



# News & Events

March 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)



## Upcoming Events



### Final Friday Drinks

Friday, February 26 – 6:30-9:00 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### Lunch Hour Social – Sogno d'Italia

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 – 12:30-2:00 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### The Three Musketeers (puppet show) – Théâtre Royal de Toone

Saturday, March 5 – 6 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### Train World Museum

Sunday, March 6 – 2:00 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### **Beer Bar Tour – L'auBIERegiste**

Tuesday, March 8 – 6:30 p.m.

[Event details](#)



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

Wednesday, March 9 – 7:00-9:00 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### **Linguistic Café Session**

Sunday, March 13 – 3:00-4:00 p.m.

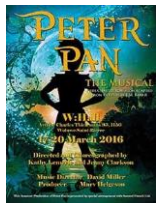
[Event details](#)



### **Dine-Out at Pomodori**

Thursday, March 17 – 7:30 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### **Peter Pan, the Musical**

Sunday, March 20 – 1:30 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### **Final Friday Drinks**

Friday, March 25 – 6:30-9:00 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### **"Grease" Party**

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

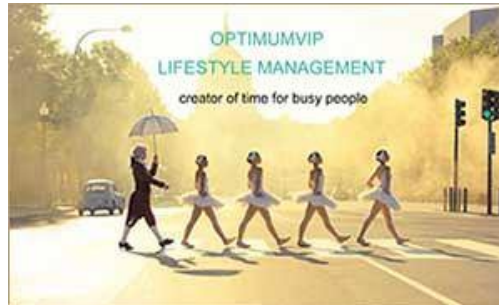
[Event details](#)

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## Corporate Profile

OPTIMUMVIP  
INTERNATIONAL

### Lifestyle Management Services Tailored Just For You



Optimumvip International is the leader in lifestyle management services providing expertise and tailored assistance for all your needs. From last-minute restaurant reservations and travel itineraries, opera and sporting tickets, wedding planning and birthday parties, to international property searches and accessing private schools and tutoring - we are the preferred service chosen by those who are keen to enjoy the very best life has to offer. Optimumvip International organizes the most personalized of your requirements, such as events, travel, rentals for all kinds of all budgets, from affordable to high-end - such as properties or yachts accompanied by excellent services. We will also organize seminars, conferences, offer personal services and business services in every detail, ensuring satisfaction. Optimumvip International is unique and assists each client with discretion and confidentiality in the achievements and the success of your projects tailored especially for you. Our experts have carefully selected boats, yachts, real estate, beautiful chalets, villas, famous restaurants, private jets and cars, vans, special cars, interior designers, lifestyle coaches, private chefs, art curators and more; all for corporate as well as private expectations. (Check with Optimumvip International for more services.)

Our traveling team has created unforgettable travelling packages. Optimumvip International focuses on travel throughout the major destinations within Europe, South America, United States, the Caribbean and Asia. We have travelled around the world to bring you the best accommodations (hotels, rentals), tours, entertainment and culinary services. We offer both packaged and à la carte services tailored to the traveler's interests and budget. Optimumvip International corporate services, with decades of experience in coordinating travel and event organization, will assist you to develop a custom proposal within your company's budget. We operate in BENELUX, Switzerland, France, Spain, Italy, Israel, South America, United States and Asia.




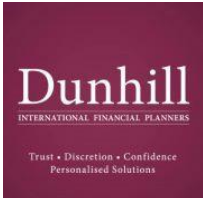


















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## Our Corporate Sponsors

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 h.)	
				
		Sponsor of major ACB events		
				
				One free initial consultation (1/2 h.)
				
Free account with no transaction charges			10% discount for ACB members	
				



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## 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.

## Lunch Hour Social



<http://sognoditalia.be>

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!

**Event Details:**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

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

**Place:** Sogno d'Italia, Boondaalsesteenweg 428 Chaussée de Boondael, 1050 Brussels (Ixelles/Elsene).

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

**Please register** by Monday, February 29, at:

<http://www.americanclubbrussels.org/event-2165406>.

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.

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

## Puppet Show at the Maison de Toone



Brussels offers many quirky traditions and the puppets are one of the best, especially at the Maison de Toone. The Maison de Toone is simultaneously a typical estaminet with its Spanish pink brick walls, blackened beams and tiled floor, and a puppet theatre in the attic. Let's enjoy a performance of "The Three Musketeers!"

[www.toone.be](http://www.toone.be)

### *The Three Musketeers*

In 1625 France, d'Artagnan (a poor young nobleman) leaves his family in Gascony and travels to Paris to join the Musketeers of the Guard.

D'Artagnan falls in love at first sight with Constance Bonacieux. She works for Queen Anne of France, who is secretly conducting an affair with the Duke of Buckingham. The King, Louis XIII, gave the Queen a gift of diamond studs but she gives them to her lover as a keepsake. Cardinal Richelieu, who wants war between France and England, plans to expose the tryst and persuades the King to demand the Queen wear the diamonds to a soirée that the Cardinal is sponsoring.

