



The American Club of Brussels

News & Events

An International Club with an American Heart



July-August 2011

Ommegang Dinner – Last Call



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.

MENU “Made in Brussels”

(includes wine and water)

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

Waterzooi de Coucou de Malines au Légumes Croquants
(Chicken Waterzooi with Crispy Vegetables)

Gaufre de Bruxelles et Crème au Speculoos
(Brussels Waffle with Speculoos-flavored Cream)

Le Moka et ses Mignardises
(coffee and sweets)

[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.

The Ommegang takes place each year on the first Thursday in July and the preceding Tuesday (this year, Tuesday, July 5 and Thursday, July 7). 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 7

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

Dinner: 8:00 p.m.

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

Price: €75 for ACB and AWCB members; €85 for non-members

Dress code: Coat and tie requested

Sign up: Reservations are due by noon on Monday, July 4 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 427-9195881-44 will confirm your reservation. Be sure to mention “Ommegang” in the communications section of the *virement*. Cancellations are possible until noon on Monday, July 4. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

Dates to Remember

- Sunday, July 3: Independence Day picnic at the American Women's Club of Brussels, Rhode St.-Genèse (see article)
- Thursday, July 7: Ommegang pageant and dinner at La Maison du Cygne, Brussels (see article)
- Thursday, July 28: Final Thursday cocktails
- Thursday, August 25: Final Thursday cocktails
- September: Young Membership Progressive Drinks Night (TBD)
- Tuesday, September 13: Antwerp Expat Welcome Party, Radisson Blu Park Lane Hotel, Antwerp
- Wednesday, September 14: Joint Gala Dinner with AmCham Belgium with Ambassador Howard W. Gutman
- Wednesday, September 21: Dine-Out (TBD)
- Thursday, September 29: Final Thursday cocktails
- October: Pioneers' Dinner (TBD)
- Thursday, November 24: Thanksgiving Dinner at the Sheraton Hotel, Brussels

Independence Day Picnic



This year's Independence Day celebration takes place on Sunday, July 3 at the American Women's Club of Brussels' clubhouse at Avenue des Erables 1, 1640 Rhode St.-Genèse. Jointly sponsored by the ACB and the AWCB, the event includes a co-ed softball tournament (10:30 a.m. at St.-John's International School in Waterloo), live entertainment and games for kids, and a patriotic ceremony at 12:30 p.m. From 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., there will be a family-style picnic with hamburgers, hotdogs and drinks for purchase, potluck salads, assorted side dishes, and desserts. All proceeds will be donated to the American Overseas Memorial Day Association (www.aomda.org).

Volunteers are needed to help organize games and sporting events, so please let ACB President Maggie Nicholson know if you can lend a hand.

Reserve by email (info@americanclubbrussels.org), online at www.americanclubbrussels.org, or by telephone to the ACB Office Manager (02.219.58.08), and also to volunteer to bring a dessert and/or to help out at the softball game or picnic. There is no entry fee, but please reserve with the ACB by noon on Tuesday, June 28.

Young Membership Progressive Drinks Night

For all the Young Members (35 and under) of the ACB, please watch out for our September event... Progressive Drinks Night!

This event will allow newcomers to meet lots of people on one evening and kick-start a social/business network in Brussels. It will be equally helpful to those who have been here for a while and feel like meeting new people, expanding their business network, and having a good time in general.

We will have one-hour drinks at various different locations whereby small groups will get to meet each other. The groups will be mixed from location to location and then everyone will meet up at the end.

Please watch out on Facebook (American Club of Brussels – Young Members) for more information about this event throughout the summer. In case you have questions, do not hesitate to contact Niev Gallagher (niamh.a.gallagher@gmail.com or 0491/52.07.50).

Final Thursday Cocktails

Thursday, July 28 and Thursday, August 25
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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

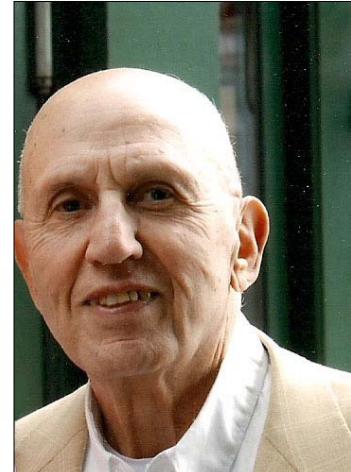
Cash bar open to all. Newcomers to Belgium and prospective ACB members are especially welcome. Complimentary nibbles will be offered. No reservation is required. Bring a guest or two.

