



The American Club of Brussels News & Events

An International Club with an American Heart



November 2011

Thanksgiving Dinner

Sign up now for one of the American Club of Brussels' most popular social events – a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, consisting of roast turkey with all the trimmings, followed by an assortment of real American pies.

This very American event is held on Thanksgiving Day itself, Thursday, November 24, at 7:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel 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**



Event Details

Date: Thursday, November 24

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Sheraton Brussels Hotel, Horizon Room (30th floor), Place Rogier 3, 1210 Brussels (St.-Josseten-Noode)

Price: €70 for ACB and AWCB members (includes *apéritif*, one-half bottle of house wine, soft drinks, and mineral water); €80 for non-members. €38 for children under 12

Sign up: 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 BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB) will confirm your reservation. Be sure to mention “Thanksgiving” in the communications section of the *virement*. Note that cancellations are possible until noon on Friday, November 18. Members canceling after that date, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.



Lecture: Understanding the Afghan Security Situation



Join us on Thursday, November 17 for a lecture on the security situation in Afghanistan. Our speaker will be Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Daniel M. Mulcahy, a career U.S. Army intelligence officer and Senior Intelligence Mentor to the Afghan Ministry of the Interior from April 2009 to June 2010. Before that, Dan worked as Deputy Chief of the Intelligence Production Management Team at SHAPE headquarters in Mons with a primary focus on the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. His major areas of study include developing and deploying U.S. military resources in support of international crises, U.S. security policy, and the effective use of diplomatic, military, and economic instruments of power. He even speaks a smattering of Ukrainian.

There are five things you will take away from Dan’s talk. First, you’ll understand the checkered history of the Pathan people. The Pathans are the peoples from eastern Iran to the Indus River in Pakistan. This is the real history of the Afghan people. Second, you will learn about the fighting season in Afghanistan. Third, you’ll understand the three major groups behind the insurgency – they are not all Taliban. Fourth, you’ll learn about the NATO and international community military structure in Afghanistan – they all have different roles. Finally, you’ll learn why Pakistan is the center of gravity for the insurgency to sustain its momentum.

The presentation will be followed by Q & A and a drinks reception compliments of KBC. Parking is available at the bank (entrance on Opzichersstraat/Rue de l'Intendant).

Event Details

Date: Thursday, November 17

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: KBC bank, Havenlaan/Avenue de Port 2, 1080 Brussels (St.-Jans-Molenbeek)

Price: €7 for ACB and AWCB members; €12 for non-members

Sign up: Reservations are due by noon on Monday, November 14 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 “Afghanistan” in the communications section of the *virement*.

Cancellations are possible until noon on Monday, November 14. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

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. Pull, aim, fire – and hit!

And just in case you were wondering, we're talking clay targets here, so you won't even ruffle 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. Shotguns, 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 BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB) 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.

First Friday Cocktails

Friday, December 2
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.

Dates to Remember

- Thursday, November 17: Dan Mulcahy's lecture on the security situation in Afghanistan
- Saturday, November 19: An afternoon of clay pigeon shooting
- Thursday, November 24: Thanksgiving Dinner at the Sheraton Hotel, Brussels
- Friday, December 2: First Friday cocktails
- Saturday, December 3: Guided visit to the *Flemish Miniatures* exhibition at the Royal Library
- Thursday, December 15: Christmas cocktail party at the Museum of Letters and Manuscripts, Brussels
- Friday, January 2: First Friday cocktails
- Friday, January 27: Final Friday cocktails
- Friday, February 24: Final Friday cocktails
- Friday, March 30: Final Friday cocktails
- Saturday, March 12: James Bond theme dinner/dance

Guided Visit to the *Flemish Miniatures* Exhibition



Join the ACB on Saturday, December 3 for a guided visit to an outstanding exhibition of illuminated manuscripts from the glory days of the Burgundian Low Countries. You are probably aware that the 15th century, known as the Burgundian period, was famous for its Gothic cathedrals, the paintings of the so-called Flemish primitive masters, fine woven tapestries, and superb polyphonic music. But did you know that it was also the Golden Age of Flemish illuminated manuscripts?

