

Fall '08

Produced for and about the children of Boys Republic and Girls Republic

& Report **BOYS REPUBLIC**

Actor Joel Grey Accepts Role as Chairman of Della Robbia Wreath Campaign

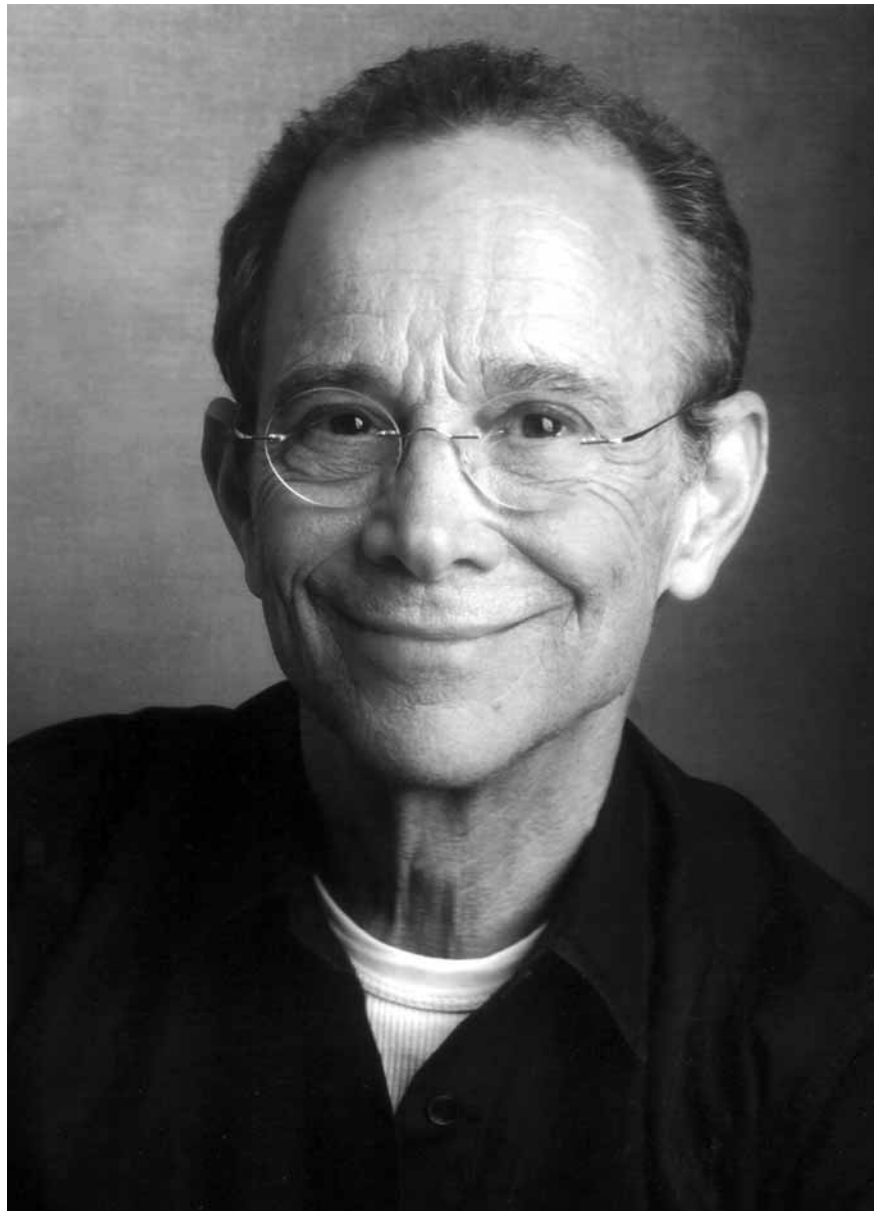
■ **Chino Hills: Della Robbia project provides year-round work experience for troubled teenagers.**

