



Deep Valley Sun

NEWSLETTER OF THE BETSY-TACY SOCIETY

To promote and preserve Maud Hart Lovelace's legacy and her work, encourage and support literacy and conserve historic landmarks in Mankato

VOL. 8 ISSUE 1

SPRING 2012

Surpassing Expectations: Convention Offers Fans Connections to History, Literature

Editor's Note: As college juniors, Kathy Baxter and her friend Gretchen organized a pilgrimage to Deep Valley, which led them to having tea with Carney in her home and meeting Cab and Jean in theirs. Excited letters to and from Maud Hart Lovelace followed, and the pilgrims returned the following year to get into the high school house! In 2011, Kathy Baxter was astonished to realize that she had in her possession letters that Maud and her editor had written to each other about the girls' pilgrimage. On Saturday, July 21, Kathy Baxter will deliver the keynote address for The Winding Hall of Fate, during which she'll share the surprising, and sometimes moving, letters that she found. She also will introduce her friend Gretchen, who is attending her first convention.

We've asked Kathy Baxter and others to share with Deep Valley Sun readers some memories from past conventions and what the experience has meant for them.

Why I am coming to the convention this summer!

In spite of the fact that I have been to Mankato many times, my pulse quickens every time I see those hills in the distance. I am going to Deep Valley! I am going to walk the same streets the Immortal Trio trod! I will see many of the same sights they saw! I always head for the houses and the new Carnegie Library. Last summer my husband and I stayed overnight at the Hilton Garden Inn and walked early in the morning to the houses. He was stunned! He had no idea whatsoever (I despair sometimes) that Betsy and Tacy lived across the street from each other. He was astonished.

And it worked out well. When we walked over to examine the pavers, I expressed great sorrow that there wasn't one with my name on it. He immediately took pity and ordered one when we got home. I get to see that paver

with my name on it for the first time when I arrive for The Winding Hall of Fate!

There are so many reasons I plan to come to the convention this summer: There are delicious-looking breakout sessions on the convention program; I will get to cross Murmuring Lake on a boat; I will get to visit with old friends I seldom get to see in person, and, hopefully, I will make new ones; I can go to the houses, again, and shop at the great store at Tacy's house; and, I can make conversation on arcane topics with people as conversant with those topics as I am!

At a family gathering recently, I mentioned the tomes, and my brother informed the entire table that I was the only person on the planet who was, a) a fan, and b) gave a rip about them. I shall prove him deliciously wrong.

I am going to have a blast!

- Kathy Baxter grew up in Walnut Grove, Minn., and says coming to Mankato was a joy even then!

Convention can be like a family gathering...

I vividly remember finding out that there was going to be an actual get-together of other people who not only had heard of the Betsy-Tacy books, but who loved them like I did! Due to my disorganization at the beginning of summer

Winding Hall of Fate, Continued on page 5



Kathy Baxter (left) is set to deliver the keynote address at *The Winding Hall of Fate*, to be held in Minneapolis and Mankato, Minnesota, July 19-22, 2012. Baxter's talk is scheduled for Saturday, evening, July 21. Turn to pages 7 and 8 to see the convention agenda. A registration form can be found on pages 9-10.

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 501(c)3 organization

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Newsletter Editing/Design: Jackie Hilgert

Annual Membership Levels

Basic	\$25.00
Patron	\$50.00
Silver	\$100.00
Gold	\$250.00
Lifetime	\$500.00

For more information, see pg. 11

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Shop Catalog:

Shop our online catalog:
 www.betsy-tacysociety.org.
 Credit cards & PayPal available.
 For a catalog: send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094 and mark CATALOG on the front of the envelope.

Tacy's House and Gift Shop

March - December:
 Open every Saturday 12 noon - 3 pm
 Closed: January - February
 Tacy's House is located at 332 Center Street in Mankato and Betsy's House is at 333 Center Street. Check the BTS web site for current admission fees, No admission to gift shop only. BTS members are admitted free during regular hours.

Special House Visits:

Call 507-345-9777 or 507-345-8903
 For special house visits, advance reservations are requested 2 weeks in advance.
 See the BTS web site for current rates for special tours, group tours, or school groups.
 Or, call for more details.

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Welcome New Members

Nov. 1, 2011 - February 29, 2012

Lifetime Members

Barbara Carter, Minneapolis

Gold Members

Marilyn Brooks, Massachusetts

Patron Members

Marilyn Franklin, Massachusetts
 Maribeth Petrocelli, Massachusetts

Basic Members

Patty Bowler, Minnesota
 Tracy Bracht, California
 Joan Duerksen, Minnesota
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 Rachel Pocras, Wisconsin
 Helen Quinn, Wisconsin
 Eunice Sassenberg, Minnesota
 Amanda Schrader, Minnesota

All Gifts to BTS are Gratefully Appreciated

The BTS gratefully acknowledges donations received from Nov. 1, 2011 - February 29, 2012 from the following:

Gifts \$1,000 or greater

Robert and Susan Brown
 Lori and Nate Gardner
 Laurie Pengra

Gifts from \$500 to \$999

Courtney Crepeau
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Gifts up to \$49

