



The American Club of Brussels

News & Events

An International Club with an American Heart



October 2011

Pioneers' Dinner – Last Call

The Pioneers' Club is pleased to announce that its next dinner – now open to all ACB and AWCB members and their guests – will be held at the Château Ste.-Anne on Tuesday, October 4. Our special guest speaker will be the former American ambassador to the Czech Republic, Richard W. Graber. The subject of Ambassador Graber's talk will be "Reflections of a Former Ambassador: The Czech Republic, Central Europe and Beyond."

Ambassador Graber is currently vice president at Honeywell International in Brussels, with responsibility for government relations in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

Ambassador Graber served as the United States ambassador to the Czech Republic from September 2006 to January 2009. Among his many accomplishments while ambassador, he helped remove the requirement that Czech citizens must have a visa to travel to the United States. This change helped improve bilateral relations with the countries of Central Europe, and advanced inbound and outbound business initiatives. He worked extensively on judicial reform and other issues to improve the business environment in the Czech Republic. He also worked on missile defense treaties and surrounding issues.

Join us for a memorable evening of camaraderie, good conversation, and fine dining in an elegant and historic environment.

Event Details

Date: Tuesday, October 4

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Château Ste.-Anne, Rue du Vieux Moulin 103,
1160 Brussels (Auderghem)

Price: €70 for ACB and AWCB members

Dress code: Black tie

Sign up: Reservations are due by noon on Thursday, September 29 by email (info@americanclubbrussels.org), online at www.americanclubbrussel.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 "Pioneers" in the communications section of the virement. Cancellations are possible until noon on Thursday, September 29. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.



Dine-Out at Le Cercle des Voyageurs

Wednesday, October 19



Here's a restaurant that's tailor-made for globetrotters – and that's pretty much the entire membership of the American Club of Brussels. This month's venue is Le Cercle des Voyageurs, which is located in one of the oldest parts of Brussels, along a narrow, cobblestoned street, just a stone's throw from the Manneken Pis fountain.

Le Cercle's food is an exciting mix of cuisine from all over the world. The restaurant does a very good job at presenting traditional dishes as well as lesser known delicacies from countries as diverse as Argentina, China, Greece, India, Italy, Peru, and Thailand.

We're sure to be in for a treat at October's Dine-Out, although, unfortunately, we cannot reveal the menu or the price at this time. An all-points email in the very near future will put this right.

Meanwhile, it is interesting to note that Le Cercle des Voyageurs reminds some well-traveled food aficionados of the Explorer's Club in New York City, albeit not up to the same luxurious standard. Nevertheless, Le Cercle is indeed special for Belgium. The building itself is wider than the usual city-center Brussels townhouse, which means that the restaurant is quite spacious, with comfy leather armchairs, a grand piano, and a private room called *la bibliothèque*, which is used for private parties, conferences, and the like. All in all, cozy and a bit "intellectual." Almost a cultural center in its own right, Le Cercle hosts musical evenings, various exhibitions, book launchings, films, and even children's activities. On the evening of our Dine-Out, why not plan on arriving a bit earlier than usual to explore this interesting venue and discover its secrets for yourself.

Le Cercle des Voyageurs
Rue des Grands Carmes 16-18
1000 Brussels (near the Grand'Place)
www.lecercle des voyageurs.com

AmCham Young Professionals Outreach Reception

AmCham's Young Professionals Committee invites members of the American Club of Brussels to its first Young Professionals Outreach Reception in the presence of U.S. Ambassador Howard W. Gutman.

With this event, AmCham aims to provide an opportunity for all young professionals in Belgium to network with their peers and to learn about other existing groups and associations. It is AmCham's great honor to have the American ambassador to Belgium, Howard W. Gutman, as its guest speaker. The reception will take place in the tapestry gallery at BNP Paribas Fortis, Rue Royale 20, 1000 Brussels.

Event Details

Date: Tuesday, October 18

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Place: BNP Paribas Fortis, Rue Royale 20, 1000 Brussels

Price: €20

Sign up: Email Dawn Smith at dsmith@amcham.be to register

Antwerp: City of Architectural Contrasts

Guided Visit to the MAS Museum and the 17th century Rockoxhuis



The Museum aan de Stroom (Museum on the River), also known as the MAS, is Antwerp's dazzling new museum that everyone is talking about. The 10-story building itself is spectacular – offering 360° views of the city, the Schelde, and the busy harbor. The museum's extensive permanent collection focuses on Antwerp's history and culture, as well as on Antwerp's fascinating connection with the world over the centuries. This story is told through four themes on five floors, as well as through temporary exhibitions and an open depot where visitors can view a changing selection of objects held in storage.