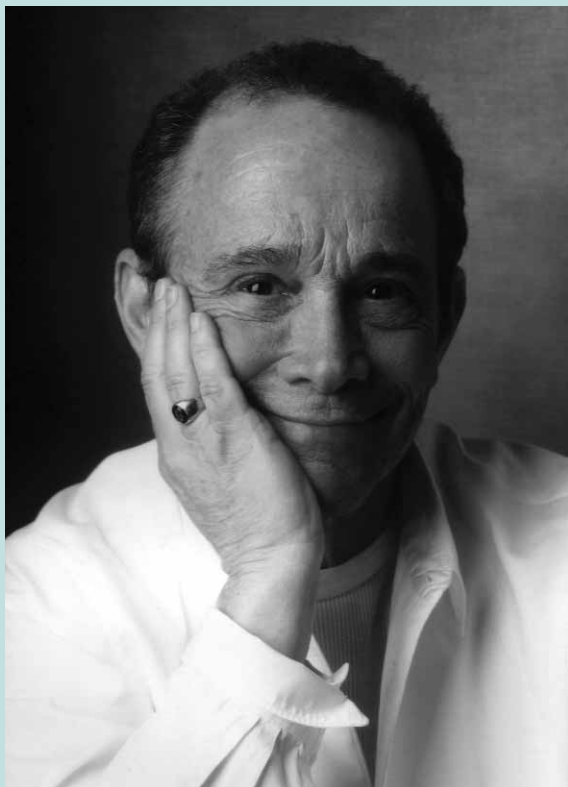
It's Della Robbia time again! Boys Republic students and staff are already gearing up for the annual holiday wreath campaign. Boxes of seed pod clusters and pine cones are piled ceiling-high, wreath assembly booths are jam-packed into the old wreath barn, and an avalanche of early wreath orders guarantees a busy production schedule.

For a thirteen-day period beginning Thanksgiving week, the Della Robbia wreath campaign will shift into high gear. Students will be joined by supervising staff and a crew of helpers from the surrounding community in an all-out effort to assemble, pack and ship thousands of the world-famous holiday decorations to all 50 states and more than a dozen foreign countries.

Della Robbia wreaths have been called "a gift within a gift" because each wreath purchased or given to a family member or friend also provides a valuable work

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“A Gift Within A Gift” – Della Robbia Wreath Program Provides Meaningful Student Jobs

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experience opportunity for the disadvantaged teens who make them.

And just as wreath production embodies traditional work values, the wreaths themselves continue to be what they have been for more than three-quarters of a century: enduring symbols of Christmases long ago. Handmade of fresh greenery, fresh apples and lemons and thick clusters of pine cones seeds, and pods, they look and smell like Christmas itself.

Actor Joel Grey Stars in 2008 Della Robbia Wreath Campaign

The talented actor, singer and dancer Joel Grey has agreed to the role as Honorary National Chairman of the 2008 Della Robbia wreath campaign. In this role, he will appear in literature promoting Boys Republic’s sale of the holiday decorations.

In a career that was launched in the early 1950’s Joel Grey has created indelible stage roles each decade since: as the iconic Emcee in *Cabaret* (1966, Tony Award and 1972, Academy Award), as song and dance man George M. Cohan in *George M!* (1967, Tony nomination), as Amos Hart in the landmark revival of *Chicago* (1996) and as the Wonderful Wizard of Oz in *Wicked* (2004). His recent television appearances include “*Brooklyn Bridge*” (Emmy nomination), “*Alias*,” “*Law & Order: Criminal Intent*,” “*House*” and “*Brothers and Sisters*”.

An accomplished photographer, Mr. Grey has two books of photographs, *Pictures I Had to Take* (2003) and *Looking Hard at Unexamined Things* (2006). You may visit Joel’s website at www.joelgreyphotographer.com.



WORK EXPERIENCE: *The Della Robbia wreath program provides after-school jobs for more nearly 500 students, each year. For some, it’s a first job.*

Students Earn Recognition at 2008 Annual Awards Ceremony

Boys Republic held its 101st Annual Awards Ceremony on September 4, earlier this year. Nearly 300 of the agency's teens and staff, local officials and proud parents gathered to honor selected students. Financial recognition at the awards ceremony ranged from \$100 to \$2,500 scholarships for outstanding scholastic or leadership achievement or overall program success.

Unlike traditional schools which offer educational scholarships, almost exclusively, Boys Republic presents awards that can be utilized in a variety of ways to help deserving students meet immediate or longer-term personal goals. Scholarship funds may be used to help further a student's education, but just as often, it may become a deposit on an apartment for a graduate with no family to return to, or it can buy food, tools, training or appropriate clothing to help a graduate qualify for a job.