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 Susan Kavulich
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 Michele Kronlund
 Janice Kunkel
 Patricia Laue
 Frieda Maheras
 Nancy McAvoy
 Heather McGovern
 Janet Menzer
 Patricia Nelson
 June Parnell
 Diane Poythress, *in memory of little sister Denise*
 Nancy Phares, *in memory of Ken and Marilyn Berg*
 Anne Phillips
 Wendylee Raun, *in honor of Jenmarie Anderson Reemts*
 Katherine Read

Elizabeth Reishus
 Melissa Roselle
 Linda Rouzer
 Dlene Sandleback
 Eunice Sassenberg
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 Charity Tahmaseb
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 Helga Visscher
 Helen Waugh
 Marilyn Williamson
 Diana Wing
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Paver Fundraiser

Nov. 1, 2011 - February 29, 2012

Lani Jordan
 Margaret (Peggy) Kirch (2)
 Melva Lamp
 Charleen Rheaume

Artifacts and Archive Donations

Nov. 1, 2011 - February 29, 2012

Iris Black, *Betsy-Tacy books by Maud Hart Lovelace*
 Kathleen Day, *Hand cracked wool socks*
 Marilyn Fugelsech, *Kitchen wares*
 Katherine Hughes, *Linens*
 Penny Purtzer, *Literature*

Thank You, Volunteers!

Nov. 1, 2011 - February 29, 2012
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Message from the President

I look forward to welcoming many Betsy-Tacy fans when we all gather here in Deep Valley for the convention in July. It is unlikely any of us are calling in a seamstress or dressmaker to prepare our clothes, and probably there won't be a farewell delegation of family and friends at the train station (or the airport) waving as the train (or plane) pulls away. But the anticipation and excitement are still there as we all prepare for the special reunion of friends here in Mankato this year.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank Radhika Breaden, Barbara Fecteau, Julie Chuba, Michele Blake, Kathy Baxter, and Colleen O'Neil for all they are doing to plan another Betsy-Tacy Convention. We know there are many other volunteers all over the country who are helping with the preparations. We are grateful for everyone's generous vision and all the collaborative efforts.

We local volunteers and the BTS staff are also thinking ahead to this big reunion. Each person on the Board of Directors serves on a committee. The shop committee is making sure there are new products to sell. Program committee members are our "event planners" and know how to handle large groups in the small houses. The facilities committee has their eyes on the houses and yards as we get ready for company. The archives committee will focus on display cases at our interpretive center (also known as Tacy's house) and at the museum which is everyone's favorite place – Betsy's house.

We are thinking about boxed lunches, costumes, enough supplies, the silent auction, and plenty of volunteers. We'll save some jobs and tasks for the out-of-town members who want to volunteer at the houses during the convention.

Convention guests this time will be able to use credit cards for their purchases in the gift shop. We are excited to show newly-acquired items from Merian Kirchner's estate, such as a handkerchief Delos gave to Maud during WWI. Guests will notice the fresh yellow paint on three sides of Betsy's house, and also on the garages. Donors can look for their inscribed pavers in the walkway at Betsy's house.

We invite you to join us for lunch at the Betsy-Tacy houses during the convention. Many of our visitors like to eat lunch on the bench just as Betsy and Tacy did so many years ago. We hope to have many other benches in the yards ready for friends to share.

Tours of the houses will not be guided and scheduled to specific times during convention days. Convention guests can visit with each and savor the moments at their leisure! Our local tour guides will be present to welcome members and guests and to also answer questions. We encourage everyone to share information and stories!

When one becomes a member of the BTS, that new member is joining more than an organization but also an important mission. Members are part of a dedicated group of people who want to promote and preserve Maud's legacy and books and to conserve the Betsy-Tacy houses. In July, many faithful members – and hopefully many new members too – will celebrate Maud's legacy, reminisce with friends, walk where the stories took place, and promote being a member of the Betsy-Tacy Society.

I know many are rereading Maud's books in preparation for the convention experience. During the 2009 convention I was inspired to reread them too. Again I was reminded why I have always loved

the Betsy-Tacy books! I will see you in Minneapolis at the start of the convention on July 19, and then in Mankato that evening. Have a safe journey!

Susan Brown

President, Betsy-Tacy Society

Messages from the BTS staff

The snow is gently falling in Deep Valley and as I walk up the Big Hill to Tacy's house. I can only imagine Betsy and Tacy sliding down the hill on their sleds – over and over again – having fun just like the fun of reading the Maud Hart Lovelace classics over and over again!

I have been involved with the Betsy-Tacy Society as a volunteer for the BTS Gift Shop, served on the Shop Committee, and together with board member Lisa Wolf, decorated the houses for the Betsy-Tacy Victorian Christmas. I joined the staff of the Betsy-Tacy Society as Operations and Outreach Coordinator in December and I look forward to the many possibilities ahead. It is exciting to be a part of the Betsy-Tacy Society where I can share their mission of preserving Maud Hart Lovelace's legacy for future generations.

I come to the Society with a background in administrative support as an executive assistant and support for office, sales and production management teams, positions that I held while employed with Taylor Corporation in Mankato for more than 32 years.