Farewell to Armen Chertavian, ACB Member Since 1974

Capt. Armen Chertavian, U.S. Navy Retired, died on March 23, 2011. A resident of Brussels, he was 83 years old.

He was predeceased by his wife of 41 years, Janet Dancause Chertavian.

He is survived by his son, Vahan Chertavian of Hawi, Hawaii, his daughter-in-law, Linda, and grandchildren, Aniela and Diran. He is also survived by his sister, Lucia Yapp, and brothers, Diran and Levon Chertavian; and his loving companion of 10 years, Leyla Pinter.



“Chet” was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, on August 13, 1928. He was the son of Kevork and Elizabeth Chertavian. Chet was a graduate of Lowell High School. After high school, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy and was a member of the class of 1951. His naval career spanned 23 years. The highlights of those years were command of two ships. After retiring from the Navy while stationed in Germany, his family moved to Brussels.

After working for an international construction company for a few years, Chet established an import-export company, ArJan. He was involved with home and auto security, and the brand name of “Mr. Security” became his moniker. The company was responsible for introducing many innovative security products in Europe.

Chet was a mentor. A great listener, his counsel was sought by many. There was nary a problem too big that could not be handled. With a positive, cheerful outlook on life, it was always inevitable, that a moment with Chet was one to be full of laughter and forever cherished.

His wisdom and humor will be sorely missed and his essence can be summed up with his favorite phrase, “Old too soon, smart too late.”

Those wishing to make a contribution in his name please consider Prof. Wim Robberecht, SLA Research n° EGC-FOALS1-P3610 at University Hospital Leuven, Belgium, in Armen Chertavian's Remembrance. Contact Leuven's Universiteitsfond, Isabel Penne (isabel.penne@rec.kuleuven.be).

Travel with the American Women's Club of Brussels

Update! Update! Update!



The AWCB is organizing a “Thousand and One Nights” trip to North India departing Brussels on Friday, October 21 and returning on Tuesday, November 1. The 12-day trip includes visits to Old and New Delhi; Udaipur, a beautiful city on the banks of Lake Pichola; Ranakpur, with its famous marble Jaïn temples; Jodhpur (“the blue city”) known for its formidable fort; Jaipur (the “Pink City”) in time for its famed festival of lights; Amber, the former state capital of Rajasthan; the tiger reserve at Ranthambore; Fatehpur Sikri, a deserted capital built and abandoned by the emperor mogul Akbar in the 16th century; and Agra, with its Red Fort and the Taj Mahal.

The price of €3990 per adult in a double room includes direct flights Brussels/Delhi/Brussels with Lufthansa, accommodation in 4-star hotels or resorts, full board from Day 2 to Day 11, local transport in air conditioned buses, the flight from Delhi to Udaipur, all entrance fees, two game park drives in four-wheel drive vehicles, First Class air conditioned train from Ranthambore to Bharatpur, and the services of a professional English-speaking guide. The AWCB Tour Director, Mireille Bremer, will accompany the group from Europe and be its cultural escort. Contact her at mireille_bremer@yahoo.fr for more information.

It is also possible to extend the trip to include an additional four days in Nepal (Tuesday, November 1 through Friday, November 4), with visits to sites in and around Kathmandu and the Himalayas. Email mireille_bremer@yahoo.fr for more information.

Community News

The Brussels Bookswappers Club

Every fourth Wednesday of the month, booklovers get together to swap books that are gathering dust on their shelves. All you have to do is come along with any number of books you wish to exchange with 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 all 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 Les Enfants Terribles (Chaussée de la Hulpe 190, 1170 Brussels), near the International School of Brussels. The next two meetings are on Wednesday, July 27 and Wednesday, August 24 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 for future meetings, contact Karen at abkginfo@skynet.be.

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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.