



# News & Events

January 2016

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The American Club of Brussels is one of the oldest American clubs in Europe. An international club with an American heart, it was founded in 1921 to foster Belgian-American relations.

[www.americanclubbrussels.org](http://www.americanclubbrussels.org) – [info@americanclubbrussels.org](mailto:info@americanclubbrussels.org)



[Photos Past Events](#)

## Editorial



Dear American Club Members and Friends,

At a special meeting held on December 11, 2015, the Board of Governors elected a new president of the club – Brian Dunhill. Mr. Dunhill replaces Marcia Doyle who had served three years as president and who will remain a member of the Board of Governors. Mr. Dunhill has been active with the Board for four years and has served on the Executive Committee for two years.

The following slate of members for the new Executive Committee was presented by Mr. Dunhill and approved by the Board.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Melissa Rancourt  
Vice President/Secretary, Maggie Nicholson  
Vice President, Jo Ann Broger  
Vice President, John Stuyck  
Treasurer, Dick Sheridan

The Board passed a motion of thanks to Ms. Doyle for her excellent leadership during her tenure. She then thanked all the members of the Executive Committee and Board for their unstinting support and especially mentioned Mieke Vispoel, the club's administrator, as a talented and diligent member of the committee.

The Board also accepted the resignation from the Board of Inez Schreiden and confirmed the appointment to the Board of Esther Lemmens, Peter Forrest and Kiki Forrest.

We were pleased to see more than seventy of you in attendance at the magnificent Holiday Reception held on December 18 at KBC's Grand-Place Offices. It was a fitting start to the celebrations for our 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We will be continuing the special events on January 23 with a gala dinner-dance to be held at magnificent BOZAR,

designed by the famous Belgian architect Victor Horta, and centrally located near the Mont des Arts and the Central Station. You will find full details elsewhere in this newsletter.

We would like to wish all of our members and supporters a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous and healthy 2016. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Best wishes,  
The Board of Governors  
The American Club of Brussel

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**Upcoming Events – Details: p. 6 ff.**



**Shopping at Maasmechelen Village**

Sunday, January 10 – 10:00 a.m.

[Event details](#)



**Linguistics Café Session**

Sunday, January 10 – 3:00-4:00 p.m.

[Event details](#)



**CCB/ACB/AWCB Reading Group**

Wednesday, January 13 – 7:00-9:00 p.m.

[Event details](#)



**Dine-Out at Le Chou de Bruxelles**

Thursday, January 14 – 7:00 p.m.

[Event details](#)



**Film "Searching for Augusta" & dinner at the Hard Rock Café**

Thursday, January 21 – 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### **ACB 95th Anniversary Gala Dinner Dance**

Saturday, January 23 – 7:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.

[Event details](#)



### **Final Friday at Vesalius College**

Friday, January 29 – 6:30-9:00 p.m.

[Event details](#)



### **Guided Visit to the Belfius Art Collection**

Saturday, February 6 – 2:45 p.m.

[Event details](#)

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## **Other Dates to Remember**



- Sunday, February 7 – Super Bowl Event
- February 21 – Guided visit of *Art in the Metro*
- February 26 – Final Friday at the Métropole Hotel

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## **Member News – New Activity**



### **F.B.I. (Fumblers Bridge Institute)**

A group of ACB members would like to restart an activity popular in the past, Fumblers Bridge Institute (FBI). This social bridge group is primarily for those who have not played recently and want to get back into the game. Or those who just wish to play with friends without the somewhat rigid rules of the organized bridge clubs.

We nibble, drink, chat and play. We even discuss the hands and use our own Cheat Sheet when frantic, all in good fun. If you take your bridge seriously and get mad when your partner trumps your trick, then we're not for you.

If you are interested in joining us one evening in a player's home (usually weekend evenings), or just want more information, give Lis Smith a call on 02/345.86.63 or 0476/34.13.10.