I am grateful to the Betsy-Tacy board of directors for this opportunity and look forward to meeting many of you in Deep Valley – where dreams do come true.

Susan Orchard

Operations and Outreach Coordinator

One sunny afternoon I stepped outside Tacy's House and scouted down the path in search for a perfect spot to enjoy a picnic style lunch. I discovered a small bench nestled just below the Big Hill, took a seat, and for a brief moment I journeyed into Betsy and Tacy's Deep Valley. My surroundings reminded me of my inner child, a playful carefree spirit welcoming opportunities for creativity and imagination. As I strolled back to the office, I felt rejuvenated and content. At that moment, I came to realize the importance of taking a break, not for just lunch, but a break from adulthood.

The fond memories of my youth are the secret ingredients used to fuel my inspiration. It is for this reason that I appreciate and truly enjoy the Betsy-Tacy books and the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace. My position fulfills my desire to continue a pursuit of knowledge and to discover how the daily operations of the Society contribute to the conservation of two very important historic landmarks. I continue to learn every day from devoted Betsy-Tacy fans who energetically share their personal connections to the Society. I'm excited to be part of a team that seeks to preserve the magic of the Betsy-Tacy stories for many generations to come!

Meghan Rodgers

Membership and Gifts Coordinator

The BTS Re-examines Society By-Laws

By Katherine Hughes

In December, 2011 an ad hoc committee of the Betsy-Tacy Society board of directors met to re-examine the Society by-laws. The committee's report to the board contained several substantive changes. The committee also suggested formatting changes (that is, moving sentences from one section to another where they logically belonged).

The current by-laws prohibit the board of directors from amending the document in several areas. The directors may not amend quorum requirements or procedures for removing directors or filling vacancies. Nor may the directors amend the number of directors or terms of office. The by-laws as they now stand do not state the vote required for amendment. Taking these limitations into consideration, the committee suggested that a special meeting of members be held. Members are hereby notified that a special meeting will be held May 10 at 6:30 p.m., and a majority vote of the members attending will be sufficient to amend the by-laws.

The following is a summary of the proposed changes.

- Membership status of the Betsy-Tacy Society would be changed from voting to non-voting. The committee reasoned that because the Society has a national (indeed, an international) membership, many members find it difficult to attend an annual meeting. In addition, the committee believed that the membership trusted the board of directors to handle fundraising, budgeting, facilities maintenance, shop operation and museum acquisitions. The committee also held members are willing to let the board of directors elect new directors.

Paver Fundraiser

Set your name in stone or honor the memory of a loved one by purchasing a paving stone for Betsy's house. An order form can be downloaded from the BTS website. This fundraiser/memorial will continue until the entire walkway by Betsy's house is filled with engraved pavers! Blank pavers are replaced by engraved pavers as the orders come in.

You can order a paver as a gift and we'll send you a certificate and follow up with a photo once the paver is set.

This BTS fundraiser has allowed us to finish restoring Betsy's House and now allows the society to keep this historic literary landmark in its best possible condition for visitors, some of whom travel from across the country for their Betsy-Tacy experience.



- All references to chapters of the Betsy-Tacy Society would be deleted from the by-laws. At the time the Society originally wrote the by-laws, it expected that other groups would wish to become chapters of the Society. Experience has demonstrated that Betsy-Tacy fans like to get together in informal clubs rather than formalizing their group and having to meet the chapter requirements.
- The board of directors would consist of no fewer than nine and no more than fifteen persons. The by-laws would confirm that members of the board receive no compensation or remuneration except for reasonable expenses.
- Provisions would be added to address removal of a director. One criterion would be two unexcused absences from board meetings.
- Provisions would be added to address vacancies on the board for unexpired terms. The Board would elect a replacement to fill out the term.
- Annual meetings of the Society would continue to be held at a time and place chosen by the board of directors. The Board would give written notice of the Society's annual meeting.
- The committee proposed changes in the terms of offices for officers. The president and vice-president would be elected for one-year terms, but could be re-elected for up to three consecutive terms. The secretary and treasurer would be elected for three-year terms and could be eligible for two consecutive terms. Other by-law change proposals addressed procedures for filling unexpired officer terms and for term adjustments when an officer takes a different office during his or her term.
- The description of the executive committee would be changed from three members chosen by the board to the board officers (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer) and others as the board might appoint.
- Strictures on committee meetings and voting would be removed from the by-laws.

The full text of the proposed by-laws are posted within the Membership area of the BTS web site for review.

If you have any suggestions or questions concerning these proposed changes, please contact us. Our mailing address is: P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56001. Our e-mail address is: BTSMankato@gmail.com.

Again, a vote on these revisions will occur May 10 at 6:30 p.m. during a BTS board of directors meeting. The entire membership is welcome to participate. ■

**Shop online 24-hours-a-day at:
www.Betsy-TacySociety.org/catalog**

Winding Hall of Fate, Continued from page 1

and the reading clubs and activities our library sponsored, I didn't get around to cleaning up my office until two weeks before the convention. I was literally shaking at the thought of going. I called the number on the flyer my System Library Youth Consultant had sent out a month previously, and talked to one of the nicest ladies I had ever encountered. Michele Blake assured me that I could register with her over the phone, and bring my check with me, since it was so close to the convention and we didn't want things to get lost in the mail.

