



The American Club of Brussels

News & Events

An International Club with an American Heart

March 2013

- A Guided Visit to the Brussels Parliament
 - Dates to Remember
 - We Do More for Members
 - Deloitte U.S. Tax Seminar
 - Join the ACB's First Virtual Event: March Madness
 - ETHAN ALLEN Invites American Club Members
 - St. Patrick's Day Ball
 - Join the ACB on a Skeet-Shooting Afternoon
 - Final Friday Cocktails
 - Introducing - Hard Rock Cafe
 - Shen Yun – An Ancient Culture Reborn
-

A Guided Visit to the Brussels Parliament



Join us on Friday, March 22nd, for a guided visit to the Brussels Parliament. The Brussels Parliament is the governing body of the Brussels-Capital Region, one of the three regions of Belgium. The first elections to the parliament were held in June 1989 and are held every five years. The current Parliament consists of 72 Francophone members and 17 Dutch-language members. The main role of the Brussels Parliament is to control the government of the Brussels-Capital Region, to approve the budget and create and pass legislation in regional matters.

The building itself is an interesting mix of architectural styles: most of the building dates back to the early 20th century, although it has had modern renovations, namely the hemicycle on the top floor, and some wings date back to the 17th century.

A drink will be offered at the end of the tour, which will cover both the architecture of the building as well as the institutional role of the Brussels Parliament within the framework of Belgian governmental institutions. Our host will be Mr. Van Damme, a member of the Brussels Parliament.

Please note that this visit is limited to 25 people.

Event Details

Date: Friday, March 22, 2013

Time: 5-7 p.m.

Place: Brussels Parliament, rue du Lombard 69, 1000 Brussels

Price: €10 for members, €20 for non-members.

Public Transportation: Metro: Gare Centrale/Centraal Station; buses 48 and 95: Parlement Bruxellois

Sign up: Reservations are due by noon on Wednesday, March 20 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 "Parliament" in the communications section of the *virement*. Cancellations are possible until noon on Wednesday, March 20. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

Dates to Remember

- March 6: Tax Seminar organized by Deloitte
- March 14: Dine-Out, Save the Date; details to be sent by e-mail
- March 15: Final day to enter March Madness
- March 16: Ethan Allen Workshop
- March 16: St. Patrick's Day Ball, with the Irish Club
- March 22: Guided visit of the Brussels Parliament
- March 23: Skeet Shooting
- March 29: Final Friday, Metropole Hotel
- April 21: Jazz Brunch at the Sheraton Hotel
- May 11: Guided visit to the art collections of Katoen-Natie in Antwerp
- May 22: Lunch Conference on Expatriation and Dual Nationality, with the American Chamber
- July 2: Annual Ommegang dinner at La Maison du Cygne

We Do More for Members

The American Club Board strives to do more for its members and has therefore recently voted to increase the differential between member and non-member prices for events. In addition, members of associate organizations, i.e. alumni groups and the American Women's Club, will no longer be able to attend events at the member price. It has also been decided to sponsor more Member-Only events in 2013.

These steps will increase the benefits of being a member of ACB, in addition to the already existing American Club/ISB Advantage Card that provides discounts at a number of shops, restaurants and services in the Brussels area. A free one-time, one-hour consultation on U.S. tax matters with Deloitte is also a perk of membership.

So, if you have neglected to pay your 2013 dues, please do so now.

If you are not a member, consider joining the most vibrant organization in town.

Individual Member: €140/year

Young Member: €70/year

Retired Member: €70/year

Non-Resident Member: €35/year

American Club of Brussels account number: BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB).



Deloitte U.S. Tax Seminar

As a U.S. citizen or Green Card holder, you have a U.S. tax filing obligation to declare your worldwide income each year. However, the U.S. Tax Code can be difficult to navigate – even more so now with the newly enacted tax legislation. We can help. Join us at Deloitte's tax seminar and get the answers to all of your U.S. tax questions. A team of Deloitte experts will provide an update on the latest U.S. tax changes, discuss the international tax implications while overseas and tax planning strategies, and set you on the right path to U.S. tax compliance.

Topics to be covered during the seminar include:

- Income tax updates;
- Estate tax;
- New reporting requirements for foreign financial assets;
- Increased focus on Passive Foreign Investment Companies and Foreign Trusts.