Starting in 1404, when John the Bold came to power, and ending in 1482 with the death of Mary of Burgundy, wealthy cities like Bruges, Brussels, Ghent, Lille, Tournai, and Valenciennes were beehives of creative activity where artisans, copyists, bookbinders, and miniaturists created illustrated manuscripts for the Burgundian rulers, noble families, the clergy, and the urban bourgeoisie.

For the first time in their history, the Royal Library of Belgium and the [Bibliothèque Nationale de France](#) have joined forces to exhibit more than 140 exceptional illuminated manuscripts, some of which have not been shown to the public in over 50 years, while others have never before been on exhibit.

Event Details

Date: Saturday, December 3

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique, Boulevard de l'Empereur 2, 1000 Brussels. Please enter the Royal Library by the Gutenberg entrance on Mont des Arts/Kunstberg.

Price: €12 for ACB and AWCB members; €17 for non-members

Sign up: Reservations are due by noon on Wednesday, November 30 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 “Miniatures” in the communications section of the *virement*. Cancellations are possible until noon on Wednesday, November 30. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

Note that all coats, bags, and handbags must be checked, so plan on arriving 15 minutes early.

Christmas Cocktail Party



The American Club of Brussels will usher in the Christmas season with a cocktail party on Thursday, December 15 at the new Museum of Letters and Manuscripts (MLM) in the Saint-Hubert Galleries, in the heart of Brussels. This annual ACB event includes entrance to the museum, an English-language videoguide to the temporary exhibition, as well as cava, wines, and soft drinks, accompanied by catered appetizers.

The MLM's inaugural exhibition is dedicated to the Belgian writer Georges Simenon – one of the most prolific writers of the 20th century. It uses manuscripts, typescripts, photographs, first editions, and more to provide a general overview of the life of the creator of Inspector Maigret, from Simenon's early days as a journalist in Liège to his conquest of Paris, and from his residence in the United States after World War II to his return to Europe in the mid-fifties.

The museum's permanent collection includes hundreds of manuscripts by important historical figures dating from the 12th to the 20th centuries. The scripts are displayed in five sections: literature, music, art, science, and history. Belgian artists Hugo Claus, James Ensor, Maurice Maeterlinck, and René Magritte are guaranteed their place of honor for their letters and sketches. Other correspondence presented includes letters of exile by Baudelaire and Victor Hugo.

Join the ACB in raising a glass to a wonderful holiday season and to a happy ending of 2011. Afterwards, you can admire the Grand'Place with all its festive holiday decorations and the giant Christmas tree that dominates the square.

Event Details

Date: Thursday, December 15

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Place: Musée des Lettres et Manuscrits, Galerie du Roi 1, 1000 Brussels

Price: €25 for ACB and AWCB members; €30 for non-members

Sign up: Reservations are due by noon on Monday, December 12 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 "Christmas Cocktail" in the communications section of the *virement*. Cancellations are possible until noon on Monday, December 12. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

Young Membership Happy Hour

Are you a young (under 35) resident of Brussels with an interest in the U.S.A.? Are you a young American living/working/studying in Brussels? If you answered "yes" to either of these questions, join us at the Mantra Café-Bar to meet up with your peers. All nationalities are welcome. Hope to see you there.



Event Details

Date: Friday, November 18

Time: 7:00 p.m. until ???

Place: Mantra Café-Bar, Chaussée de

Boondael 8, 1050 Brussels (Ixelles); www.mantrabar.be

Price: None, aside from the cost of your beverage(s)

Contact: If you have any questions, can't find the group, or would like to know more about the American Club of Brussels, contact Niev Gallagher at niamh.a.gallagher@gmail.com

Community News

Canadian Pub Night / Soirée au Pub

Get together with members of the Canadian Club of Belgium on Friday, November 4 from 7:00 p.m. at Kitty O'Shea's Pub and Restaurant [Boulevard Charlemagne 42, 1040 Brussels (Etterbeek)] for friendly conversation and a few beers. No reservation is required. This is an open event and everyone is welcome.