Constance tries to send her husband to London but the man is manipulated by Richelieu and does not go, so d'Artagnan and his friends intercede. En route, the Cardinal's henchmen repeatedly attack them and only d'Artagnan reaches London. Although Milady stole two of the diamond studs, the Duke of Buckingham provides replacements while delaying the thief's return to Paris. D'Artagnan is thus able to return a complete set of jewels to Queen Anne just in time to save her honor.

#### **Event details:**

**Date:** Saturday March 5, 2016.

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Théâtre Royal de Toone, Impasse Sainte-Pétronille (66 rue du Marché aux Herbes), 1000 Brussels.

**Show description:** "The Three Musketeers" in English. This is a private show.

**Duration:** Approximately 45 minutes.

The museum is free with an explanation of the history of Theater Toone.

**Seating limit:** 140 persons.

#### **Pricing:**

- ACB – Adults €10, children (under 12) €5.
- Australia Society – Adults €10, children (under 12) €5.
- AWCB - Adults €10, children (under 12) €5.
- Canadian Club – Adults €10, children (under 12) €5.
- Studs – Adults €10, children (under 12) €5.
- Non- Member – Adults €15, children (under 12) €9.

**Reservations** are due by Wednesday, March 1 at:

<http://www.americanclubbrussels.org/event-2160179>

Payment in advance to ACB account BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB). Please mention "Toone" 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, March 1. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

## 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.



## Historic 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 Tour events are held the second Tuesday of each month and take place at different, great locations throughout the city.

This month, however, we visit a newer beer bar but with ambience and variety in the Châtelain area. From their site, they write:

*"The l'auBIERegiste is a bar with beers but with much more! Freshly installed in the Châtelain district, behind the Church of the Trinity, we offer: Beer (5 taps including Bastogne, La Senne and Dupont; 80 bottles including De Ranke, The Musketeers, Lupulus, Rulles, etc ...)"*

The L'auBIERegiste also offers a variety of non-beer drinks, such as wine, fresh fruit juices, cava, champagne, soft drinks, hot drinks and spirits. The bar includes "flammekeues, cured meats and sausages" as well as "artisan fresh cheeses from Belgium, France or Spain".

Everyone is welcome and feel free to bring friends!

### **Event Details:**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 8, 2016.

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

**Place:** L'auBIERegiste, Rue de l'Aqueduc 63, 1060 Bruxelles (Saint-Gilles).

**Price:** Dependent on your consumption!

**Please register**, so that we know how many of you to expect for the reservation, by Monday, March 7. You may register at:

<http://www.americanclubbrussels.org/event-2174758>.

**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.

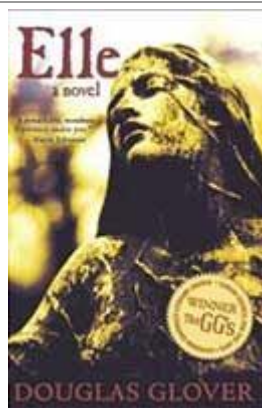
Even if you have not read the selected book and if you do not have a book you wish to present, please feel free to join us anyway – even at the last minute.

**Reading Group Contact**

(also for venue details)

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

**March 9 – Presented by Laura Richard**



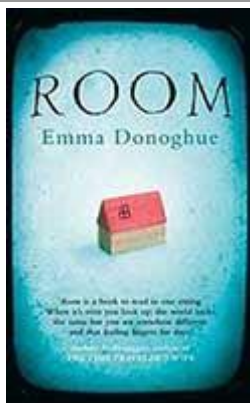
**Elle**

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.

**April 13 – Presented by Kim Masiero**



**ROOM**

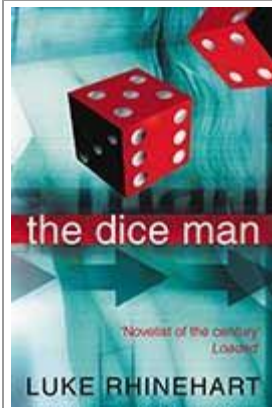
by Emma Donoghue (Ireland-Canada)

Emma Donoghue is an Irish-Canadian playwright, literary historian, novelist and screenwriter. She was born in Dublin, Ireland, received her PhD from the University of Cambridge and finally settled in London, Ontario. From age 23, she earned her living as a writer.

Her 2010 novel "ROOM" was a finalist for the Man Booker Prize and an international best-seller. It is the story of a five-year-old called Jack, who lives in a single room with his Ma and has never been outside. When he turns five, he starts asking questions, and his mother reveals to him that there is a world beyond the walls. Told entirely in Jack's voice, ROOM is no horror story or tearjerker, but a celebration of resilience and the love between parent and child.