Our guided tour lasts 1.5 hours and explores the amazing architecture of the MAS and its panoramic views. We will visit two of the four theme collections: *Metropolis* and *World Port*. *Metropolis – On Here and Now* addresses the ways in which Antwerp has been portrayed over the past 500 years, and how the city has shaped itself through its buildings and events. The themed exhibit *World Port – On Trading and Shipping* shows the city of Antwerp's indebtedness to its harbor, from its beginnings as a small medieval settlement to its status today as one of the world's most important ports.

After the tour, we will break for brunch and bubbles at the 19th century FelixPakhuis, a former industrial building in the harbor neighborhood of 't Eilandje, just steps from the MAS. We will enjoy our buffet-style brunch in the completely restored and renovated "Felix" warehouse, where for more than a century, coffee, hops, cheese, wine, and tobacco were stored. In 1976, the building was classified as a listed monument, which saved it from demolition. The last bale of tobacco left the warehouse in 1985, and the building stood abandoned and derelict until 2006, when Antwerp's municipal archives found refuge in the now-renovated building. One of the city's latest new hot spots, FelixPakhuis is more than just a place to eat and drink; it is also one of Antwerp's major cultural spaces with exhibitions, concerts, films, theatrical performances, and activities for children.



Following our *langslapersbrunch*, we will stroll through the streets of old Antwerp to a 17th century architectural jewel, the beautiful Rockoxhuis, the former home of Nicolaas Rockox, politician, humanist, and art collector. To top off the day, the KBC has graciously invited us for coffee and cake. Kredietbank (now KBC) acquired the Rockox House in 1970, and founded the Stichting Nicolaas Rockox (Nicolaas Rockox Foundation) to restore the historic patrician residence and courtyard garden to their former glory with period furniture and paintings. We will be free to explore the museum and garden on our own either before or after the reception.



This very special event is limited to 20 participants, so reserve your places early.

Note: this event is a three-part event: the MAS tour, brunch, and a visit and reception at the Rockoxhuis, and it is expected that attendees will participate in all three activities as a courtesy to our hosts.

Event Details**Date:** Sunday, October 23**Time:** 10:30 a.m.**Place:** Museum aan de Stroom, Hanzestedenplaats 1, 2000 Antwerp; FelixPakhuis, Godefriduskaai 30, 2000 Antwerp; and the Museum Rockoxhuis, Keizerstraat 10-12, 2000 Antwerp**Price:** €30 for ACB and AWCB members; €40 for non-members**Sign up:** Reservations are due by noon on Wednesday, October 19 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 “MAS” in the communications section of the *virement*. Cancellations are possible until noon on Friday, October 21. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

Final Friday Cocktails

Friday, October 28
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Renaissance Brussels Hotel
(ground floor behind the restaurant)
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. Complimentary nibbles will be offered. No reservation is required. Bring a guest or two.

Fourth of July Celebrations

This year's Independence Day picnic co-hosted by the ACB and the American Women's Club of Brussels was a great success, attracting more than 100 Americans and friends of America. Thanks in large part to the generosity of Dan Mulcahy, the event raised nearly €900, which was donated in full to the American Overseas Memorial Day Association. An all-volunteer organization, the AOMDA is responsible for organizing Memorial Day ceremonies at the three American military cemeteries in Belgium each May.



Shown above (left to right) are Laura Hoffman, representing the AOMDA, Maggie Nicholson, ACB president, Judy Furukawa, AWCB president, and Dan Mulcahy, AWCB webmaster.

The ACB Goes Clay Pigeon Shooting



Staying cool, calm, and collected is the name of the game while on a clay shoot. Clay pigeon shooting is a thrilling experience, demanding concentration, a keen eye, and quick reactions. On hold with your finger on the trigger, we can guarantee you'll feel your heart pounding as you wait for the trap to release the target. Aim, fire, and hit!

And just in case you were wondering, we're talking clay targets here, so you won't even rustle the feathers of any real pigeons.

Join the ACB on Saturday, November 19 for a special sporty afternoon at the Klein Brabantse Shooting Club near Boom, just south of Antwerp.

