



The American Club of Brussels

News & Events

An International Club with an American Heart

Summer 2012

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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. 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.

MENU

(includes wine and water)

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

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***Dos de Cabillaud de la Mer du Nord
sur Tombée de Witloofs et Beurre Blanc***
(North Sea Codfish
with Belgian Endives and a White Butter Sauce)

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

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Le Moka et ses Mignardises
(coffee and sweets)

The Ommegang takes place each year on the first Thursday in July and the preceding Tuesday (this year, Tuesday, July 3 and Thursday, July 5). 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. Descendants 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 5

Time:

- Open cash bar: 7:00 p.m.
- Dinner: 8:00 p.m.

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

Price: €75 for ACB, AWCB, and Irish Club of Belgium members; €85 for non-members

Dress code: Coat and tie requested

Sign up: Reservations are due by noon on Monday, July 2 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 "ommegang" in the communications section of the *virement*. Cancellations are possible until noon on Monday, July 2. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

Final Friday Cocktails

Friday, June 29
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



Renaissance Brussels Hotel
(ground floor near the bar)
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.

No reservation is required. Bring a guest or two.

Dates to Remember

- Friday, June 29: Final Friday Cocktails
 - Sunday, July 1: American Independence Day celebrations and picnic with the American Women's Club of Brussels at their clubhouse in Rhode St.-Genèse (see article)
 - Thursday, July 5: Ommegang pageant and dinner at La Maison du Cygne, Brussels (see article)
 - Friday, July 27: Final Friday Cocktails at Le Chalet Robinson
 - Friday, August 31: Final Friday Cocktails
 - Thursday, September 13: Joint Gala Dinner with AmCham Belgium with U.S. Ambassador Howard W. Gutman
 - Thursday, September 13: Antwerp Expat Welcome Party at the Radisson Blu Park Lane Hotel, Antwerp
 - Friday, September 21: Members-Only Dine-Out at O-Liban
 - Friday, September 28: Final Friday Cocktails
 - October: Pioneers' Dinner (TBD)
 - Friday, October 26: Final Friday Cocktails
 - Tuesday, November 6: U. S. Election Night party
 - Thursday, November 22: Thanksgiving Dinner at the Sheraton Hotel, Brussels
 - Friday, November 30: Final Friday Cocktails
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Independence Day Picnic



This year's Independence Day celebration takes place on Sunday, July 1 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. Aspiring chefs are also needed to help with the barbecue.

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 side dish or a salad 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 Wednesday, June 27.

Not a Member Yet?

Membership in the American Club of Brussels entitles you to a number of unique benefits. They include:

- The opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities and events at club prices
- Receive the monthly newsletter, *News & Events*, and all other club publications
- Enjoy a ready-made social circle of friends from around the world
- Special opportunities for members to volunteer, suggest or organize specific club activities that appeal to you, such as a guided visit, bridge, snooker, squash, tennis, golf and bowling
- Day trips to interesting towns and villages in the surrounding areas
- Automatic membership in the Association of American Clubs (AAC) and reciprocal benefits from clubs around the world
- Invitations to members-only events
- Unique international business and social networking opportunities
- Keeping in touch with American culture and traditions
- Being appraised of expat community events
- Getting to know Belgium through American expat eyes

Additional Benefits

- A three-issue free trial to *The Bulletin* magazine
- A free one-time, one-hour consultation on U.S. tax matters with Deloitte
- The ISB Advantage Card that provides discounts at a number of shops, restaurants and services in the Brussels area. Visit www.isb.be/advantage for complete information on the card

Individual Membership

There are several classes of membership for individuals. For all classes of individual membership, the annual dues include spouse, partner, and children; it is a family membership.

- **Youth** (under 35): €70 per year
six-month membership = €40
- **Student**: €40 per year
Students at Boston University and Fulbright scholars: €30 per year
- **Individual**: €140 per year
six-month membership = €80
- **Retiree** (65 or older): €70 per year
- **Non-Resident** (not living in Belgium): €35 per year

Advance Notice

Members-Only Dine-Out at O-Liban



Let's start the new fall season with something completely different – an ACB members-only Dine-Out at O-Liban. Located in the Bascule area of Ixelles, O-Liban features Lebanese cuisine, with the emphasis on fresh and spicy *mezze* (think *hommus*, *tabouleh*, *baba ghanouch*, and *falafel*) and hearty skewered meat dishes grilled over an open fire. Washed down with a glass or two of Spanish wine or a bottle of Lebanese beer, and topped off with a typical Middle Eastern sweet for dessert, you have the ingredients for a fine evening out. There's even entertainment in the form of a *danseuse orientale* – but more about that later.

Mark your calendars now for Friday, September 21, starting at 7:00 p.m. at O-Liban, Chaussée de Vleurgat 324, 1050 Brussels. Look for details in the September edition of *News & Events*.

Community News

Canadian Pub Night / Soirée au Pub



Join members of the Canadian Club of Belgium on Friday, July 6, from 7:00 p.m. at Bier Circus, Rue de l'Enseignement 57, 1000 Brussels for friendly conversation and a few beers. No reservation is required. This is an open event and everyone is welcome.

Celebrate the Fourth of July with Democrats Abroad Belgium



Democrats Abroad Belgium (DAB) will host its own Independence Day celebration on Saturday, July 7, including a barbecue, a cupcake-baking competition, plus face-painting, games, and arts and crafts for the kids.

Americans and non-Americans are welcome to attend. Reasonably priced food (a barbecue menu with children's and vegetarian options) and drinks will be available for purchase.

Activities

Barbecue, bouncy castle, trampoline, sand box, playground

Face-painting

Horseshoe-throwing and other games and activities

Cupcake competition

English-language book and movie sale (we're soliciting your donations of books and DVDs for adults and children)

If enough people donate, we'll have a fireworks show

We are looking for volunteers to help out: bakers to bake and children to judge/eat, face-painting artists, donations of English-language books and movies for adults and children, other varied volunteer tasks such as manning a booth.

Event Details

Date: Saturday, July 7

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Place: Solvay Sports Club, Avenue du Pérou 80, 1000 Brussels (across from the Hippodrome of Watermael-Boitsfort, just off Avenue Franklin Roosevelt)

Price: There will be a recommended voluntary donation of €5 per person, plus €2 to help defray the costs of the fireworks show

Sign up: RSVP to <https://conveneonline.wufoo.com/forms/dab-independence-day-2012-celebration>. Or email to membership-be@democratsabroad.org

The Brussels Bookswappers Club

One Wednesday evening a month, booklovers get together to swap books that are gathering dust on their shelves. Come along with any number of books you wish to exchange for 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 Le Chapelier Fou (formerly Aux Enfants Terribles), Chaussée de la Hulpe 190, 1170 Brussels (Watermael-Boitsfort), near the International School of Brussels. The next two meetings are on Wednesday, July 25 and Wednesday, August 29 starting at 7:00 p.m. at the bar on the first floor. If you wish to receive further information or to be put on the club's mailing list, contact Karen at abkginfo@skynet.be.

Out & About in Belgium with Nancy Kapstein

A link to the Summer issue will be sent to you soon.

<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The ACB is a great way to expand your circle of friends and to discover more of the delights of Belgium. Try us.</p>
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