This was in 1992 and my husband and grown son insisted on driving me to Mankato from the Chicago area. When I went to my first meeting, and looked around at all the other women, I felt even more comfortable than going to a Youth Services conference of librarians, or being at a literature conference with teachers. I felt as if I could go out of a meeting room and actually leave my purse on the chair and everyone else around would watch it for me. It was incredible.

I think I bought one of everything they had for sale as souvenirs. I brought my two oldest granddaughters to the next convention and three granddaughters to the following one. That year I organized the children's program. I brought three granddaughters and a daughter-in-law to the last one where I again worked on the children's program. This year I am coming alone so I can be a *Perfectly Awful Girl!*

I come to these convention to attend the meetings, to enjoy the fellowship, and just to wallow in the whole atmosphere of being with other people who adore Maud Hart Lovelace like I do. I am 69 now, and found the tomes when I was in second grade because the books were in the same area as Lois Lenski's, whose books I loved. The fact that they were illustrated by one of my favorite authors sold them to me from the beginning. Soon, I loved them because of the stories. I am currently reading them to my last granddaughter who is three years old. I have pressed them on many, many readers and parents during the 26 years I was a youth services librarian and get great joy at making converts.

- Steffi in Illinois

...and a gathering of friends

I attended the Betsy-Tacy convention in 2009 because I had missed the one in 2002 due to a church youth trip obligation. (I made sure to use B-T material for our lessons – really!). By the time 2009 came around, I had already met many, many Maudies and knew that I would be seeing old friends, as well as *finally* getting to be face-to-face with people I'd emailed for a decade but had never gotten to meet. I'd been to Mankato once but it was so fun to experience even more of Deep Valley and Mankato along with such a large group of enthusiasts.

It's funny the things that pop into my head when I recall attending a B-T convention:

- Laughing uproariously at Pub 500 over the Tony versus Joe debate.
- Seeing Cari Marie McGann McGee tearing up when she got off the bus at Betsy's and Tacy's houses. The photo I took of that moment is one of my very favorites.
- The informal happy hour gatherings in the hotel each day.
- The fabulousness of "Great World" costumes.

- Susan in Indiana

...and 'Mardi Gras' all rolled into one fabulous weekend

I have loved both conventions I've been to. In 2002, I brought three nieces and we had a wonderful time together. I think the only book my niece Audrey had ever read was *Winona's Pony Cart* which was a gift from Stephanie's children's program. The girls really, really got into the costumes on Saturday night and did their own imaginative costumes and paraded across the platform. And at the last convention, I got to go to Murmuring Lake and eat walleye for the first time. Being in Deep Valley and actually standing in the places that have grown real through the books was a wonderful, moving experience for me.

- Krista in California

Donations Sought for Willard's Emporium

The Betsy-Tacy Society's largest fundraiser for 2012 is Willard's Emporium, the Silent Auction portion of the upcoming B-T Convention, *The Winding Hall of Fate*.

Already, many BTS members have combed through their closets and donated precious mementos from their MHL collections. We've also received handmade treasures that represent outstanding devotion to our mission. Our membership is so talented and so giving!

We are grateful for items we've received, but we need more. Please look through your collections for BTS memorabilia, signed books, B-T books, special books of interest, small heirloom treasures, linens, and other precious items that you can part with. Small items are especially attractive as most convention attendees travel by air.

Willard's Emporium is a perennial favorite of convention goers and all proceeds from the silent auction will go to the BTS. For more information about donating to Willard's Emporium, contact Jackie Hilgert at hilgert.jackie@gmail.com.

News and Notes

'Boy in Blue' committee seeks support

Bryce Stenzel is leading a grassroots effort to reconstruct the "Boy in Blue" statue, a Civil War memorial that graced Mankato's Lincoln Park from 1893 to 1927. Stenzel served the BTS as a board member from 2007-2010 and he is Project Director of The Boy in Blue Memorial Project committee.

"The Boy in Blue was installed the same year Maud Hart Lovelace was born...she saw it and she referenced it in her book *Emily of Deep Valley*," Stenzel explained at a recent Society board meeting where he solicited the Society's assistance in promoting the effort. Lincoln Park is a triangular public space located approximately two blocks from the Betsy and Tacy houses and it gets a fair amount of mention in Maud Hart Lovelace books.

Stenzel said the committee has been in discussions with the city to determine the project's feasibility, given the availability of funding and whether the memorial should include a water feature like the original statue. The city council hasn't yet voted to allow the statue to be placed on city property, but Stenzel said discussions with council members have been favorable. If the committee and the city come to terms on a new Boy in Blue statue that includes a water feature, total cost to construct the memorial will near \$100,000. A reproduction without a water feature will reduce the cost by roughly 30 percent.