Werner Ceulemans, the owner of the shooting club and a champion clay pigeon marksman, will welcome us with coffee. After a brief introduction to the sport, we will go straight to the range where we can practice our shooting skills for two hours under Werner's expert guidance. Guns, bullets, ear protection, and clay targets are all provided. The hunters among us can bring their own firearms if they wish.

We will top off the afternoon with drinks and freshly toasted ham and cheese sandwiches.

Let's cross our fingers for a nice, dry and sunny autumn day!

Event Details

Date: Saturday, November 19

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Gansbroekstraat 66, 2870 Ruisbroek-Puurs (near Boom, off the A12; driving instructions will be forwarded upon registration)

Price: €67 for ACB and AWCB members; €77 for non-members

Sign up: Reservations are due by noon on Wednesday, November 16 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 "clay pigeon" in the communications section of the *virement*. Cancellations are possible until noon on Wednesday, November 16. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Join us for one of the American Club of Brussels' most popular social events: a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, consisting of roast turkey plus all the trimmings, followed by an assortment of real American pies.

This very American event is held on Thanksgiving Day itself, that is, Thursday, November 24, at 7:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel on Place Rogier in Brussels. Whole turkeys are carved and served family-style at tables for eight. It's just like home, only someone else does the cooking.

MENU

Apéritif

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New England clam chowder

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Turkey with stuffing
Mashed potatoes
Sweet potatoes
Green beans with mushrooms
Corn pudding
Beets
Cranberry jelly
Gravy

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Pecan pie
Mince pie
Apple pie
Pumpkin pie

Sheraton Brussels Hotel
Horizon Room – 30th floor
Place Rogier 3, 1210 Brussels
Tel: 02/224.31.11

Apéritif, one-half bottle of house wine, soft drinks, and mineral water are included in the price of €70 per person for ACB and AWCB members and €80 for non-members. The charge for children under 12 is €38.

Reservations are due by noon on Friday, November 18 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 "Thanksgiving" in the communications section of the *virement*. Note that cancellations are possible until the close of business on Friday, November 18. Members canceling after that date, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Cocktails

This year's Christmas cocktail party is sure to be special. We're in for a treat at an exciting new venue in central Brussels. The location is still a secret, but mark your calendar now for Thursday, December 15, when you can join other ACBers in raising a glass to a wonderful Christmas season and to a happy ending of 2011. Details to follow.

Dates to Remember

- Saturday, October 1: Young Members Progressive Drinks Evening
- Tuesday, October 4: Pioneers' Dinner with Richard W. Graber, former American ambassador to the Czech Republic
- Wednesday, October 19: Dine-Out at Le Cercle des Voyageurs
- Sunday, October 23: Guided visit to the MAS museum and the Rockoxhuis in Antwerp
- Friday, October 28: Final Friday cocktails
- Saturday, November 19: Clay pigeon shooting
- Thursday, November 24: Thanksgiving Dinner at the Sheraton Hotel, Brussels
- Friday, December 2: **First Friday** cocktails
- Thursday, December 15: Christmas cocktail party

Community News

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), founded in 1985, 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, *Sibelius and the Birth of Finland*, will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 5 at the Maison Communale, Avenue Paul Hymans 2, 1200 Brussels. Welcome drinks will be offered starting at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.bridfas.org.

Soirée au pub / Canadian Pub Night



Join members of the Canadian Club of Belgium on Friday, October 14 from 7:00 p.m. at The Wild Geese (Avenue Livingstone 2-4, 1000 Brussels) for friendly conversation and a few beers. No reservation is required. This is an open event and everyone is welcome.

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 meeting is on Wednesday, October 26 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.

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. No audition; no experience required. Rehearsals are every Monday from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Kraainem. Fall music includes "Christmas on Broadway," "Medieval Carol Fantasy," and traditional holiday carols and songs. We sing to enjoy music and to support the community. We perform several times a year at American and Belgian events. For details, contact Lamdm@attglobal.net.

The Brussels Carol Concert

The Brussels Carol Concert is looking for new singers. All voices are welcome, and no audition is required. The BCC is an international choir which meets weekly from September to December to prepare a traditional Christmas carol concert. This year's concert is on Sunday, December 18 at 5:00 p.m. at the Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles, Rue de la Régence 30, 1000 Brussels. The BCC will be joined by a large children's choir from several international schools in the area. The Music Director is Philippe Lambert, and his pianist is Mary Gow.

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7:45 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Collège St.-Pierre, Avenue Coghén 213, 1180 Brussels. Contact Mary Gow at marygow@gmail.com or 02/662.17.27.

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
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.