Event Details

Date: Wednesday, March 6

Time: 5:30 p.m. registration, Seminar - 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., followed by Q&A and cocktails

Place: Deloitte, Berkenlaan 8A (Grand Place Room), 1831 Diegem

Price: €10 for ACB and AWCB members; €15 for non-members

Sign up: Reservations are due by end of business day on Friday, March 1 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 BE55 4279 1958 8144 (BIC/SWIFT: KREDBEBB) will confirm your reservation. Be sure to mention "Tax Seminar" in the communications section of the *virement*. Note that cancellations are possible until noon on Monday, March 4. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

Join the ACB's First Virtual Event

Are you missing the Hoops Hysteria? Maybe you think you are lucky enough to pick the winner?

The American Club of Brussels is hosting its first annual NCAA Basketball March Madness pool and it is open to all!



Contact us directly at info@americanclubbrussels.org and let us know you'll be joining in on the fun and how many brackets you would like to participate with and we will send you an email with the invitation to the league and all of the details. Reservations and payments can be made now through Friday, March 15th.

Each bracket submitted (you can submit more than just one) is €10. Payment can be made directly to the American Club of Brussels at BE55427919588144.

The madness officially begins on Sunday, March 17th when the final brackets are released. Final submissions are made before the games begin on March 19th.

It's easy and fun! And there are prizes!

1st Place – 40%

2nd Place – 20%

3rd Place – 10%

4th, 5th, and 6th Places – Two free drinks at an American Club Final Friday

There is no reason to miss March Madness!

ETHAN ALLEN Invites American Club Members

The leading American luxury furniture company ETHAN ALLEN invites the American Club Members to its "New Year, New Hue" workshop.



Where? The Brussels Design Center, Place du Grand Sablon, 37, 1000 Brussels

When? Saturday 16 March, from 10:30 a.m. till 12:30 p.m.

RSVP by March 13: Ethan Allen Brussels, telephone 02/840.65.00 or by e-mail, info@brussels.ethanallen.com

Bring a picture of a room that may need some color! This can be a real room from your home or a picture you downloaded from the internet.

At the workshop you will receive Ethan Allen gifts and an exclusive brunch!

Our advice may be limitless; our seats are not. Call or email us today!

St. Patrick's Day Ball

Fancy a five-star dinner, a spectacular Riverdance-style performance, and a whirl around the dance floor? Join the Irish Club of Belgium at their annual St.-Patrick's Day Ball, this year to be held at the Concert Noble on Saturday, March 16.

Members of the American Club of Brussels are welcome to attend this elegant, black-tie event for the advantageous members' price of only €80. To get the reduced price, you must be a fully paid-up member of the ACB and register with our offices, by email (info@americanclubbrussels.org) or by telephone to the ACB Office Manager (02/219.58.08). This offer is not extended to our associate organizations; i.e., alumni groups or the American Women's Club.

This popular event has sold out in previous years, so book early. A table will be reserved for the American Club of Brussels. Join your fellow ACB members for a delightful evening of fun and frolic.

Remember, on St.-Patrick's Day, everyone is Irish!

Event Details

Date: Saturday, March 16

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m.

Place: Concert Noble, Rue d'Arlon 82, 1000 Brussels

Price: €80 for fully paid-up ACB members; associate organizations do not qualify.

Dress: Black-tie for men (a dark business suit is also acceptable). Formal evening gowns for women.

Sign-up: Before noon on Friday, March 8, at the **ACB office**, by email (info@americanclubbrussels.org) or by telephone to the ACB Office Manager (02/219.58.08).

Payment: **Irish Club of Belgium**, account number ING 310-1486500-61 (IBAN BE62310148650061). Please mention "**ACB ball**" in the communications section of the *virement*.

Join the ACB on a Skeet-Shooting Afternoon



We promise you an exciting afternoon on Saturday, March 23, starting at 14.30 pm sharp. We will be welcomed by Werner Ceulemans, owner of the Klein Brabantse Shooting Club. After a short briefing we will go directly on the field with our instructors. Guns, bullets and clays will be provided by the club.

Afterward the skeet-shooting, you can share your experiences while having a drink at the cozy clubhouse. Don't hesitate to sign up; we can have a maximum of 20 people.

Hopefully we will have a dry and sunny winter afternoon!

Event Details

Date: Saturday, March 23, 2013

Time: 2:30-5:00 p.m.