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### Hard Rock Cafe



For more than 40 years, the Hard Rock brand has offered to its visitors the best of America's kitchen in a rock 'n' roll atmosphere . Located on one of the most beautiful square in the world, Hard Rock Cafe Brussels is THE iconic hotspot of the city which will rock your senses with tantalizing food and drinks in the midst of an awe-inspiring rock memorabilia collection. Priceless pieces from legends John Lennon, Bono, Jimi Hendrix and Elvis Presley grace the cafe walls along with more contemporary items including a stage costume worn by Madonna.

Discover our world-famous kitchen brand with our Legendary Burgers, our typical smoker dishes, our famous Hot Fudge Brownie and much more. In addition to the dining options, Hard Rock offers a bar menu with a range of delicious cocktails like none other, from Hurricanes and Margaritas to soft drinks and Alternative Rock classics like Wildberry Smoothies and Crushed Velvet martinis.

Host an unforgettable event at Hard Rock Cafe Brussels in the heart of the historic Grand Place. Our 16th Century building is the perfect backdrop for your event, including birthday celebrations, corporate meetings, receptions and team building. We offer four indoor spaces for you to choose from or you can buy out our entire cafe for one epic party. Our full-service Brussels event venue can accommodate anywhere from 14-150 guests, depending on the space and layout you choose.

"LOVE ALL, Serve ALL" is more than just our motto. It is our attitude, our way of life and what you can expect when you partner for your next meeting or event.

**Hard Rock Cafe Brussels**  
**Grand-Place 12A**  
**1000 Brussels**  
**02/546.16.60**

<http://www.hardrock.com/cafes/brussels>

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## Our Corporate Sponsors

The American Club of Brussels is supported by the following companies:  
(Special ACB member benefits listed below company logo)

				
	Sponsor of major ACB events	Sponsor of major ACB events	One free initial consultation (1 hour)	
				
		Sponsor of major ACB events		
				
				One free initial consultation (½ hour)
				
Free account with no transaction charges		10% discount for ACB members		



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## A Unique Visit to Maasmechelen Village



Are you a shopaholic? Or just a thrifty shopper looking for outstanding items at discount prices? If so, then do join us on Sunday, January 10 for a very special event at Maasmechelen Village.

Discerning shoppers have discovered the place to find leading designer labels at exceptional prices. Maasmechelen Village is home to more than 100 luxurious boutiques offering leading local and international brands at reduced prices all year round. Shopping is a real pleasure here thanks to the spacious 21st-century village-style setting that lends itself to a relaxed and stress-free atmosphere.

Maasmechelen Village is one of the ACB's corporate members and is offering an outstanding event for our members. Chauffeured transportation to and from Maasmechelen Village will be provided. Upon arrival, we will be met by a hostess who will accompany us to a private VIP lounge, where welcome drinks, champagne and lunch will be waiting for us. We will receive a short explanation about the January sales and a Boutique Directory. After a day of shopping, the chauffeur will drive us back to Brussels at 5:30 p.m.

Please note that this visit is limited to 35 people and is a Members Priority Event.

### **Event Details:**

**Date:** Sunday, January 10, 2016

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Place:** Renaissance Brussels Hotel, rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Brussels

**Price:** €15. ACB, AWCB, CCB members pay a discounted price of €10.

**Public Transportation:** Buses 12, 21, 22, 34, 38, 64, 80 and 95: Luxembourg

**Sign up:** Reservations are due by noon on Monday, January 4 by email ([info@americanclubbrussels.org](mailto:info@americanclubbrussels.org)), online at [www.americanclubbrussels.org](http://www.americanclubbrussels.org), or by telephone to the ACB Office Manager (0476/996.870). Non-members will be accepted after December 28 on a "space available" basis. Payment to ACB at BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB) will confirm your reservation. Be sure to mention "Maasmechelen" in the communications section of the *virement*.

Cancellations are possible until noon on Monday, January 4. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

## «Parlez-vous français?» Linguistics Café Session



The purpose of this gathering is for those learning French to get a chance to practice their conversational French basics. Conversely, French speakers seeking to practice conversational English are also welcome. Please RSVP and join us as we practice our French during 15 minute interval chats! This event is free for ACB, AWCB and CCB members; non-members pay a €5 fee. Coffee and drinks will be available for purchase at the bar beforehand.

