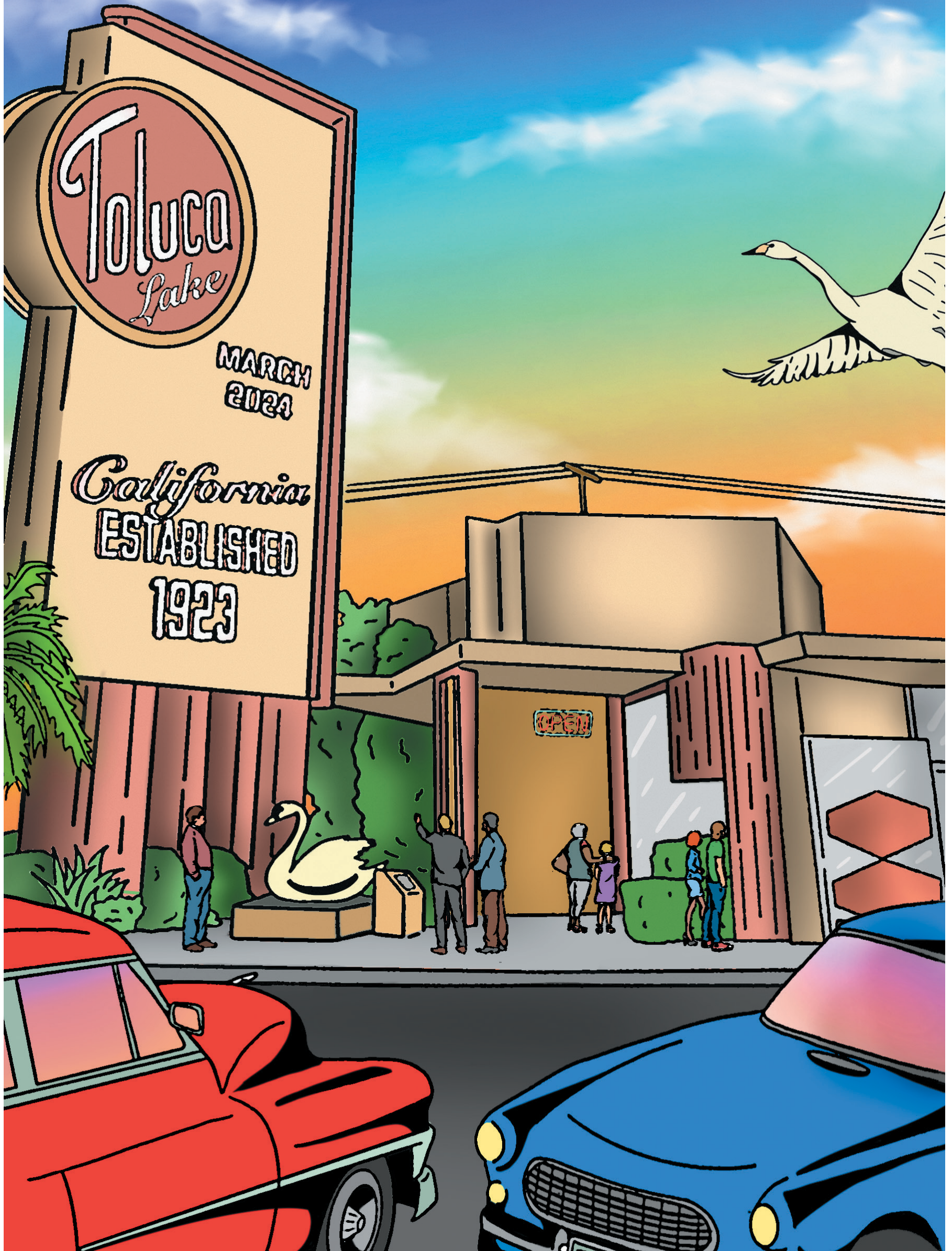


THE Toluca Times

Est. 1937



IN THE CLUB...THE BREAKFAST CLUB

By Gino Renzulli



Bob Gurr (right) pictured with Chris Crump (left)

If you've never heard of The Los Angeles Breakfast Club, I am not surprised. Despite having lived in Los Angeles my whole life, I had never come across this unique group. The organization has been hiding under the nose of most residents of Los Angeles for nearly 100 years. Their main goal is simple: "Gathering to enjoy mornings among friends."

Yes, bright and early at 7:00 AM every Wednesday morning, The LA Breakfast Club meets to enjoy catered breakfast, silly rituals, and community. It's a group that exudes friendliness and welcomes anyone who has a positive attitude and a working alarm clock.

I was invited to the club on February 28th to celebrate the honorary initiation of Disney Legend and Imagineer Bob Gurr. The Club boasts a number of historic members including Walt Disney himself, whose

name is proudly displayed when you walk in the door along with a number of other famous Americans including Joe DiMaggio, Sam and Jack Warner, and many more.

The initiation took place during the club's February 28th breakfast meeting during which Chris Crump, the son of Gurr's contemporary Imagineer and fellow Disney Legend Rolly Crump, presented a guest lecture around his father's book *The Great Crump Presents His Magic*. Before the presentation, club members and guests enjoyed regular weekly meeting programming, which included a buffet breakfast, sing-along songs, and silly traditions, with Gurr's induction heading the program.

Simply put, Bob Gurr is a living legend. Gurr has had a lasting impact on his craft, having developed more than 100 designs for attractions ranging from Autopia and Matterhorn Bobsleds to the Disneyland and Walt Disney

World Monorails.

Representatives from the LA Breakfast Club told me that Gurr's induction drew a record-breaking post-pandemic crowd for them, and it was plain to see from the many Disney aficionados in the room that Gurr could draw a crowd quite easily.

"We were delighted to initiate Bob into our Shrine of Friendship as an honorary member of The Los Angeles Breakfast Club," said Club President Nora Vetter. "Hearing this Disney Legend say our 'simple, lovely, and sweet' Club made him feel five years old again was the cherry on top!"

Over 200 members and guests attended the

breakfast meeting and induction held at Friendship Auditorium in Griffith Park, where the Club began holding meetings in 1925. Friendship Auditorium, named as a nod to the Club's tagline "The Shrine of Friendship," was dedicated in a ceremony on November 3, 1965, after being built with Club funds and donated to the City of Los Angeles.

Located just off the Glendale exit of the 5-free-way near Griffith Park, the so-called Friendship Auditorium has an interesting backstory in and of itself.

The Auditorium was built with Club funds and donated to the City of Los Angeles with a license agreement for 30 years,

with the agreement finalized on April 29, 1965.

The original 1965 license from Recreation and Parks granted the Club the right to use the Auditorium for just \$1 per year for 30 years, thanks to their initial donation of the building to the city.

After the initial 30-year agreement ended, a 20-year extension was in place until 2015. Since 2015, however, the Club has only had short-term agreements with the City and is actively seeking a new long-term agreement.

We here at *The Toluca Times* hope this singular club is able to find a way to stick around for another 100 years.



Gurr's initiation pictured above; all photos courtesy of Larry Underhill