Stenzel said it was the committee's hope to complete fundraising and have the memorial installed by 2015, the final year of the Civil War sesquicentennial (2011-2015). The Mankato Area Foundation is the fiscal agent for donations being made toward The Boy in Blue Memorial Project. More information about this effort can be obtained online at: www.boyinblue.org

Grade-schooler wins award for MHL display

Abby Lane, a fourth-grader at Tatanka Elementary School in Buffalo, Minn., won her school's Academy Award for the project she designed featuring Maud Hart Lovelace and her books. Note the statue front center! Abby loves to read, says her grandmother Bev Barth, who sent us the photo. Abby and Bev visited the houses in late November.



Tacy's House gets emergency sewer repair

BTS staff and volunteers worked without water for a few weeks in December as emergency repairs were conducted on the sewer pipe at Tacy's house. Trouble with the sewer line was suspected after instances of sewer backups occurred during the autumn. In December, BTS Board Member Doug Laven broke through the concrete floor in the basement and discovered the sewer line had disintegrated in several places. Repairs to the entire line were ordered almost immediately. A plumber completed repairs inside the home while workers using a backhoe dug a trench to lay new line from the house to the street. Total cost to the Society for this emergency repair was approximately \$2,000. ■

Preserving a Writing Legacy

By Carole Arends

I'm writing this on a computer that has so many bells and whistles I hardly have to think. Writing is a breeze! But it was not always this way, and those of you who were born after 1980 probably haven't a clue what it was like to write back in the old days.

Like Maud Hart Lovelace, those of us of a certain age actually had to take a class to learn how to use a typewriter. It was a big deal, because without typing skills, it was hard for a young woman to get a job. An effective typist had to forcefully pound her fingers on an old, manual machine that was large, heavy, and awkward. It took real physical effort to get each key to make a firm impression on the inked ribbon so that it would transfer that ink to your paper. And, I don't even want to talk about what you had to go through if you made a mistake!

The first usable typewriter was invented in Italy in 1808, but typewriters didn't become popular in America until 1874 when Underwood created an improved machine. Sadly, those old, manual typewriter have departed not only from our consciousness, but from our day-to-day lives. Typewriters have all but disappeared from the desks of writers. You can still find them, but mainly on display in antique stores.

As we know from reading the Betsy-Tacy books, Betsy Ray was dearly attached to her stash of notebooks and pencils and paper! There's no mention of a typewriter until late in the series. Yet we can be certain that as Maud Hart Lovelace became more prolific as a writer, she moved from paper and pencil to the typewriter. In fact, two of the typewriters Maud used during her lifetime are on display at Tacy's house.

I became a fan of typewriters when I received my father's old Royal. Although I had learned to type on it years earlier, I had forgotten the beautiful gold designs, the clear glass sides which allowed the user to see the inner workings, the lovely "ting!" of the bell announcing the end of the line, and the keys. Oh, the keys ... sturdy and shiny, framed in glass no less!

I started rescuing typewriter keys several years ago and now turn them into vintage bracelets, pendants and earrings. My goal is to preserve the keys and share them by crafting them into something beautiful. With keys made of glass, old celluloid, even Bakelite, and letters that were engraved, printed, or even embossed, there's no limit to what can be created from these old keys. And while few people have room for a collection of antique typewriters, jewelry made from typewriter keys is small, portable and speaks of a bygone age. Through my craft, I like to think that in my own small way, I'm saving a piece of history that relates to Maud's world. And, I feel quite certain that if she were here today, she'd treasure the typewriter jewelry I most certainly would create just for her. ■

You can view samples of Carole's typewriter jewelry by following the link at the bottom of the Betsy-Tacy Society online Gift Shop page. (http://www.betsy-tacy-society.org/sites/default/files/content_images/typewriter_jewelry_2011.pdf)



BETSY-TACY CONVENTION, JULY 19–22, 2012

Such a wonderful weekend has been planned for you! Enjoy the snapshots below, and visit the Convention website for more details.

THURSDAY MORNING IN MINNEAPOLIS

Activities include exploring Betsy and Joe's neighborhood (including a tour of the Bow Street apartment!), a picnic at the Minnehaha Falls, and a special event at the

Kerlan Collection of Children's Literature at the "U":

- 📖 A presentation by Heather Vogel Frederick, author of *The Mother-Daughter Book Club* series
- 📖 A presentation by Amy Dolnick Rechner, author of *Between Deep Valley and the Great World*
- 📖 A display of Maud Hart Lovelace's never-before-seen papers

THURSDAY EVENING IN MANKATO

Get to know other Convention-goers at the Ice Cream Social and Betsy-Tacy mixer.

FRIDAY MORNING ACTIVITY CHOICES

Choose from a variety of activities (*the first three activities are also offered on Saturday morning*):

- 📖 Go on a **Bat with Betsy!** See where Mr. and Mrs. Ray were married. Enjoy a pontoon boat ride on Murmuring Lake (imagining Tony rowing lazily) before returning to Deep Valley around noon. *Note:* There's an additional fee of \$25 for this event.
- 📖 **Mr. Thumbler's Touring Hack** travels on a continuous loop (ongoing, 9:30–noon) from the Verizon Center to Betsy and Tacy's Houses and the Blue Earth County Historical Society.
- 📖 Take a **narrated bus tour of Deep Valley**, featuring the sites most dear to B-T fans, with stops at the Carnegie Library, Carney's House, and Tib's House (ongoing, 9:30–noon).
- 📖 Kids under 12 may join Steffi Smith for the **Children's Program** (10 a.m.–noon).
- 📖 Young people ages 12–17 (no parents!) may join Andrea Scobie for the **Teen Program** (10 a.m.–noon).