Among the awards presented at the ceremony were:

- Fowler Merle-Smith Family Scholarship of \$1,000 to Andrea Johnson;
- Frank & Marianne Graves Scholarship of \$750 each to Jason Michaels and Jeff Shaw and \$500 each to Andrew Chao, Dominic Giannini, Wilson Huang, Cory Hanson, Max Lobato, Frank Loera, Patrick Means, Gerardo Morales and Joshua Morris;
- Delight Groves Scholarship of \$500 each to Guston Dean and Michael Palumbo;
- Eldon Woods & Roger Fletcher Scholarship of \$1,000 each to Bennie Goodman and Jonathan Lozano;
- Everett & Jane Houser Scholarship of \$1,000 each to James Nelson and Emilio Estrella;
- Steve McQueen Scholarship of \$1,000 to Wesley Brown;
- Terry McQueen Scholarship of \$1,000 to Edi Gonzales;
- Michael Madsen Scholarship of \$1,000 to Ryan Banks;
- Carmen Combs Scholarship of \$1,000 to Damian Vera;
- Lloyd and Elizabeth Klein Family Scholarship of \$1,000 each to Alex Carlos and Frankie Gonzales;
- Ed Korbel Scholarship of \$1,000 to Avel Mendoza;



MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Boys Republic graduate and former student mayor Jonathan Rammell led the Award Ceremony. Mr. Rammell was the recipient of the coveted Virginia Pease Hunt Scholarship, funded by members of the Pasadena Auxiliary of Boys Republic.

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Spirit of Giving: Gift Quilts Warm Hearts at Girls Republic

Generous members of a local, Chino Hills-based church group have a tradition of charitable service. For the past eight years, they've donated quilts and other hand-crafted items to the needy, always indirectly through the LDS humanitarian aid and other similar organizations like the Red Cross and Rotary International.

On October 28, they presented quilts directly to the young women in residence at Girls Republic. It was exhilarating. "Being right there to present those quilts, to see the girls' appreciation, made their gift so much more meaningful," noted Max Scott, Boys Republic Executive Director. "The experience warmed their own hearts nearly as much as the quilts will provide comfort for our girls."



CHARITABLE ENDEAVOR: Doris Vemeersch (in photo, above) works caringly on one of eight gift quilts. The group of twelve women meets weekly.

MEANINGFUL GATHERING: Snugly wrapped in their new quilts, young recipients posed with members of the quilt-making group at Girls Republic, in Monrovia.



Memorials Honor Special People, Events, Thru the Lives of Children

A memorial contribution to Boys Republic and Girls Republic is a meaningful way to honor a special person, a special event or the memory of a friend or loved one. Your gift will reap a second benefit as well by contributing directly to the programs of Boys and Girls Republic. In this way, the honor paid the designee will live on perpetually in the lives of the deserving young people you have helped.

The following are memorial and commemorative contributions made from January 1, 2008 through August 31, 2008.

Donor / In Memory of:

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Lockett/

Dr. John Abdun-Nur

Mr. & Mrs. Richard

Williams/Lucine Barbarin

Mr. & Mrs. Richard

Williams/Vincent Carter

Mrs. Louise Laub & Mr. Geroge
McClellan/Kent Clark

Mrs. Louise Laub & Mr. Geroge
McClellan/Robert Clauson

Mrs. Carolyn Henry/
Mrs. Sadie Davidson

Ms. Barbara L. Awerkamp/
Mary Flint

Mrs. Patricia Hanna/
Gordon B. Hinckley

Mr. & Mrs. Max L.Scott/
Charles Johnson

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Chamblin/
Mary Johnson

Merry Electronics/
Mary Johnson

Mrs. Henrietta Gregory/
Mary Johnson

Mr. John Spalenka/
Henry Mack

Barbot Insurance Services/
Arden Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Max L. Scott/
Arden Miller