### **Event details:**

**Date:** Sunday, January 10, 2016

**Time:** 3:00-4:00 p.m.

**Venue:** Hotel Métropole (Bar "Le 31"), Place de Brouckèreplein 31, 1000 Brussels

**Directions:** The closest metro stop to Hotel Métropole is De Brouckère. There is no street parking available for this location. Please see maps of hotel location in relation to the metro stop here: <http://www.metropolehotel.com/files/maps/map-en.pdf>

**Price:** €5. Free for ACB, AWCB and CCB members.

**Sign up:** Reservations are due by morning of the event, online at [www.americanclubbrussels.org](http://www.americanclubbrussels.org), or by telephone to the ACB Office Manager (0476/996.870). Payment to ACB at BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB) will confirm your reservation. Be sure to mention "French" in the communications section of the *virement*.

Cancellations are possible until noon on Saturday, January 9. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

The Canadian Club of Belgium, The American Club of Brussels &  
The American Women's Club of Brussels  
welcome you to our **Reading Group**  
on the second Wednesday of the month

**(CCB, ACB and AWCB members only)**

We ask you to present a book of your choice (American or Canadian authors preferred) that you have read and really enjoyed. This will give all members, passionate about reading, a chance to read and discuss different literary genres.

Even if you have not read the selected book and if you do not have a book you wish to present, please feel free to join us anyway – even at the last minute.

**Reading Group Contact**

(also for venue details)

**Geneviève Bergiers**

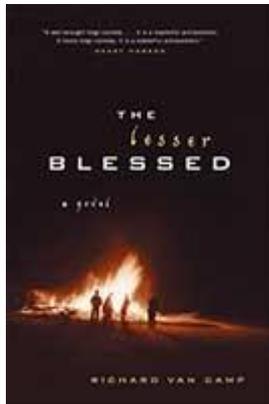
Tel. 02/660.57.65

[genevieve@chiropractorbergiers.be](mailto:genevieve@chiropractorbergiers.be)

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**January 13 – 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

**Presented by Laura Richard**



***The Lesser Blessed***

by Richard van Camp (Canada)

Set in Canada's desolate Northwest Territories, the home province of the author, this critically acclaimed novel tells the coming of age of Larry, a Native Canadian teenager. On the surface he is a typical teenage boy, who loves music and has a crush on a local girl. But Larry is also haunted by a dark and abusive past he must learn to come to terms with. Van Camp has written several short stories and children's fiction, but *The Lesser Blessed*, which has also been turned into a film, remains his best known work.

**Venue:** Laura's place

**Friday, February 19 !!! – 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

**Margie Kanter**, an American writer living in Spain but touring in Brussels, will present her own book.

More details to be published soon.

**More info about the Clubs:**

- The Canadian Club of Belgium: [www.cbcCanada.be](http://www.cbcCanada.be)
- The American Women's Club of Brussels: [www.awcb.org](http://www.awcb.org)
- The American Club of Brussels: [www.americanclubbrussels.org](http://www.americanclubbrussels.org)

## Dine-Out at Le Chou de Bruxelles



The January dine-out, which will take place on January 14, will be at the Chou de Bruxelles, a new Belgian restaurant established just over twenty years ago. The Chou offers us the menu below at a price of €45 (€40 euros for American Club members).

Please sign up with the Club as soon as possible. Let's make the first Dine-Out of the new year a really well-attended event.

There is no need to make your selections in advance. This can be done on the evening.

### **MENU**

*Apéritif et amuse-bouche*

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*Carpaccio de boeuf*

or

*Duo de croquette aux crevettes et fondue au fromage*

or

*Scampi a la bière blanche ou à l'ail*

or

*Saumon fumé*

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*Souris d'agneau à la Leffe*

or

*Filet de bar a l'ostendaise*

or

*Magret de canard à la Kriek*

or

*Moules frites*

• • •

*Glace au spéculoos*

or

*Ananas frais*

or

*Mousse au chocolat*

• • •

*Café*

**Event Details:**

**Place:** Le Chou de Bruxelles, Florencestraat 26 Rue de Florence, 1050 Brussels

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Price:** €45. ACB, AWCB, CCB members pay a discounted price of €40.