**Venue:** Geneviève's place

**May 11 – Presented by Jean Minutello**



***The Dice Man***

by Luke Rhinehart (U.S.A.)

*The Dice Man* captures the "Wheel of Fortune" for real. He embarks on a personal journey of self-discovery by taking chances and dancing with fate/the devil. Rhinehart, being a psychiatrist, as well as a family man, decides to "pick up the dice", in an effort to steer his ship into the unknown. We will discover why, how and where throughout his journey. The author sets out to challenge the "controlled aspects" of life and states, in no uncertain terms, that "life is an adventure or nothing at all"!

**Venue:** Cité du Dragon (Asian cuisine), Chaussée de Waterloo 1024, 1180 Brussels (Uccle)  
Tel. 02/375.80.80

**More info about the Clubs:**

- The Canadian Club of Belgium: [www.ccbcanada.be](http://www.ccbcanada.be)
- The American Women's Club of Brussels: [www.awcb.org](http://www.awcb.org)
- The American Club of Brussels: [www.americanclubbrussels.org](http://www.americanclubbrussels.org)

## Linguistic Café Session



The purpose of this gathering is for those learning *Français* or *Español* 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, March 13, 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-2174760>.

Payment in advance to ACB account BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB). Please mention "Linguistics" 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, March 12. Participants canceling after this time will be charged the full cost of the event. No-shows are charged €10.

## Dine-Out at Pomodori



Join us on Thursday March 17, 2016 at Pomodori.

A recently opened restaurant, Pomodori, right in the middle of the European quarter, is offering a fresh approach to Mediterranean food. Emphasizing 100% homemade Spanish and Italian dishes, using fresh and/or bio ingredients and daily vegetarian dishes, Pomodori is making their mark on the Brussels market. They specialize in homemade fare such as grilled octopus, or chicken rolls with Serrano and Mozzarella. They also offer a wide selection of tapas. They are open for lunch from Monday through Friday, and also do dinners, corporate events and receptions, either on-site or at the location of your choice.

The restaurant is open especially for the American Club that evening.

A three-course menu as follows.

### **Choice of starters**

Homemade hummus with lime and dried onion decoration

or

Duo of feta croquettes

or

Mediterranean soup with pesto (vegetarian)

### **Choice of Main Courses**

Salmon with sauce "vierge", grilled vegetables and oven-roasted potatoes

or

Chicken roll with Serrano and Mozzarella

or

Ravioli stuffed with mushrooms and truffles (vegetarian)

### **Choice of Desserts**

Homemade tiramisu

or

Brussels waffle with hot chocolate sauce and freshly whipped cream

**Please indicate your menu choices when registering. Thank you.**

**Event Details:**

**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2016.

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

**Place:** Rue Belliard 181, 1040 Brussels (Etterbeek).

**Price:** €45. ACB/AWCB/CCB members receive a discounted price of €40.

Price includes water and half a bottle of red or white wine per person. Aperitifs and/or coffee are extra.

**Public Transportation:** Metro Schuman (400m walk down Rue Froissart). Busses: 21, 27, and 60 (stop Froissart): Bus 59 (stop: Park Leopold): Bus 22 (stop: Nerviens).

**Sign up:** Reservations are due by Tuesday, March 15, at:

<http://www.americanclubbrussels.org/event-217747>.

Payment in advance to ACB account BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB). Please mention "March Dine-Out" 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, March 17. Participants cancelling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

## Peter Pan, the Musical



The Green Parrot Music Productions, the largest children's theater production company in the Brussels area will be performing **Peter Pan** in English from March 17 to 20, 2016. <http://www.greenparrot.eu/>

The cast will include over 120 adults, teens and children along with a full 22-piece orchestra led by David Miller, Conductor of the Bruocsella Symphony Orchestra. <https://www.bso-orchestra.be/en/>

This exciting production will even include special rigging so Peter Pan and the children will actually 'fly'!

The American Club of Brussels invites you to attend the musical on Sunday, March 20 at 1:30 p.m. The approximate duration of each performance (including interval) is around 2½ hours.

### Event details:

**Date:** Sunday, March 20, 2016.

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**Venue:** HALL, Avenue Charles Thielemans 93, 1150 Woluwe-Saint-Pierre.

### Price:

- €30 for adults and €20 for children.
- ACB/AWCB/CCB members receive a discounted price of €25 for adults and €15 for children.

Please note that children are defined as accompanied and aged 17 and under.

**Reservations** are due by Wednesday, March 16 at:

<http://www.americanclubbrussels.org/event-2166427>

Payment in advance to ACB account BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB). Please mention "Peter Pan" 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 16. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

## Final Friday Drinks

**Friday, March 25, 2016**  
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



**Renaissance Brussels Hotel**  
**Rue du Parnasse 19**  
**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.



# 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.