Mrs. Sharon De Briere/
Cynthia Pallette

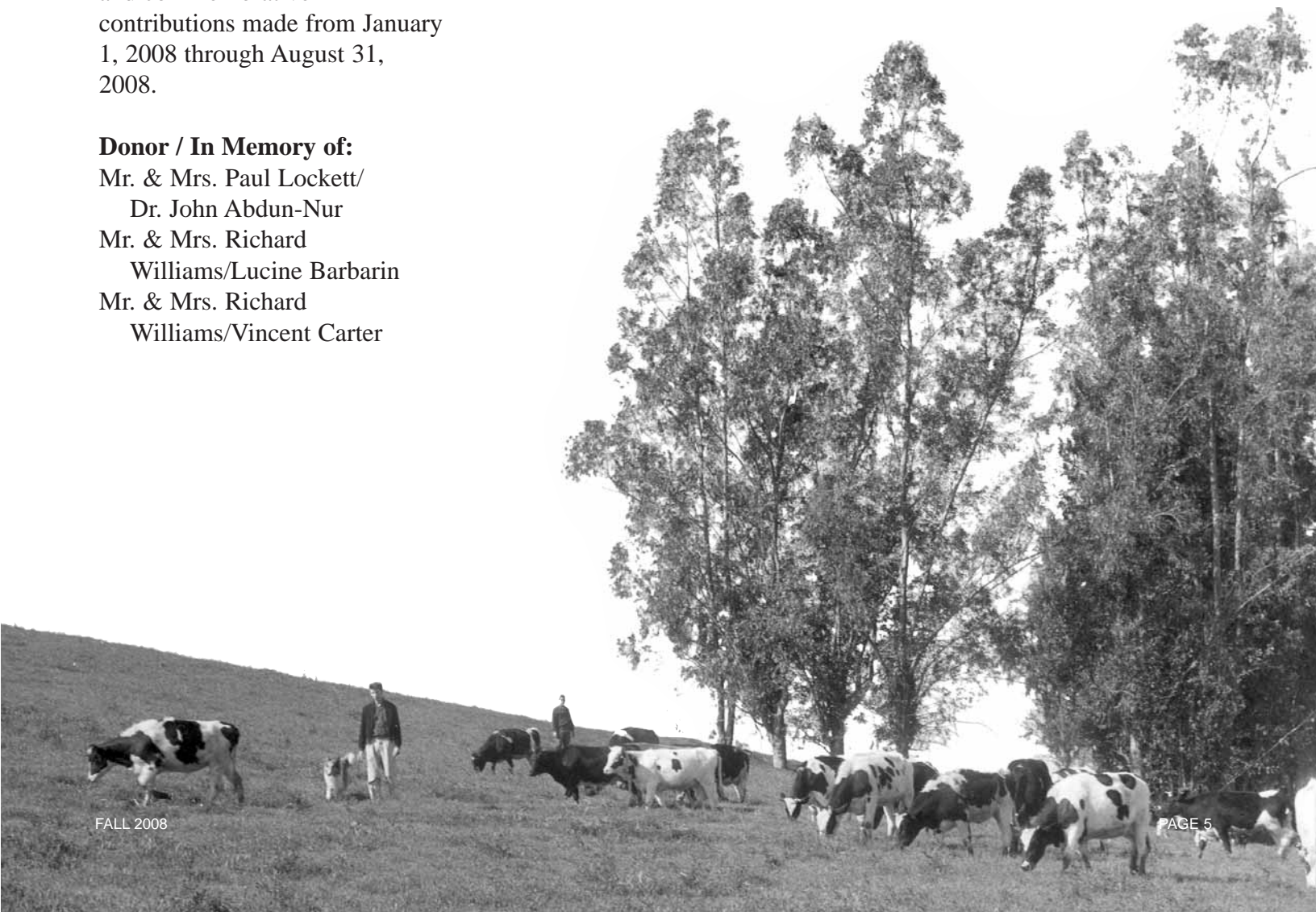
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Williams/
Cristine Sharkey

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Ponce/
Patrica Spann

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Williams/
Theresa Webb

Pasadena Auxiliary of Boys
Republic/Betty Williams

Mrs. Patricia Wheeler/
Betty Williams



Architect Myron Hunt Helped to Build Boys Republic



Photo: Edgar L. Bowman, SECURITY PACIFIC COLLECTION, Los Angeles Public Library

Myron Hunt

Since Boys Republic's founding in 1907, more than 27,000 troubled youth have gone through the agency's programs to acquire the qualities of educational competence, personal responsibility, and self-control. This record of accomplishment was built on a foundation of caring effort by early students, diligent professionals and dedicated volunteers. The work of one such individual literally laid Boys Republic's foundations.

