

BLACK TIE CLUB

"Celebrating the classic gentleman with fine food, superb wine and fantastic fellowship"

TORONTO **CONVERGENCE** 2024



*"Mounties always
get their man."
Did you get
yours?"*

Chapters Located in

Atlanta, Dallas,
Ft. Lauderdale, Laguna Beach,
Los Angeles, New Mexico,
Palm Beach, Palm Springs,
Phoenix/Scottsdale,
Rehoboth Beach/Lewes,
Rochester/Finger Lakes, San Diego,
San Francisco, Toronto,
Washington DC

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Int'l President Emeritus Len Olds
Founder Bob Gregson, RIP
Int'l Treasurer Mike Gin
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For Magazine Submissions

Please send feedback and digital
content to
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**Upcoming Deadlines
for Magazine Submissions:**

Summer Issue covering Jun - Sep
2024: 25 Sep 2024
Winter Issue covering Oct - Dec 2024:
15 Dec 2024

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Courtesy of Josh Collins Moody

Photo Credits

Jim Boey, Gary Dougan, David Green
Bob Herman, Daniel Joraanstad,
Bonte Minnema, Josh Collins Moody,
Armando Rascon, Peter Rogers



President's Message

By Gary Dougan, International President

Gentlemen:

Toronto Convergence was a Home Run, OUT-OF-THE-PARK SUCCESS...the Toronto Blue Jays / Rogers Center park, that is!

...And we have **Bonte Minnema** as Convention Chair, and **Tim Leonard** as Chapter President to thank for the production. Tim also hosted the Send-Off Party (complete with clown/contortionist) on his rooftop penthouse patio with city view. We also must lavish praise on all the Toronto chapter members that stepped up to host, to volunteer, or just to play with us! Some of the names that come to mind are:

- **Peter MacMillan**, host of the Early Arrivers party at his upper-floor high rise condo overlooking the Toronto Gay Village neighborhood. After enjoying his lavish appetizers, many went on to a dinner in the village, and some ventured to the Cockbar for visual and terpsichorean entertainment.
- **Laurie Goodman** and **Ehsan Ebadganjeh**, hosts of the Official Welcome Party at Laurie's home and his spacious rear yard. Drag entertainer, Sofonda Cox, provided the live entertainment. The brief showers and lovely trees and greenspace provided the backdrop.
- All the local hosts who coordinated luncheon experiences all over town. One group was put together spontaneously. Everyone who participated came back glowing with reports of new friends and a richer knowledge of the city of Toronto.
- **Richard Armstrong** and **Peter Nosalik**, host of the Friday evening garden party in their charming classic home featuring local piano musician with sing-along.
- **Gordon Davies**, **David Birnbaum**, and their crew, who choreographed the city tour and luncheon at O'Grady's pub in the gay village.
- **Paul Winnell**, sponsor of the Saturday afternoon Mountie party. Many of us got photos with Mounties. We appreciate all those who signed and up for the Mountie package.

I was very inspired by President, Tim Leonard, acknowledging that we were meeting and cavorting on First Nations "Treaty 13" land* and should therefore respect the land and preserve it.

Our hotel was the Toronto Royal Sonesta with outstanding service, in a time of construction just outside the door changing traffic patterns often. Eventually, we all figured out how to come and go during this time of civic transition. The venue facilities were flawless and perfect for our gentlemen.

Continued on next page.

* Treaty 13, also known as the Toronto Purchase, was an agreement made in 1805 between the British Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. In this treaty, the Mississaugas ceded a large area of land around what is now Toronto, Ontario, in exchange for various forms of compensation, including goods and a yearly annuity. The terms of the treaty have been a source of ongoing discussion and negotiation, as many Indigenous people argue that the terms were not fully understood or properly honored at the time. For more information on Treaty 13, see

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/toronto-purchase-treaty-13>



President's Message

Continued from previous page

Other announcements from the Gala Formal and Brunch:

- **San Francisco Convergence May 1-4, 2025:** The SF Committee informed us that their website to register for this event is btci.online. The host hotel is magnificently centered in the heart of the city. Transportation is to a plethora of interesting venues. The committee is feverishly creating a memorable experience so join us in "the city by the bay." See the ad later in this Magazine.
- **Amsterdam 2025 Pride & Rhine Riverboat cruise:** See the ad later in this Magazine. This is another special Black Tie small-group boutique experiences similar to our Danube, Paris, London, Luxembourg, Puerto Vallarta trips in years passed.
- **Rehoboth Beach/Lewes Convergence May 14-17, 2026:** Save this Date! See ad later in this Magazine.
- **Palm Beach Florida Convergence 2027:** ** Breaking news** Dates and details to be determined.
- **Chapter Event Promotion Reminder:** To promote your chapter activities to the entire membership, provide the info to our Club Communicator, Dave Green. See his contact info in the masthead on the previous page.