Place: Klein Brabantse Shooting Club, Gansbroekstraat 66, 2870 Ruisbroek (near Boom on the A12)

Price: €65 for ACB members; €75 for non-members

Dress code: Warm clothes

Sign up: Reservations are due by noon on Monday, March 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 "Skeet Shooting" in the communications section of the *virement*. Cancellations are possible until noon on Monday, March 18. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

Final Friday Cocktails

Friday, March 29, 2013

6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Metropole Hotel

(ground floor near the bar)

Place De Brouckère 31

1000 Brussels

Cash bar open to all. Newcomers to Belgium and prospective ACB members are especially welcome.

No reservation is required. Bring a guest or two.

Introducing - Hard Rock Cafe



This is the fourth in a series of articles highlighting the ACB's corporate members. Hard Rock Café is new in town and has lost no time in joining The American Club and introducing itself to our membership.



Belgium's capital is ready to rock! The brand new Hard Rock Cafe in Brussels, located in the heart of the city's historic Grand Place, will rock your senses with tantalizing food and drinks and an awe-inspiring rock memorabilia collection. Priceless pieces from legends John Lennon, The Who, The Sex Pistols, Bono, Jimi Hendrix and Elvis Presley grace the cafe walls along with more contemporary items including a stage costume worn by Madonna.

Blending the city's bohemian, eclectic feel with the energy and vibe of the Hard Rock brand, the cafe is located in a restored 16th Century building and delivers a Hard Rock experience unique to the City of Brussels. The cafe has more than 5,800 square-feet of space, including spacious seating for 150, a live music area for weekly events, a late night lounge and a merchandise-filled Rock Shop.

At Hard Rock Cafe Brussels you can organize authentic and unique events. A live music event or DJ party, meetings, cocktail receptions... you name it; there are endless possibilities for gatherings in the event spaces at Hard Rock Cafe Brussels. Enjoy the benefits of top-of-the-line technology, property-wide WiFi access, late night music licensing, rock star service and much more.

For more than 40 years, Hard Rock has offered guests classic American fare in a rock 'n' roll atmosphere. Hard Rock Cafe Brussels will be the ideal location to showcase the brand's world-famous cuisine, including Hard Rock's Legendary Burgers, signature Smokehouse items and more. In addition to its food, Hard Rock offers unmatched specialty drinks from its award-winning bar menu, from Hurricanes and Margaritas, to its Alternative Rock non-alcoholic beverage menu featuring favorites like Wildberry Smoothies and Crushed Velvet "martinis."

Hard Rock Café Brussels
Grand-Place 12A, 1000 Brussels
Phone: 02 546 16 67
Hours: Every Day, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Metro: De Brouckere

Shen Yun - An Ancient Culture Reborn



Every legend has its history. Every story has its truths. And the best are rarely forgotten.

For the past 5,000 years, China has amassed a diverse legacy of heroes, myths, and values that still resonate in the present. Today, Shen Yun Performing Arts is reviving the essence of traditional Chinese culture in full color on stages around the world. In March, the company will be back in Brussels at Theatre National.

"It was an extraordinary experience," said Academy Award-winning actress Cate Blanchett after watching Shen Yun. "The level of skill, but also the power of the archetypes and the narratives were startling. And of course it was exquisitely beautiful."

Gorgeous backdrops extend the stage, transporting the audience to distant lands and eras. An orchestra like no other accompanies the dancers with stirring scores played on Western and Chinese instruments.

Ride with Mongolians across endless steppes. Recall the grandeur of an ancient Tang Dynasty palace. Down in the valley, ladies of the Yi ethnic group dance in rainbow skirts by the river. High up in the heavens, celestial fairies trail silken sleeves through the clouds. Resounding drums awaken the dusty plateaus of the Middle Kingdom.

Shen Yun strives to capture the spirit of traditional Chinese culture and beliefs. Ancient literary classics extol the compassionate, courageous, and loyal - values embodied by the most memorable characters. Thrill in the triumph of the great General Yue Fei; cheer on the Monkey King as he tricks a stubborn foe; and witness how these values still endure in contemporary China.

Shen Yun bridges past and present in an uplifting, inspiring and unforgettable performance.

Shen Yun will be performing at Theatre National, March 11, 12 and 13.

<http://www.shenyunperformingarts.org/brussels>

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.