Noted architect Myron Hunt began a long association with Boys Republic in 1911, at the request of Boys Republic's Board of Directors. Hunt is perhaps best known for designing such Southern California landmarks as Pasadena's Rose Bowl, the Huntington Library, the Pasadena Public Library, and buildings at Occidental College and Pomona College. He was a leader in defining a regional idiom for Southern California architecture and clearly left a lasting impression upon Boys Republic's main campus.

Hunt's overall plan for the Boys Republic village took inspiration from the colony of George Junior Republic, in Freeville, New York, the model for such programs at that time. The plan originally called for a

THE HOBART MOORE COTTAGE
GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC
CHINO + + + CALIFORNIA
MYRON HUNT + ARCHITECT

Built in 1918, Moore Cottage housed 24 boys. It served as a model for three additional dormitories.

schoolhouse, twelve to fifteen cottages, shops, an administration building, hotel and chapel. The center of village life was – and still is – a plaza 500 feet across. All of the roads connecting different parts of the campus were looped and curved, owing to the hillside contours upon which the settlement was situated.

Boys Republic's Board of Directors adopted Hunt's general plan and set about creating a small school and farm environment that would function as a self-sustaining community. Today, three of the "cottages" Myron Hunt designed (Fowler Cottage, McCormick Cottage and Laws Cottage) still define the unique look and feel of the open Boys Republic campus. Each accommodated twenty-four boys in twelve bedrooms, ten sleeping porches, and large living and dining rooms.

In 1915, Hunt designed for Mrs. Fowler, a Boys Republic founder, her beautiful residence. Perched upon a slight knoll overlooking the Republic village, she called it "Casa Colina". The design called for a living room with a raised stage, so that the boys might put on productions and so that musicians or other artists might bring cultural enrichment to the students' educational experience. The home was featured in a 1917 issue of *American Architect*. After Mrs. Fowler's death, the facility was used for the treatment of children afflicted with polio. That program, under the direction of Mother Smith, became known as Casa Colina Convalescent Home for Crippled Children.

The Margaret Fowler Auditorium, located at the center of the Boys Republic campus, was also a Myron Hunt design. It continues to host weekly student Town Meetings. Three attached classrooms have provided academic instruction for more than 20,000 students, since the building was constructed in 1939.

Myron Hunt was married, in 1915, to Virginia Pease, an educator and founding member of Boys Republic's Board of Directors. It is said that the Hunts spent their honeymoon working with students at Boys Republic. Both were active in Los Angeles area civic and philanthropic life. In 1927, Myron Hunt was given the Arthur Noble Award for outstanding service to the community.



Casa Colina



Eldridge Fowler Cottage



**Margaret Fowler
Memorial Auditorium**

Students Reap Rich Harvest of Awards at 101st Annual Ceremony

(Continued from page 3)

- Charles & Rae Leavitt Scholarship of \$500 to Kevin Sang;
- Paul & Mary Ganobcik "Nothing Without Labor" Scholarship of \$1,000 to Rolando Martinez;
- Frederick Rees Scholarship of \$1,000 to Zachary Wright;
- Los Solteros Scholarship of \$1,000 to Ryan Lucero;
- Claude A. Gammel Scholarship of \$1,000 to Anthony Diebolt;
- Boys Republic Employees Scholarship of \$2,000 to Tulio Costa;
- Pasadena Auxiliary Bridge Club Scholarship of \$750 to Elsie Valdez;
- Pasadena Auxiliary Past Presidents Scholarship of \$1,000 to Edlinson Hernandez;
- Virginia Pease Hunt Scholarship of \$2,500 to Jonathan Rammell;
- Certificates of Scholarship Eligibility to Justine Cortes, Linda Nguyen, Jasmin Silva, Maria Salas, Brandon Bannowsky, Michael Flores,

Boys Republic Report

Boys Republic Report is published three times yearly by Boys Republic, 3493 Grand Ave., Chino Hills, CA 91709. (909) 628-1217.

Boys Republic and Girls Republic are private, non-profit, non-sectarian agencies helping troubled children aged 13 to 18. Rules for acceptance and participation in these programs are the same for everyone without regard for race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap.