Gala Benefit Concert

Enjoy a wonderful evening of classical music and support a good cause. Brussels' Royal Conservatory of Music presents its annual benefit concert on Wednesday, November 9, featuring talented students of the music school performing Bruno Mantovani's *Par la Suite*, Lucianco Berio's *o King*, Igor Stravinsky's *Concerto en re*, Carl Philipp and Emanuel Bach's *Concerto doppio pour clavecin et piano*, and Francesco Bianci's *Finale de l'opera "La Morte di Cesare."*



The concert will aid an ambitious project to renovate the conservatory, which is in a shameful state of disrepair. Sponsored by the non-profit group, Conservamus, the goal is to raise €50 million to restore this architectural jewel to its former glory.

Event Details

Date: Wednesday, November 9

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Place: Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles, Rue de la Régence 30, 1000 Brussels

Price: €30/€50

Tickets: BOZAR 02/507.82.00

More information: www.conservamus.be or info@conservamus.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), 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, *John Singer Sargent*, will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 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.

Boston University Culture Night

Everyone is invited to attend Boston University's fifth Annual Culture Night in Brussels on Saturday, November 19, at BU's Brussels campus [Boulevard du Triomphe 174, 1160 Brussels (Auderghem)] starting at 8:00 p.m. This year's theme is *Through the Eyes of a Child*, and you can enjoy an evening of music and art by local musicians and artists of all ages. Refreshments will be served. The event is free of charge, but you must sign up at www.bu.edu/brussels/culture to reserve.

46th Holiday Bazaar

The American Women's Club of Brussels will hold its 46th annual Holiday Bazaar and Charity Tombola on the weekend of November 19-20 at St.-John's International School in Waterloo. Don't miss this wonderful, festive, community event and fundraiser.

Over 100 vendors from all over Europe will be selling beautiful items ranging from gourmet treats to hand-woven shawls, colorful jewelry, Christmas decorations, exquisite linens and stationery, and Polish pottery. There are also dozens of raffle prizes including hotel stays and diamond jewelry. A café will serve homemade food and refreshments. UPS will be on hand the entire weekend to ship packages worldwide at discounted prices. Parking is free.

Event Details**Date:** Saturday, November 19 and Sunday, November 20**Time:** Saturday noon to 7:00 p.m., Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**Place:** St.-John's International School, Drève de Richelle 146, 1410 Waterloo**Admission:** €2 (>16 free)**More information:** www.awcb.org or call the AWCB at 02/358.47.53

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 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 (Watermael-Boitsfort)], near the International School of Brussels. The next meeting is on Wednesday, November 23 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, 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. 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. Fall music includes "Christmas on Broadway," "Medieval Carol Fantasy," and traditional holiday carols and songs. 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.

Christmas in Two Hemispheres

This year's Children's Charity Concert features the musical version of *The Snowman*, Raymond Briggs' enchanting children's classic about a boy who builds a snowman that magically comes to life. The music will be performed by instrumental soloists of La Monnaie Orchestra with Mary Gow on piano, under the direction of Dirk Boiy. Ian Forrester QC will narrate in English.

The program also includes the world premiere of a brand-new opera for children, *The Baboons Who Live by the River*, written by the well-known Scottish author Alexander McCall Smith and composed by Tom Cunningham, a former Brussels resident. Set to jazzy and fun music, the opera tells the story of a baboon colony that lives beside a great river in Africa – a river that flows the wrong way, not into the sea like other rivers – but into the sands of a wide empty area called the Okavango Delta.

Event Details**Date:** Saturday, December 3**Time:** 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.**Place:** Centre Culturel Auderghem, Boulevard du Souverain 183, 1160 Brussels (Auderghem)**Price:** €15, >14 €12**To book, contact:** bxlsnowman2011@gmail.com or call 02/662.17.27

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 (Uccle). Contact Mary Gow at marygow@gmail.com or 02/662.17.27.

The American Club of Brussels
c/o Renaissance Brussels Hotel
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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.