I personally want to thank all the chapter leaders who spoke with me throughout the Convergence and who attended the Leadership Breakfast. We discussed many organizational developments and I look to the vibrant vital future of our club.

Enjoy this issue of the Magazine, whether you attended Convergence or not.

In fellowship,

Gary Dungan

Convergence Team Message

By Bonte Minnema, Toronto Convergence Chair



What a wonderful event Convergence was. We hope you all had a blast. We are so pleased and inspired by all the outfits, dance moves, effusive charm, inspiring charisma and stylish fashion that you brought to Toronto. We're sorry to see you go, but we'll be raising glasses, dancing and dining together again soon.

XO,

Bonte



Early Arrivers Gathering

Hosted by Peter MacMillan and David Brnbaum

Early arrivers gathered at the hotel for a festive walk to Peter's elegant condo for our early arrivers party. Co-hosted by David, this was a lovely mixer to start the weekend. It was an enthusiastic "party ready" group!





Extracurricular Activities

Gardiner Museum

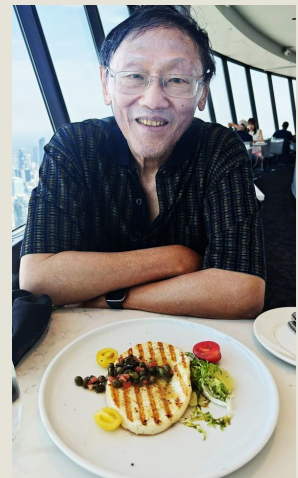
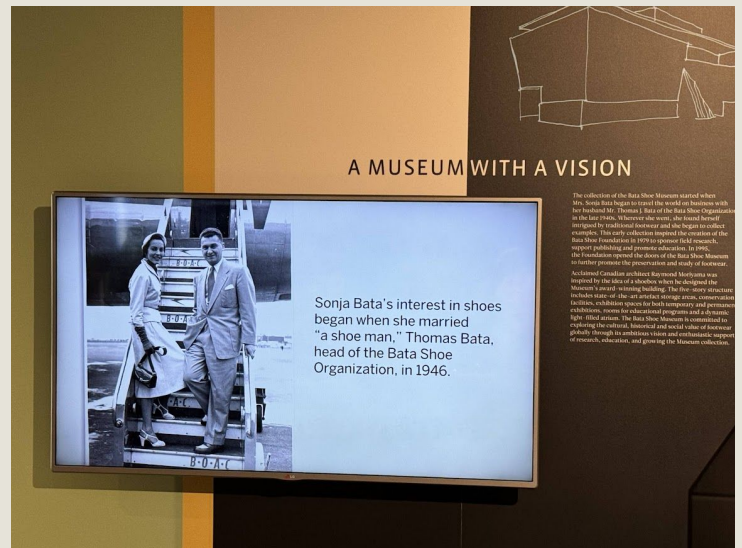
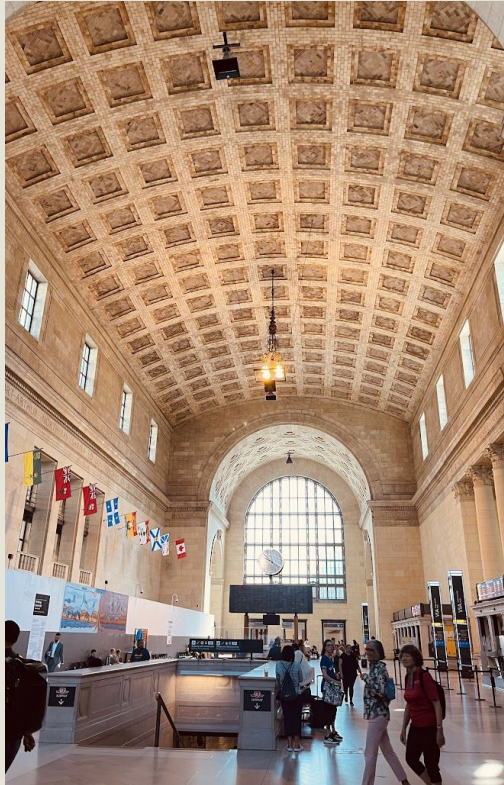
Toronto hosts a number of excellent museums and sites. Convergence attendees enjoyed several of these venues, including Gardiner Museum (this page) and The Bata Shoe Museum (next page)..