Samuel Medina, Francisco Acosta, Nayeli Mercado, Pedro Orozco, Melissa Pereyda, Martin Rosales, Aaron Simmons, Christian Escalera, Anthony Morales, Travon Richard, Michael Vanevery, Christopher, Vaughns, Kevin Moore, Noe Aguirre, Shadeed Alexander, and Dominique Green;

- Alumnus of the Year to Lisa Donovan and to brothers Mike and Chris Hill; and
- This year, the Rams Head Award was presented to employee Reggie Brooks.



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Della Robbia® News

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOYS REPUBLIC DELLA ROBBIA WREATH PROGRAM

FALL, 2008

Historic Wreath Program Will Again Help BR Teens Earn Their Own Way

When the first Della Robbia Christmas wreath of 2008 travels by conveyor from the hand-assembly area to the shipping dock in the Boys Republic wreath barn late this November, it will signal the beginning of the 85th season of one of the oldest and largest self-help enterprises undertaken by any child-care program in the nation. It is an enterprise as rich in history and tradition as it is essential to the school's work with hundreds of troubled teens every year.

As they have every year since 1923, the students of Boys Republic will greet the holidays with the crackle of dried pine cones and seed pods, the scent of fresh California evergreen foliage and the sight of piles of greenery, boxes of fresh apples and lemons and stacks of shipping cartons.

Della Robbias come in two sizes.

A 24-inch diameter wreath sells for \$44.95 complete with applicable taxes, shipping and handling. A 32-inch diameter wreath is priced at

\$66.95, taxes, shipping and handling included. Wreaths can be bought by check, money order, Master Card, Visa or Discover Card.

Last-minute orders can be placed by telephone at 1-(800) 833-7769. Wreaths can also be ordered using the enclosed form. The completed form can be faxed to (909) 628-9688 or mailed to Boys Republic at 3493 Grand Ave., Chino Hills, CA 91709.

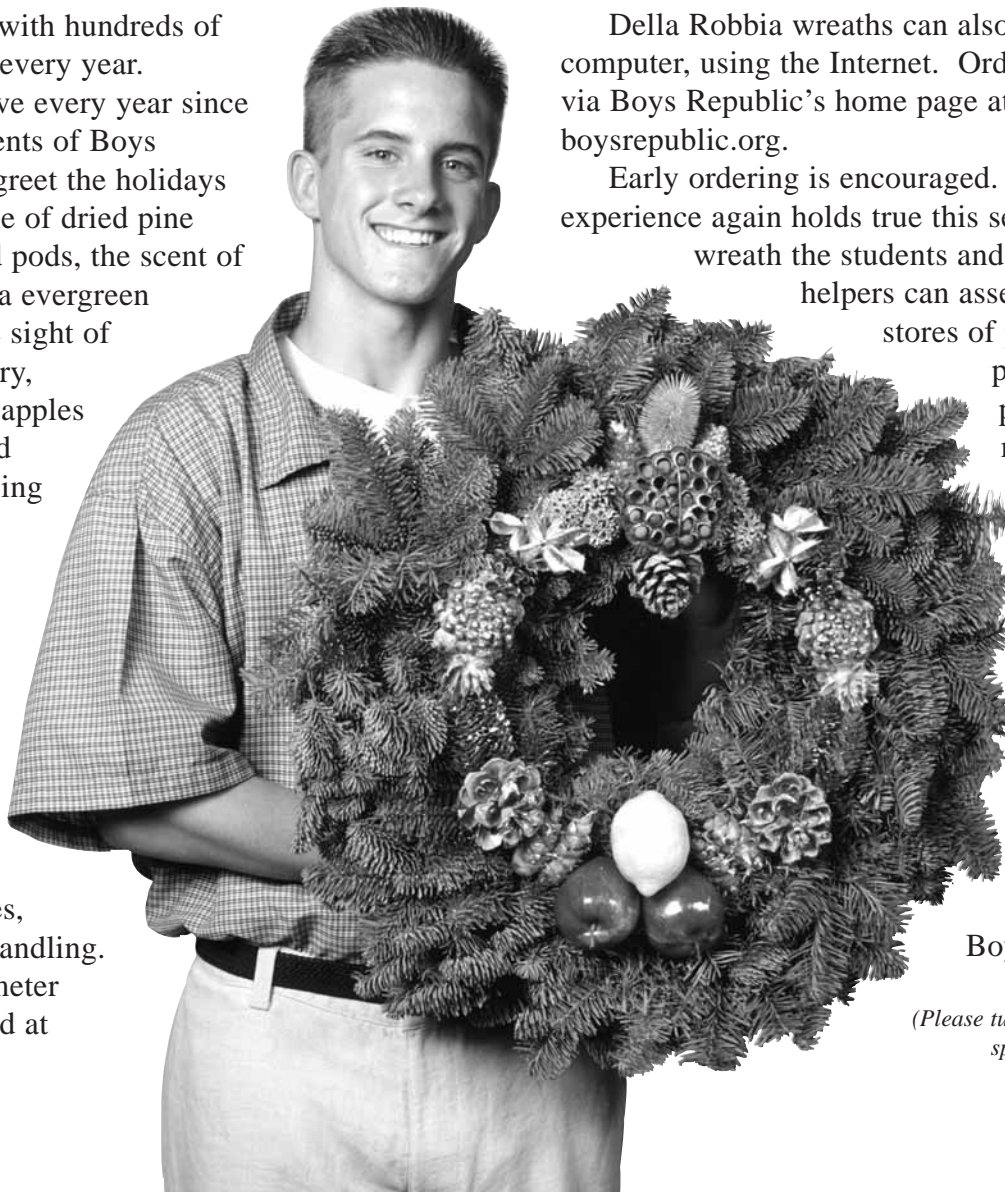
Della Robbia wreaths can also be ordered by computer, using the Internet. Orders can be placed via Boys Republic's home page at: boysrepublic.org.