FRIDAY AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

You may attend up to three of the following:

- 📖 *The Long Winter, Mankato Style* / Peter Fifield (Carney's grand-nephew!)
- 📖 *Deep Valley Is Not My Native Heath: Immigrants in Mankato* / Claudia Mills
- 📖 *Betsy Was an Author: How Writing Influenced Betsy's Feminism and Femininity* / Molly Leverenz
- 📖 *The Grooming of Betsy: The Beauty Industry and Betsy-Tacy* / Melissa Prycer
- 📖 *Virtual Front Street* / Jessica Potter, Blue Earth County Historical Society
- 📖 *Grandpa Webster's Legacy: Honoring the Civil War in Mankato* / Bryce Stentzel



FRIDAY EVENING

- 📖 **Betsy-Tacy Society (BTS) Annual Meeting**, open to all Convention-goers
- 📖 **Costume Parade:** Bring a costume related to the books, or just watch the crowd.
- 📖 **Keynote Address:** *Surpassing All Expectations: Deep Valley Denizens Talk Back* by Kathy Baxter




SATURDAY AFTERNOON AUTHOR PANEL AND BOOK SIGNING

Perri Klass and daughter Josephine Wolff present *Stories for Girls About Girls Who Write Stories*. Next, Perri Klass, Mitali Perkins, Melissa Wiley, and Jennifer Hart talk about the craft of writing. *Note:* Mitali and Melissa wrote the forwards to the reissues of *Emily* and *Carney*, respectively. Be sure to get your copies signed!

SATURDAY EVENING

-  **Piano Sing-Along with Julia:** Sing the songs that the Crowd knew and loved!
-  **The Legacy Panel:** Descendants and friends of our beloved Deep Valley characters share their memories of the real-life Betsy, Tacy, Carney, Cab, etc.

SUNDAY MORNING

-  Attend a **talk by Linda Gesling**, titled “Faith in the Betsy-Tacy Books.”
-  Visit a local church, the Convention booths at the Verizon Center, or the Betsy-Tacy Houses.
-  After the Convention officially ends, you may go on the optional **Lake Minnetonka Excursion**, where Betsy and Joe honeymooned! Ride the streetcar boat! Admire Maud and Delos’s beautiful lake house! Explore the lovely lakeside city of Excelsior! *Note:* There is an additional fee of \$22 for this option. You will also need to bring streetcar fare (between \$6 and \$12).

REGISTERING FOR THE CONVENTION

Each person attending the Convention (including children ages 2–12) should complete a registration form. If you have any questions about registration, contact Michele Blake, [mflake \[at\] comcast \[dot\] net](mailto:mflake@comcast.net).

LODGING

The DoubleTree Bloomington, Mankato Hilton Garden Inn, and Mankato City Center Hotel are offering reduced rates for Convention attendees. See the Convention website for more info.

TRANSPORTATION

Our goal is to offer a car-less Convention. On Thursday, the bus takes you from the DoubleTree Bloomington to the Minneapolis sites, stopping at the DoubleTree again before heading to Mankato. On Sunday (11:30 a.m.), those who need return transportation to Minneapolis may take the Convention bus to the DoubleTree Bloomington and then to the Minneapolis–St. Paul International Airport (estimated arrival: between 1:30 and 2 p.m.), for a nominal fee. (Please choose this option on your registration form.) If you need transportation from Mankato to Minneapolis at a different time, consider the Land to Air Express shuttle (see <http://landtoairexpress.com> for more information). *Note:* The optional Sunday excursion includes transportation from Mankato to Lake Minnetonka, the DoubleTree Bloomington, and the airport, before returning to Mankato.

CONVENTION MEALS

Your registration fee includes Thursday picnic lunch and Ice Cream Social, Friday breakfast and dinner, Saturday breakfast and dinner, and Sunday brunch. On Friday and Saturday, you may purchase lunch at Betsy’s and Tacy’s Houses: \$10 if you pre-register at Thursday night registration, \$12 if you don’t.

WILLARD’S EMPORIUM

The Silent Auction – vintage clothing, sheet music, books, exquisite handiworks, etc. – is open all weekend. Proceeds go to the BTS. Contact Jackie Hilgert at [hilgert.jackie \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:hilgert.jackie@gmail.com) for more information.

THE JUNIOR-SENIOR BALL DECORATION COMMITTEE

This year, we’re trying a new approach to table décor! Channel your inner Tib, and design a centerpiece for a table in the ballroom. For more information, contact Colleen O’Neil at [colleen_o \[at\] comcast \[dot\] net](mailto:colleen_o@comcast.net). Another option is to “adopt” a table, and we’ll provide a beautiful floral centerpiece: *A Simple Nosegay*, \$6; *Mrs. Ray Entertains*, \$15; or *The Melborn Ballroom*, \$23. Please indicate your choice on the registration form.

