



# Morning Mingle

It all started in Griffith Park when some hungry horsemen created an informal club where they could eat post-ride ham and eggs and hear an interesting story from local movers and shakers. This year, the **Los Angeles Breakfast Club**, which still meets every Wednesday morning at 7 a.m. at the Friendship Auditorium in Los Feliz, is celebrating 100 years.

The open-to-all, nonsectarian, and nonpolitical meetings may seem eccentric—at least to newcomers—because along with breakfast there are sing-alongs, light stretching exercises, and recitals of the club’s pig Latin codex-style poem. Some people wear elaborate hats or costumes.

The eclectic lectures that accompany breakfast (pictured top) can cover anything from Google architecture and old-school restaurants to L.A.’s parrot population and NASA’s future plans. Or there could be a puppet show (pictured left).

In past decades, Joe DiMaggio, Ronald Reagan, and Walt Disney attended breakfasts.

This is neutral territory, where the greeting “Hello, Ham!” elicits the response “Hello, Egg!,” and where, in 1926, bitter rivals Harry Chandler of the *Los Angeles Times* and William Randolph Hearst of the *Los Angeles Examiner* were photographed shaking hands. A book detailing the club’s history and scandals will be published this year to celebrate its centennial. *Breakfast and lecture tickets, \$28.*

» JAMES BARTLETT

HELLO, HAM!

HELLO, EGG!

**The club’s unchanged initiation ceremony (pictured above with actor Ed Begley Jr.) involves being blindfolded, sitting on a wooden horse named Ham, and placing one’s hands onto a plate of fried eggs.**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: CHARLY SHELTON; LARRY UNDERHILL (2)