Early ordering is encouraged. If past years' experience again holds true this season, every wreath the students and their adult

helpers can assemble from the stores of pine cones and pods will be purchased by mid-December

and late orders will have to be returned unfilled.

Originally created as a work-experience vehicle for students in residence, over the years the Boys Republic



(Please turn to back page of this special section)

Distinctive Della Robbia Wreaths Are Natural Symbols of the Holiday Season

They have been called “the very image of holiday celebrating” and “Christmas cheer in a box.” They are Boys Republic’s world-famous Della Robbia Christmas wreaths, distinctive, all-natural decorations that have been an important part of Christmas to families throughout the nation and elsewhere for over 80 years.

Hefty rings of fresh California evergreen boughs encrusted with pine cones, seed pods and burrs and

then highlighted with fresh apples and lemons, Della Robbia wreaths look and smell like Christmas, itself.

Because of the fresh materials they contain, the final hand-assembly, packaging and shipment of the finished wreaths is limited to a period of only a few weeks at the start of the holiday season. Yet each Della Robbia wreath represents a full year of effort by Boys Republic and Girls Republic students and

(Please turn to back page of this special section)

Anatomy of a Della Robbia

LIQUIDAMBAR

A member of the witch hazel family, liquidambar trees grow in great profusion throughout Southern California. These spiny seed casings are gathered early in the year.

COTTON BURR

These delicate star-shaped pods are gleaned from the fields of the San Joaquin Valley after the cotton crop has been picked.

PINE CONES

Cones from a variety of pine and fir trees are used in every wreath, some gathered at altitudes of up to 10,000 feet in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

PLUMOSUM

Named for their feather-like plumes, these novel cones are native to Israel and South Africa.

EVERGREEN BOUGHS

Supple noble fir evergreens are harvested fresh in the forests Northern California and Oregon. No trees are harmed in the pruning process.

WINESAP APPLES & FRESH LEMONS

Hand-rubbed in alcohol and then lacquered to keep them colorful and plump.

LOTUS POD

This distinctive water lily seed casing with many of the seeds still intact is gathered in the fall from local lakes and ponds.

TEASEL

An Old World herb once used in mills to “tease” up the nap of woolen cloth, this prickly flower head is harvested in the San Francisco Bay area.



Note: The number, selection and placement of cones and seedpods upon the Della Robbia Wreath may vary each year, depending upon the availability of these natural materials.