**Public Transportation:** Le Chou de Bruxelles is an approximately 5 minute walk from the 'Defacqz' tram stop on lines 94 and 93.

**Sign up:** Reservations are due by noon on Wednesday, January 13, online at [www.americanclubbrussels.org](http://www.americanclubbrussels.org), by email ([info@americanclubbrussels.org](mailto:info@americanclubbrussels.org)), or by telephone to the ACB Office Manager (0476/996.870).

Cancellations are possible until that time. Participants canceling later, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

## Film and Dinner at the Hard Rock Café



Please join us as the American Club of Brussels welcomes producer Martin King for an exclusive viewing of his film ***Searching for Augusta, the Forgotten Angel of Bastogne***.

The documentary, winner of a historical Emmy Award, features the story of Renée Lemaire, known as Anna. Anna, 'the Forgotten Angel of Bastogne' was born in the Belgian Congo and trained as a nurse in Leuven. The film honors her heroism for risking her life to treat injured soldiers during the Battle of the Bulge.

There will be two showings of the film at the Huis van het Nederlands with brief introductions from producer Martin King.

Dinner at the Hard Rock Café will follow each of the showings. The menu is as follows:

### **Jumbo Combo**

A delectable array of their most popular starters  
that is big enough to share:  
spinach artichoke dip, hickory-smoked  
chicken wings,  
onion rings, potato skins and Tupelo chicken  
tenders,  
all served with three different sauces  
for mixing and matching

### **Choice of Main Courses**

Grilled salmon topped with Maitre d'Hôtel  
butter and served with mashed potatoes and  
fresh vegetables

or

Hard Rock's legendary burger topped with  
seasoned bacon, two slices of Cheddar  
cheese,  
a crisp fried onion ring, lettuce, tomato, and  
pickles

### **Dessert**

Hard Rock Café Brownie

The viewing of the film is €10 for ACB, AWCB and CCB members and €20 for non-members. All proceeds from the documentary viewing will go to the Augusta Chiwy Foundation or the Community Help Service (CHS). Guests will be able to choose which charity they would like their proceeds to go to upon registration.

Learn more about each charity here:

<http://augustachiwy.org> • <http://www.chs-belgium.org/home/>

### **Event Details:**

**Date:** Thursday, January 21, 2016

**Time:** 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Dinner to follow immediately after each showing.

**Place:**

– Film: Huis van het Nederlands, Rue Philippe de Champagnestraat 23, 1000 Brussels

– Dinner: Hard Rock Café, Grand-Place 12, 1000 Brussels

**Price:**

– Film: €20. ACB/AWCB/CCB members receive a discounted price of €10.

– Dinner: €35

**Sign up:** Reservations are due by noon on Monday, January 18, online at [www.americanclubbrussels.org](http://www.americanclubbrussels.org), by e-mail ([info@americanclubbrussels.org](mailto:info@americanclubbrussels.org)), or by telephone to the ACB Office Manager (0476/996.870).

Payment in advance to ACB account BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB). Please mention "Augusta" in the reference section of the bank transfer.

Cancellations are possible until noon on Monday, January 18. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.



Join us on Saturday, January 23, 2016, to celebrate the Club's 95th anniversary!

We cordially invite you to a gala dinner dance at the magnificent BOZAR, designed by the famous Belgian architect Victor Horta, and centrally located near the Mont des Arts and the Central Station.

At 7:00 p.m., we will welcome you in the beautiful Rotonde Bertouille with champagne and a wide selection of delicious zakouskis while you listen to fabulous music provided by the SHAPE band.