Extracurricular Activities

The Bata Shoe Museum







Opening Night Reception

Hosted by Laurie Goodman and Ehsan Ebadganjeh

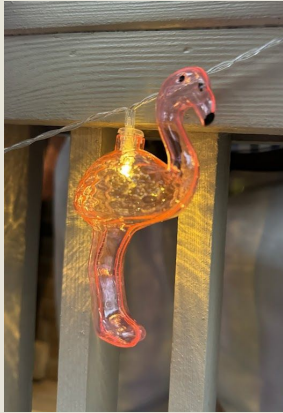
Convergence officially kicked off with an elegant garden party at Laurie's lovely home. The crowd was entertained with the beats by a great DJ, with the style of one of Toronto's best drag queens, Sofonda Cox, and with all too hot bartenders and sexy go-go dancers.

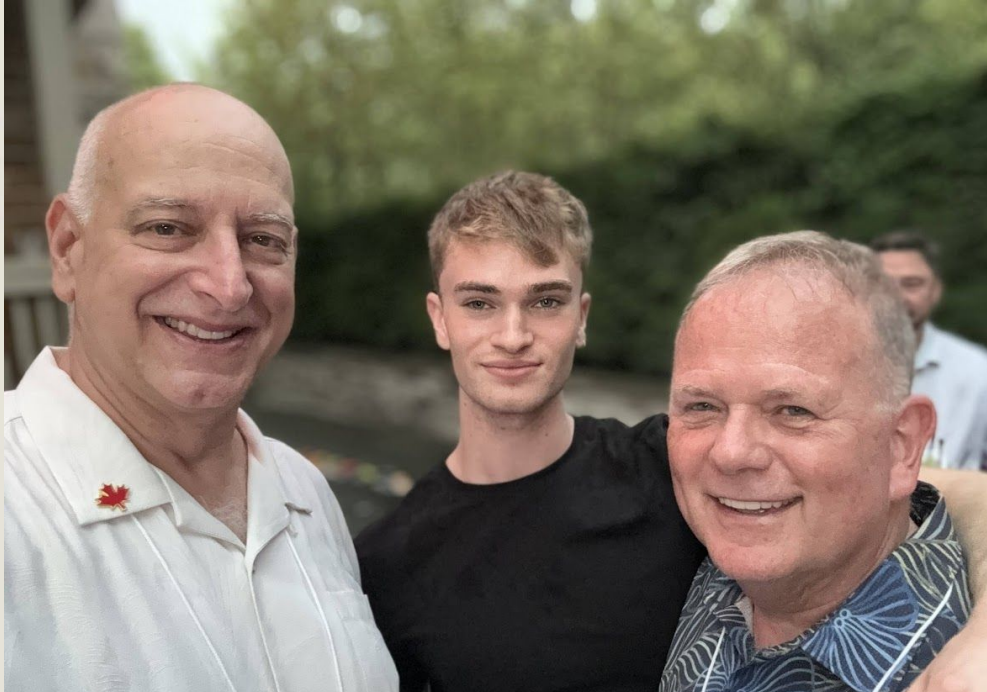












June

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Friday Guided Luncheons

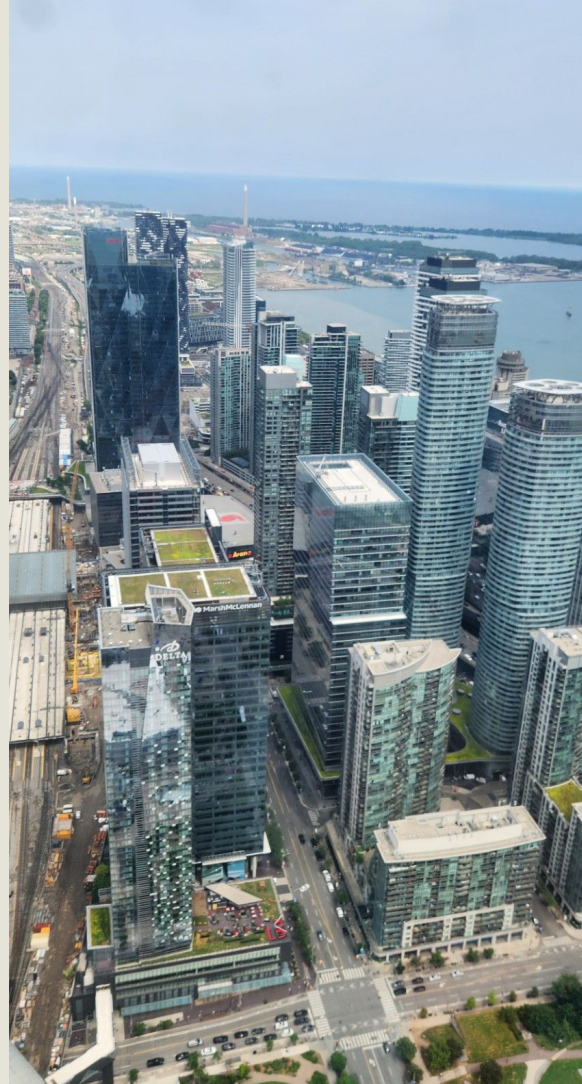
What better way to start your day than with a plate of authentic Canadian poutine. However, did any anyone actually order poutine for lunch?





Friday Guided Luncheons Continued

Some attendees opted to visit the CN Tower overlooking the city from a revolving restaurant.





Starlight Cocktails and BBQ Party

Hosted by Richard Armstrong and Peter Nosalik

Richard and Peter recreated this event from the previous Convergence in Toronto! The evening was an elegant starlight Canadian bbq surrounded by historic and charming Canadian art in their majestic home. Piano with sing-along was provided by local talent, David Williams.













Flagship Saturday Excursion

Led by Gordon Davies

Gordon, along with the help of “Mounties” Frank and Ehsan, gave guests a fabulous and educational tour of some of Toronto’s most significant sites.





For more Convergence pictures, click [here](#).





For more Convergence pictures, click [here](#).