CONVENTION BOOTHS

There will be many Betsy-Tacy-related items for sale during the Convention. If you plan to sell something at a booth or would like more information, please contact Barb Fecteau at [ipsofecteau \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:ipsofecteau@gmail.com).



THE WINDING HALL OF FATE: BETSY-TACY CONVENTION 2012

July 19–22, 2012

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete a registration form for each person attending the convention.
(If you are bringing a guest or guests who would like to purchase a male pass, please note this below.)

<i>Contact Information</i>					
Name (First, MI, Last):				Date:	
Street Address:					
City:		State:		Zip:	
Home Phone:			Cell Phone:		
E-Mail Address:			Child's age (for children ages 2–12):		

<i>Membership</i>	
Are you a current member of the Betsy-Tacy Society (BTS)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

<i>Registration</i>	
Full Convention Registration Fee	<input type="checkbox"/> \$277 for BTS members <input type="checkbox"/> \$297 for non-BTS members <input type="checkbox"/> \$220 for children ages 2–12
Per Day Convention Registration Fees	
Thursday Minneapolis events (includes bus to Mankato)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$42
Thursday Mankato events	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15
Friday Mankato events	<input type="checkbox"/> \$115
Saturday Mankato Events	<input type="checkbox"/> \$115
Sunday Mankato events (does not include return bus to Minneapolis)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
Guest Meal Pass (# needed) <input type="checkbox"/> Adult _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Child _____ Name(s) on meal pass: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please (\$110 per adult, \$90 per child ages 2–12) <input type="checkbox"/> No, thanks

<i>Extras</i>	
Go on a Bat with Betsy (Murmuring Lake visit and boat ride) Please select: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday <input type="checkbox"/> Either day is fine	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please (\$25) <input type="checkbox"/> No, thanks
Sunday Lake Minnetonka Excursion (includes bus from Mankato to Lake Minnetonka, with a stop at Minneapolis–St. Paul Airport before returning to Mankato)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please (\$22) <input type="checkbox"/> No, thanks
Sunday bus from Mankato to Minneapolis–St. Paul Airport	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please (\$15) <input type="checkbox"/> No, thanks
Adopt a Table:	<input type="checkbox"/> No, thanks <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please (\$6) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please (\$15) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please (\$23)
	“A Simple Nosegay” “Mrs. Ray Entertains” “The Melborn Ballroom”

		<i>Total</i>
Full Convention Registration for BTS members (\$277)	\$	
Full Convention Registration for non-BTS members (\$297)	\$	
Full Convention Registration for Child Ages 2-12 (\$220)	\$	
Per Day Registration: Thursday Minneapolis (\$42)	\$	
Per Day Registration: Thursday Mankato (\$15)	\$	
Per Day Registration: Friday Mankato (\$115)	\$	
Per Day Registration: Saturday Mankato (\$115)	\$	
Per Day Registration: Sunday Mankato (\$25)	\$	
Adopt a Table (\$6, \$15, or \$23)	\$	
Go on a Bat with Betsy (\$25)	\$	
Lake Minnetonka Excursion (includes return bus to Minneapolis) (\$22)	\$	
Sunday Bus from Mankato to Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport (\$15)	\$	
Guest Meal Pass(es) (\$110/adult, \$90/child ages 2-12)	\$	
Total:	\$	

Note: Due to unpredictable fluctuations in fuel costs, a small additional fee may be collected at the Convention.

<i>Make Checks Payable to:</i>	<i>Mail to:</i>
Betsy-Tacy Convention 2012	Michele Blake, Conference Registrar 22 Pond Street • North Easton, MA 02356

Registration closes July 8, 2012. Refunds will not be available after July 1, 2012. Confirmation will occur via e-mail. If you have any questions about Convention registration, contact Michele at mfb Blake@comcast.net.

<i>Meal Choices</i>		
<p>Please indicate your own meal choices with an X. If you're purchasing a Guest Meal Pass, indicate your guest's choice with a G. Note: Children purchasing a Guest Meal Pass must choose a child's meal. Guest Meal Passes do not cover Thursday's picnic lunch. For more details about each choice, visit www.BetsyTacyConvention.com (under Registration Information: Convention Meals).</p>		
<p>Thursday picnic lunch:</p> <p>__ Sandwich: Roast Turkey Club</p> <p>__ Sandwich: Ham and Swiss</p> <p>__ Sandwich: Roasted Vegetable</p> <p>__ Salad: Balsamic Chicken</p> <p>__ Sandwich: Turkey & Cheese (for children 12 and under)</p> <p>__ Sandwich: Ham & Cheese (for children 12 and under)</p>	<p>Friday dinner:</p> <p>__ Naifi's Chicken Tawook</p> <p>__ Mrs. Muller's Herb-Crusted Pork</p> <p>__ Marco's Vegetarian Lasagna</p> <p>__ Sally Day's Chicken Fingers (for children 12 and under)</p> <p>__ Kelly Kerr's Hamburger (for children 12 and under)</p>	<p>Saturday dinner:</p> <p>__ S.S. Columbic Atlantic Salmon</p> <p>__ Anna's Chicken Diane</p> <p>__ Mrs. Tabbitt's Mazza Platter</p> <p>__ Sally Day's Chicken Fingers (for children 12 and under)</p> <p>__ Kelly Kerr's Hamburger (for children 12 and under)</p>

