this new museum complex in the form of a saw tooth, the Schaerbeek station represents a wonderful symbiosis of old and new in the Art Nouveau heart of Schaerbeek.

Just like the station building, the new hall is connected to the city. Through the glass window you can already catch a glimpse of Le Belge, the first locomotive to be built in Belgium. Inside, from the bridge and mezzanine, there's a wonderful view to be enjoyed over both the city and the tracks.

Please note that this event is limited to a maximum of 20 participants and is a members-priority event. Non-members may sign up as of February 24.

After the visit, those who wish to may join us for a drink or a coffee in the neighborhood.

### **Event Details:**

**Date:** Sunday, March 6, 2016.

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

**Place:** Train World, Place Princesse Elisabeth 5, 1030 Brussels.

**Price:** €20. ACB/AWCB/CCB members receive a discounted price of €15.

**Public Transportation:** Buses: 59 & 69: Schaerbeek Gare; Tram 92: Schaerbeek Gare; trains from Midi, Centrale or Nord: Schaerbeek Gare.

**Reservations** are due by Wednesday, March 2 at:

<http://www.americanclubbrussels.org/event-2149573>.

Payment in advance to ACB account BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB). Please mention "Train World" in the reference section of the bank transfer. Online payment with a credit card is also possible (through PayPal, but no actual PayPal account is required); pay when registering or use the link provided in the invoice.

**Cancellations** are possible until noon on Wednesday, March 2. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

## GREASE Party



The American Club of Brussels invites you to come celebrate the 1950s at our "Grease" Party based on the 1978 movie, "Grease," one of the most successful movie musicals of all time! This is the third event marking the ACB's 95th anniversary after the Holiday Reception in December and the gala dinner dance in January.

The ballroom of the Renaissance Hotel will be transformed into Rydell High School. The doors open at 7:00 p.m. and there will be entertainment during the aperitif. From 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., there will be all-you-can eat food stands serving hamburgers, hotdogs, pizza, and frites. From 9:30 onwards, popcorn, nachos with melted cheese, brownies and cookies will be served. Guests will receive two tokens for beer or wine. Additional beer or wine can be purchased at the cash bar at Final Friday prices. Soft drinks, water and fruit juices will be available free of charge all evening.

A DJ will provide music from the period (and, of course, the film), so get ready to rock 'n roll! (Or just dance any way that moves you!)

Dress code is casual and period dress is a great plus, but not a requirement. And, if you haven't seen or don't remember "Grease," there's still time to see it again for inspiration.

With lots of young professionals present thanks to our collaboration with other international clubs here in Brussels, this will be an ideal opportunity to meet new people in a fun way!

In the event you would like to spend the night in Brussels, the Renaissance is offering a special rate that includes a full American breakfast buffet. The price for a single room is €109 and a double is €129. The city tax of €7.58 is not included in the above prices.

This is a great way to celebrate the ACB's 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a relaxed, fun environment. Everyone is welcome; feel free to bring a friend or two.

### **Event Details:**

**Date:** Friday, May 20, 2016.

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

**Place:** Renaissance Hotel, rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Brussels.

**Price:** €50. ACB, AWCB, CCB and Irish Club members receive a discounted price of €45.

**Public Transportation:** Buses 12, 21 22, 27, 34, 38, 64, 80 and 95: Luxembourg.

**Reservations** are due by Tuesday, May 17 at:

<http://www.americanclubbrussels.org/event-2149577>.

Payment in advance to ACB account BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB). Please mention "Grease" in the reference section of the bank transfer. Online payment with a credit card is also possible (through PayPal, but no actual PayPal account is required); pay when registering or use the link provided in the invoice.

**Cancellations** are possible until noon on Tuesday, May 17. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.