At 8:00 p.m., we will move to the Horta Banquet Hall for a three-course dinner, including white and red wines and water. The menu will be:

Spighe filled with ricotta,  
pumpkin cream with spinach,  
shavings of  
Tuscany truffles and Pecorino cheese

Supreme of farm chicken,  
morels infusion,  
Gratin of chard with bone marrow,  
biscuit of parsnip and celeriac  
with aged Parmigiana cheese

Birthday cake

After dinner, a cash bar will be available. Throughout the evening, we will enjoy fabulous music provided by the SHAPE band so you can dance the night away or just enjoy drinks from the cash bar.

The all-inclusive price for this memorable event is €95 for ACB/AWCB/CCB members and €115 for non-members.

We hope to see many of you present for what promises to be a very memorable evening in a very prestigious setting!

**Event Details:**

**Date:** Saturday, January 23, 2016

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m.

**Place:** BOZAR, Rue Baron Horta 11, 1000 Brussels.  
(On the left hand side of Bozar and up the stairs)

**Dress Code:** Black tie.

**Price:** €115. ACB/AWCB/CCB members receive a discounted price of €95.

**Public Transportation:** Metro: Gare Centrale/Centraal Station; buses 38 and 71: Bozar; trams 92, 93: Palais/Paleizen.

**Sign up:** Reservations are due by noon on Tuesday, January 19, online at [www.americanclubbrussels.org](http://www.americanclubbrussels.org), by email ([info@americanclubbrussels.org](mailto:info@americanclubbrussels.org)), or by telephone to the ACB Office Manager (0476/996.870). Payment to ACB at BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB) will confirm your reservation. Be sure to mention "95th Anniversary" in the communications section of the *virement*.

Cancellations are possible until noon on Tuesday, January 19. Participants canceling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.

## Final Friday Cocktails

**Friday, January 29, 2016**

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



**Vesalius College  
Pleinlaan 5 Boulevard de la Plaine  
1050 Brussels**

The American Club of Brussels and the American Women's Club are happy to welcome friends from other American clubs and associations. And anyone else that would like to join us...

Cash bar open to all.

Newcomers to Belgium and prospective ACB and AWCB members are especially welcome. No reservation is required. Bring a guest or two.

## A Bank Vault Full of Art



Join us on Saturday, February 6, at Belfius Bank and take an elevator up to a bank vault full of art. The Belgian bank Belfius (formerly Dexia) has been collecting Belgian art since 1960 and its collection comprises more than 4,500 works. It is considered to be one of the largest private collections in Belgium.

The permanent collection includes works from many Belgian artists of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (James Ensor, Rik Wouters, René Magritte, Paul Delvaux...) and contemporary art (Luc Tuymans, Wim Delvoye, Berlinde De Bruyckere, Hans Op de Beeck...)

We will see a selection of the most beautiful works from their collection, from the Flemish masters to contemporary artists, with special attention given to the works of Pierre Paul Rubens, on display especially for this occasion.

Our guide will once again be Mrs. Lieve Dejonghe, who has so expertly shown us several exhibitions and the Hôtel Solvay. The guided tour will last approximately 1½ hours. After the tour there will be the possibility to have coffee or a drink with the other participants.

Please note that this visit is limited to 20 people.

### **Event Details:**

**Date:** Saturday, February 6, 2016

**Time:** 2:45 p.m.

**Place:** Belfius Bank, Tour Centrale, Place Rogier 11, 1210 Brussels

**Price:** €20. ACB, AWCB, and CCB members receive a discounted fee of €15.

**Public Transportation:** Metro: Rogier; trams 3, 4, & 61: Rogier.

**Sign up:** Reservations are due by noon on Wednesday, February 3, online at [www.americanclubbrussels.org](http://www.americanclubbrussels.org), by email ([info@americanclubbrussels.org](mailto:info@americanclubbrussels.org)), or by telephone to the ACB Office Manager (0476/996.870). Payment to ACB at BE55427919588144 (KREDBEBB) will confirm your reservation. Be sure to mention "Belfius" in the communications section of the *virement*.

Cancellations are possible until noon on Wednesday, February 3. Participants cancelling after this time, as well as no-shows, are charged the full cost of the event.