<i>Children's or Teen Program</i>	
<p>I'll attend the Children's Program on Friday, 10-12.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please <input type="checkbox"/> No, thanks</p>	<p>I'll attend the Teen Program on Friday, 10-12.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please <input type="checkbox"/> No, thanks</p>
<p>Note: Due to overlapping times, you cannot attend both Friday's Bat with Betsy and the Children's or Teen Program.</p>	

New Members

Every new member receives a new member packet that includes the most recent newsletter, a history of the BTS, a Maud Hart Lovelace timeline, and much more. With each new paid lifetime membership you'll receive a hardcover copy of *Winona's Pony Cart*, a Betsy's House ornament, and a lifetime membership certificate.

As a member of the Betsy-Tacy Society you will:

- Be kept abreast of developments with the society and its outreach.
- Have access to the "Members Only" page on the BTS website, where society archives are available.
- Be an integral part of the BTS mission to preserve the Betsy-Tacy houses, which are historical literary landmarks.
- Help BTS reach a new generation of readers as it introduces the timeless works of Maud Hart Lovelace.
- Be a part of the movement that values history and appreciates literature.

Great Gift Idea

Membership to the Betsy-Tacy Society makes a great gift for that special person on your gift list. With each paid gift membership, we'll send a new-member packet and sign your name to a special card announcing your gift. Just fill out the membership form at right with the recipient's name and mailing address and tell us how to sign your card.



When contacting the BTS....

By Mail - Always send mail to the following address:

Betsy-Tacy Society
P.O. Box 94
Mankato, MN 56002-0094

Do not use the address printed in the back of the older issues of the Betsy-Tacy books and do not address mail to us at the Center Street location. We do not have a mailbox at either house, and the mail carrier cannot deliver to these addresses.

By Email - When sending an email, ALWAYS use "Betsy-Tacy" in the subject line. This will help ensure your message does not get caught in spam filters.

By Phone - Our phone number - 507-345-9777 - reaches an answering service. Please leave your message and it will be returned by someone with the society who can best help you.

Privacy Statement

The Betsy-Tacy Society is committed to respecting the privacy of our members. Please be assured that we do not rent or sell our mailing list. If you have any questions about your member information and how it is used, please contact us at membership@betsy-tacysociety.org or 507-345-9777.

* * * * *

Address Changes

Please remember to inform us if your mailing address or e-mail address changes. Most of our mailings are sent via bulk mail to save on postage costs and keep membership rates low. Bulk mail is NOT forwarded even when a change-of-address card is left with the post office.

Betsy-Tacy Society Annual Membership Form

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Phone _____

New Renewal

I would like: Mailed Newsletters

Electronic Newsletters

Choose electronic newsletter - save money for the BTS and save a tree!

Membership Levels

\$25 Basic (Foreign members receive electronic newsletters - if mailed are preferred move up to the next level.)

\$50 Patron

\$100 Silver*

\$250 Gold* (Gift A or B - circle one)

\$500 Lifetime (Gifts A and C)

Pay in 4 installments of \$125

* Denotes business memberships

Please do not send my gift. I want my full contribution to support the BTS.

GIFTS

Gift A: *Winona's Pony Cart* - hardcover

Gift B: Immortal Trio notecards

Gift C: Betsy's House ornament

Donations

I would like to make a tax-deductible gift of \$_____ above my yearly membership dues.

I would like to allocate my gift to:

Unrestricted

General Fund

Restoration Fund

Assessment Fund

No acknowledgement for donation required

Donation in Memory of:

Donation in Honor of:

Membership dues and monetary gifts cover a growing part of the BTS annual operating budget. Thank you for your support as the BTS preserves and promotes the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace.

Please return this form to:

BTS Membership

P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094



Betsy-Tacy Society
P.O. Box 94
Mankato, MN 56002-0094
www.betsy-tacysociety.org

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 21 Betsy's Birthday Party and Tea Party
June (TBD) Victorian Lawn Party (watch web for date)
July 19-22 *The Winding Hall of Fate* Convention

Details of future events will be posted on the News & Events page of the BTS website, www.betsy-tacysociety.org/events. Special tours of the Betsy-Tacy houses are available year-round by appointment.

Visit the Betsy-Tacy Society web site

Current and back issues of the *Deep Valley Sun* and other special features are available on the BTS web site: There also are plenty of resources for parents, librarians and teachers interested in learning more about Maud Hart Lovelace and the Betsy-Tacy books.

Plus, check out our online shop; your purchases support our mission!

www.betsy-tacysociety.org

Membership Information

As your membership expires, you'll receive an e-mail reminder to renew. Please renew promptly to save the BTS staff time and postage for sending renewal notices via USPS. You can renew online at www.betsy-tacysociety.org/membershippurchase.

The BTS is very grateful to all its members for their ongoing support.



Did you know you don't have to be a member of Facebook to view the Betsy-Tacy Society Facebook page? The BTS now boasts more than 1,750 Facebook fans! Stay current on BTS events or simply join in the conversation. It's fun!

www.facebook.com/BetsyTacy