Main Event

Official Gala Party

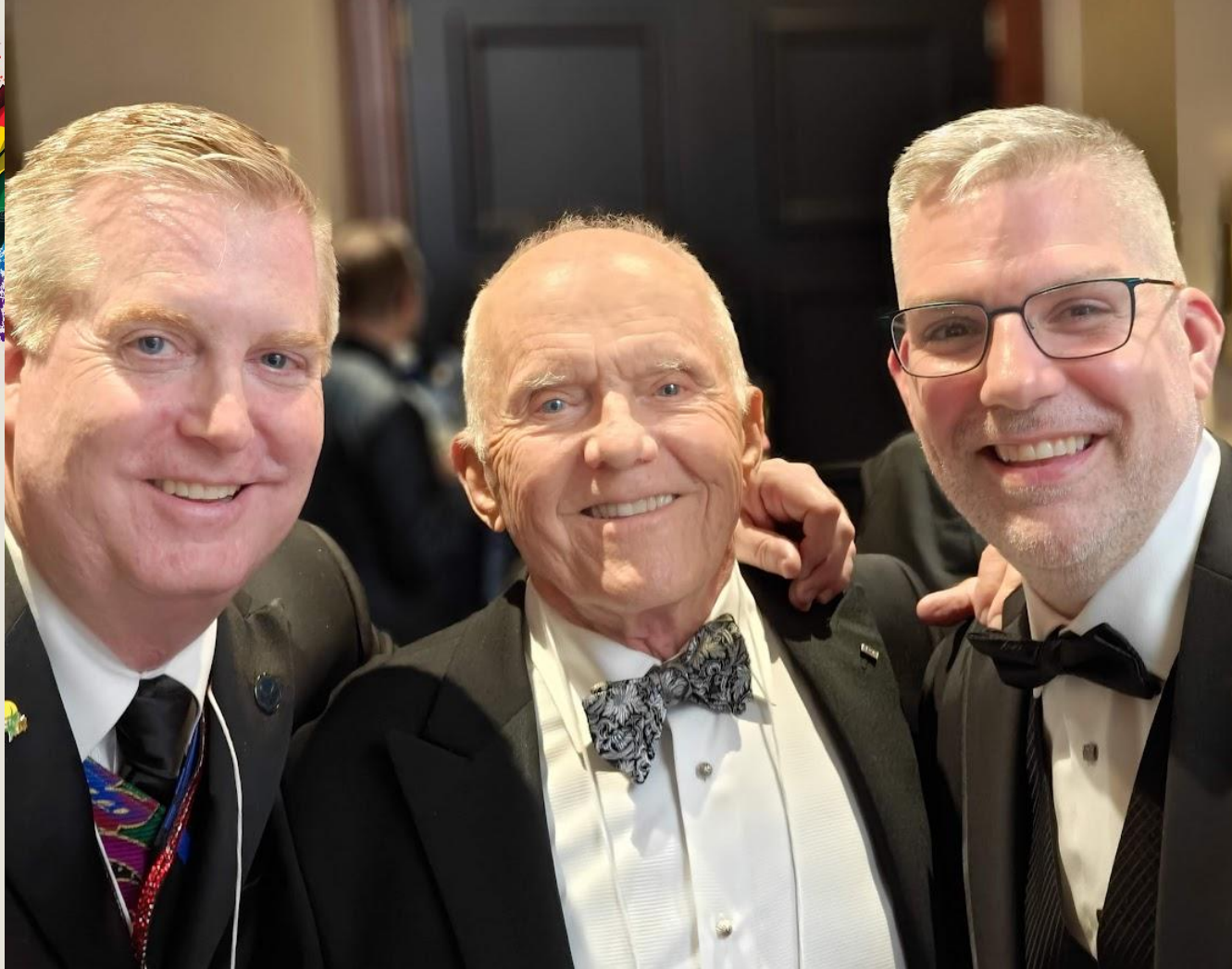
Guests donned their black tie finest for a spectacular dinner in a gorgeous wood-paneled room. Cocktails led to dinner which led to very intensive dancing! Dancing to the DJ following the banquet was well-received and seems to be one of the grand activities of many Convergences now. Our DJ played all the Black Tie favorites (thanks to all those who told us their favorite songs in the Convergence surveys)!! A very enthusiastic crowd and a few hunky dancers danced, danced, and danced some more... well until last call. Well done, Black Tie! You guys rocked the moves.

















Farewell Encore Event

Hosted by
Chapter President, Tim Leonard

Guests enjoyed music, dancing, a hot tub, and sweeping city views from this oversized penthouse in the heart of the village. As seemed to be the theme of this weekend, the party went on well into the night. It's been said before, *"No one parties like a Convergence crowd!"*







Convergence 2025

San Francisco

May 1 - 4

We invite you to join us in San Francisco in 2025 for an unforgettable event.

Prepare to be captivated by the charm and natural splendor of San Francisco, the city by the bay, where innovation and native beauty harmoniously intertwine. It is a place where the old meets the new, where historic landmarks stand tall amidst a backdrop of futuristic skyscrapers. San Francisco embraces its rich history while embracing cutting-edge technology, making it a truly unique destination.

For more Convergence information, go to btci.online. Event and hotel registration info will be available late October.





Upcoming Events

2024

September 7

Los Angeles

Fall Casual

- Cocktails hosted by Robbie Gordon

- Dinner at the Cara

Contact: Charlie Priest

cpriest211@aol.com

September 14

Laguna Beach

30 Year Anniversary

Luciana's Ristorante

Dana Point, CA

Contact: David Peckham Diaz

by texting: 714-322-3150

See flyer in this issue

October 5

Washington DC

Fall Formal

Army Navy Country Club of

Arlington

Contact: Armando Rascon

blacktiepresdc@gmail.com

October 11 - 12

Dallas

Fall Formal

Contact: Gordon Markley

markleygm@yahoo.com

October 18 - 19

Rehoboth Beach/Lewes

Fall Formal

Contact: Fran O'Brien

feobrienjr@gmail.com

See flyer in this issue.