Phone, Fax, Modem or Mail In Your
Last-Minute Wreath Orders

Phone: (800) 833-7769

Fax: (909) 628-9688

Internet: <http://www.boysrepublic.org>

Mail: Boys Republic, 3493 Grand Ave., Chino Hills, CA 91709

WREATH ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

1. PLEASE FILL OUT FORM COMPLETELY, INCLUDE FULL ADDRESSES WITH ZIP CODES.
2. WREATH ORDERS ARE PROCESSED AND SHIPPED IN THE ORDER RECEIVED..
3. AVOID DUPLICATION. IF YOU TELEPHONE OR FAX YOUR ORDER, PLEASE DO NOT ALSO MAIL IT.
4. ONLY 24-INCH WREATHS WILL BE SHIPPED TO ADDRESSES OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND THEY GO UPS OR AIR PARCEL POST AT ADDITIONAL CUSTOMER EXPENSE.
5. NOTE: DELLA ROBBIA WREATHS CANNOT BE SHIPPED TO P.O. BOXES.

**WREATH
SIZE**

**SHIP TO:
(PRINT NAMES AND FULL ADDRESSES INCLUDING ZIP CODES)**

CREDIT CARD PURCHASES

[] VISA [] M/C [] DISCOVER [] AMX Exp. Date: _____

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Cardholder: _____

PERSONAL & BUSINESS CHECK PURCHASES

Please make checks payable to *Boys Republic*

SENDER INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone No.: _____

WREATHS PRICES*

_____ 24" WREATHS @ \$44.95, COMPLETE \$ _____

_____ 32" WREATHS @ \$66.95, COMPLETE \$ _____

TOTAL ORDER \$ _____

* PRICES INCLUDE APPLICABLE TAXES, SHIPPING, AND HANDLING.

* Shipments outside of U.S. Continental limits must go Air Parcel Post or UPS at customer's expense.

TO SEND BY MAIL OR FAX, CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

Della Robbias Evoke Holiday Charm and Joy

(Continued from page 2 of "Della Robbia News")

the professional wreath staff that works with them.

Beginning each January, weekend work parties of boys and staff go into selected fields, forests and orchards to collect numerous varieties of seed pods, nuts, cones and other natural, dried materials. Then during the week, each sackful is sorted, cleaned, drilled and wired. The cones and pods are then wired together into decorative arrays and then stored in boxes and bins in an old gymnasium transformed into a wreath barn on the agency's Chino Hills campus.

Altogether, more than three million individual pods and cones from as many as a dozen varieties of trees and plants are

collected, prepared and stored each year to await the holiday season.

The distinctive design of the cone, pod and fruit-studded Della Robbia wreath was inspired by the ceramic wreath sculptures of the Della Robbia family of artisans in 16th century Florence, Italy. Margaret Fowler, founder of Boys Republic, happened to see an original Della Robbia ceramic while vacationing in Europe in the early 1920's, just at a time when she was searching for a craft project that would teach the children in her care the value of honest labor. She brought the idea home with her and, in 1923, the first few dozen Della Robbia wreaths were made and sold door-to-door for \$2.50 each.

So successful was the project that the following year wreath production was increased to 107. It was increased again for the third year and again for the fourth. Wreath sales quickly grew to 500 per season, then 1,000, then 1,500.

In the early 1950's, Boys Republic Board of Directors formalized the Della Robbia program, expanding it to serve as a key component in students' work experience activities and as a primary source of

supplemental funding for the agency's non-profit operations. They converted an old, red brick gymnasium on the main campus into a permanent

wreath barn and installed an automated conveyer system to speed the wreaths from each hand-assembly stage to the next. By 1955, production had swelled to 30,000 wreaths per season.

Today, more than 50,000 Della Robbias are produced in an 13-day period between Thanksgiving and mid-December each year. But despite that large volume, the wreaths are made as they have always been made, carefully hand-tied, one at a time.

Each wreath is packaged, moisture-sealed and ready to ship within minutes of being completed. Most wreaths are shipped within 24 hours of manufacture. Those having to wait an extra day are stored in a cooler to keep them florist-fresh.

Historic Campaign Enters 85th Season

(Continued from front page of "Della Robbia News")

Della Robbia wreath campaign became as well a supplemental source of funds for the agency's non-profit programs of counseling and education. It continues to serve that dual purpose today, providing meaningful after-school and weekend work for hundreds of students a year and helping Boys Republic raise nearly one-quarter of its own annual operating budget. Proceeds from wreath sales and other self-help activities and donations represent a savings to taxpayers of nearly \$4 million a year.



EARNING THEIR OWN WAY: In addition to providing supplemental funding for the school's programs, the Della Robbia program provides year-round work experience for teenagers.