

The American Club of Brussels Newsletter



An International Social Club with an American Heart

July-August 2010

Farewell to Michael Sexton

Office Manager of the American Club of Brussels until his retirement in March, 2009

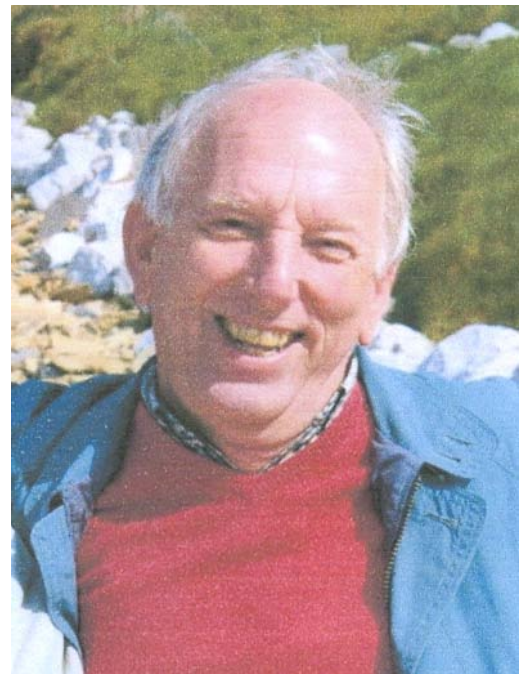
In Memory of

Michael SEXTON
longtime companion of Guy DE VALK

Born in Ashford (UK) on January 26, 1944
Deceased in Brussels (Belgium) on June 09, 2010

A Message from the Club President

Michael Sexton was a very special person who touched all our lives. He was not only our dedicated, helpful and professional Office Manager since 2001, he was the first contact that many of you had with the Club. Charming, witty, and with such a marvelous sense of humor, Michael was the dear friend and devoted employee that we all knew, loved, and respected. All of us will miss him sorely.



Margaret Nicholson

ACB President

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**We're on the Web,
so check us out at**

www.americanclubbrussels.org

The American Club of Brussels is one of the oldest American clubs in Europe, founded in 1921 to foster closer relations and fellowship between Americans and Belgians, and those of other nationalities resident in Belgium, with an interest in American Belgian affairs. Though our members represent 25 other nationalities, from all walks of life, our club surely has an American flavor. Some of us are long-time residents in Belgium; many of us are newcomers, but we all enjoy ourselves and the Club's activities. Corporate memberships are available.

We bring folks together for a wide variety of social activities— something for everyone. A sample of our offerings is shown on this calendar of events. The Club is a great way to expand your circle of friends and to discover more of the delights of Belgium. Try us!

Final Friday Cocktails

Friday, July 30
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Les Etangs Mellaerts
(upstairs bar – above the restaurant)
Boulevard du Souverain 275, 1150 Brussels (Woluwe St.-Pierre)
(walking distance from Avenue de Tervuren)
Tel: 02.779.36.19

NEW VENUE

Cash bar open to all. Newcomers to Belgium and prospective ACB members are especially welcome. Complimentary zakoukis will be offered. No reservation is necessary. Bring a guest or two.



Dates to Remember

- Friday, July 30: Final Friday Cocktails at Les Etangs Mellaerts
- Friday, August 27: Final Friday Cocktails at Les Etangs Mellaerts
- Thursday, September 16: Joint Gala Dinner with AmCham Belgium with Ambassador Gutman
- Thursday, September 23: Dine-Out (TBD)
- Saturday and Sunday: September 25-26: Welcome Fair at Tour et Taxis
- Wednesday, October 13: Pioneers' Dinner with Ambassador Kennard
- Thursday, October 21: Lecture on Antwerp artist Eugeen Van Mieghem
- Thursday, November 25: Thanksgiving Dinner at the Sheraton Hotel, Brussels
- Tuesday, December 14: Christmas reception, Hôtel de Ville, Brussels
- Saturday, January 15, 2011: ACB's 90th Anniversary Dinner-Dance at the Palais des Colonies/ Koloniënpaleis in Tervuren

Advance Notice of Upcoming Events

Joint Gala Dinner with AmCham

The ACB and AmCham Belgium will hold their annual joint dinner on Thursday, September 16 at the Renaissance Hotel. Guest speaker will be the Honorable Howard W. Gutman, U.S. Ambassador to Belgium. During his keynote speech, Ambassador Gutman will discuss his views on finding a common ground between the U.S. and Belgian governments and business communities.

Pioneers' Dinner

The next Pioneers' Dinner will have as its guest speaker the Honorable William E. Kennard, U.S. Ambassador to the European Union. The event will be held at the Château Ste.-Anne in Auderghem on the evening of Wednesday, October 13. Ambassador Kennard will talk on U.S.-Belgian relations in the light of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union.

consular posts, 23 domestic passport agencies, and other centers that provide these consular services to U.S. and foreign citizens.

The 27 adjusted fees are based on a Cost of Service Study completed by the Bureau of Consular Affairs in June 2009. The study established the true cost of providing these consular services, which by law must be recovered through collection of fees.

Under the new fee schedule, the most commonly provided services to American citizens will change as follows:

- The application processing fee for adult passport applications will change from \$55 to \$70.
- The passport book security surcharge will change from \$20 to \$40.
- Application fee for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad will change from \$65 to \$100.
- Notarial and authentication services, which now range from \$20 to \$30, will all be \$50.
- In addition, for the first time there will now be an \$82 fee to add extra visa pages to U.S. passports. To minimize the need to add pages in the future, you have the option of receiving a 52-page passport book for the same price as a 28-page passport at the time that you apply for a new passport.

Revised Fees for Consular Services

A recent Warden Message informed U.S. citizens of a new schedule of fees for consular services that came into effect on July 13, 2010. The schedule includes fees for passports, immigrant visas, and other consular services. The revised fees will cover actual operating expenses for the 301 overseas

To see the entire list of fees, please refer to the Embassy's website (<http://belgium.usembassy.gov>), which also includes consular information and the most recent messages to the American community in Belgium. The Embassy's Consular Section is located at Boulevard du Régent / Regentlaan 25, 1000 Brussels. The Embassy telephone number is 02.811.40.00; the Consular Section telephone number is 02.811.43.00; the Consular Section fax number is 02.811.45.46. For after-hours emergencies, call 02.811.40.00.

New ACB Membership

Category

Effective immediately, a new six-month membership is available to Young Members and Regular Individual Members. The cost is:

- Young Member: €40
- Regular Individual Member: €80

Only one renewal for another six-month period is allowed.

As a reminder, here are the other membership categories and their fees for a full year:

- Regular individual: €140
- Retiree: €70
- Corporate: €550
- SME corporate: €275
- Under age 35: €70
- Students: €40
- Students at Boston University or Fulbright scholars: €30
- Non-resident: €70

Keep in mind that the spouse/partner of a paid-up member enjoys equal and full membership rights – except voting rights – without paying a second membership fee.

News about You

Lis Smith writes: “Check out my daughter Mimi’s new store, go by if you’re in the Atlanta area, and/or just go shopping online (<http://www.touchofeurope.net>). Mimi’s address is

Mimi Kriele
Touch of Europe
1765 Roswell Road NE
Marietta, GA 30062
U.S.A.