October 25 - 26

Phoenix/Scottsdale

- Oct 25 - Friday evening cocktail party
- Oct 26 - Saturday evening black tie cocktail party and formal dinner

Contact: Eric Fox

eric_p_fox@cox.net

November (TBD)

New Mexico

Fall Formal

Hacienda Casa Perea, Corrales, NM

Contact: Jack Cox

abiquiuman@yahoo.com

December 8

Los Angeles

Holiday Formal

San Antonio Winery

Contact: Charlie Priest

cpriest211@aol.com

December 8

Palm Beach

Holiday Formal at the National Croquet Club

Contact: Charles Contessa

cvcwpb@aol.com

Sep



Laguna Beach

Upcoming Event



30 Years Anniversary 1994 - 2024

BLACK TIE CLUB INTERNATIONAL

LAGUNA BEACH CHAPTER

We invite current and past members plus guests to celebrate our 30th Anniversary as the first established BTCL chapter in the United States.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

5:00 PM - 10 PM

LUCIANA'S RISTORANTE

NEW LANTERN DISTRICT

24312 DEL PRADO, DANA POINT CA. 92629

CASUAL ATTIRE; OPEN BAR; PRIVATE VENUE; FREE VALET PARKING!
LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE, RSVP NOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

To guarantee your reservation, please make
payment of \$95 per person promptly but no later than August 15, 2024.

For more information, contact David Peckham Diaz by texting: 714-322-3150

Oct



Washington D.C.

Upcoming Event

The Washington DC Chapter
of Black Tie Club International
-- presents --

A Harvest Evening

Cocktail Social and Premier Dining Event



Army Navy Country Club

1700 Army Navy Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Saturday, October 5, 2024 Cocktails
6pm, Dinner 7 -10 pm



Dress: Black Tie

\$180 – BT members (all chapters)

\$200 – Guests

Parking: Free Self Park or Valet

Host Committee

Randy Bell

Tim Jablonski

Dawson Nash

Craig Pascal

Jack Varga

Larry Willett

For more information, contact Armando Rascon at blacktiepresdc@gmail.com



Rehoboth Beach/Lewes

Upcoming Event

“Autumn in New York”

Fall Formal

October 18 & 19, 2024

For more information, contact Chapter President, Fran O'Brien
feobrienjr@gmail.com





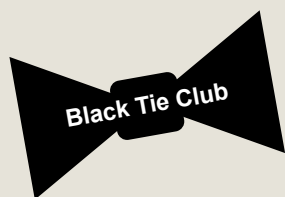
Convergence 2026

Rehoboth Beach ♦ Lewes

May 14 - 17

Details forthcoming





Black Tie Club International
Special Travel Series* Presents



2025 Amsterdam *Pride* & Rhine Riverboat Cruise

Dates and experiences customizable and flexible, from 5 to 14 days

Dates: Arrive Amsterdam July 29 to August 1, 2025; depart Basel August 11 or so

Details (all trip portions optional and flexible):

- ❖ Rhine River Cruise: Amsterdam-to-Basel (8 nights)
- ❖ Fine dining and sightseeing in Amsterdam (optional)
- ❖ Pre-cruise 2 or more nights in Amsterdam, includes Pride Canal Parade
- ❖ Excursions & Wine Tasting tours along the Rhine River
- ❖ This will be a limited close small comfortable group of Black Tie gents



How do I get in on the action? Glad you asked:

1. **Reply** to International President Gary Dougan at btcpirez@gmail.com with your expression of interest **by September 15, 2024**. **Contact him afterwards for additional capacity.**
2. **Send \$300** per person deposit to Black Tie Club International, c/o Int'l Treasurer, Mike Gin at 518 Cluster Lane, Redondo Beach, CA 90278; 310-387-0462. Deposits **refundable** up to May 31, 2025.
3. **Pricing:** Expect about \$300 per person per day for excursions and included meals. YOU control your airfare, and hotel costs. We provide a host hotel recommendation. Riverboat cruise costs may range from \$2500-\$4000; currently in negotiation for group discounts. No-one is personally profiting from this trip. Sign up for land tour, cruise, or both. Event is flexible to each member's needs.



* **Black Tie Club International Special Travel Series** allows BTCI members to travel to destinations around the globe to experience fine dining, superb wines, and fantastic fellowship with like-minded members. These programs are in addition to the Black Tie Club dining events put on by the local chapters. For more information about the Black Tie Club, check out blacktieclubinternational.org. Previous Special Travel Series trips have been to London, Paris, Luxembourg, Puerto Vallarta & Danube.

Actual river ports to be determined
Click below for Pride video
[Canal Parade - Pride Amsterdam](#)

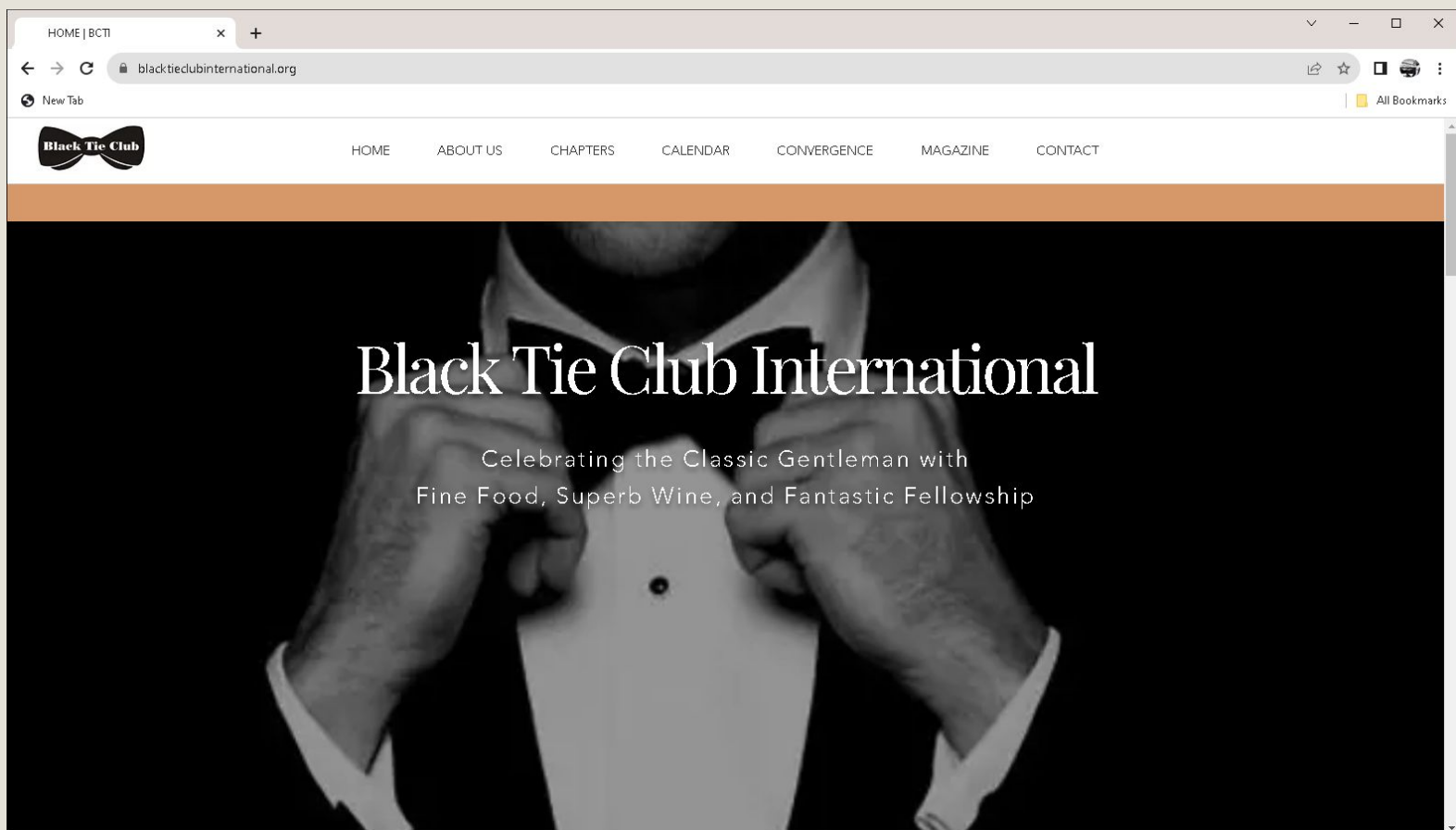


Bookmark our Webpage!

All the latest information on the local chapters, calendar of events, and Convergences can be found in one place!

blacktieclubinternational.org

<https://www.blacktieclubinternational.org/>



Please send feedback to the webmaster, Greg Vaccaro, at lablacktieclub1@gmail.com