



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. 7 ISSUE 3

AUTUMN 2011

Trip to Deep Valley Fulfills Lifelong Dreams

By Erin Banks

The trip was a surprise.

We had pictured the scenes from Betsy Ray's life while Mom read the books aloud to us as we were growing up (and during the many times we reread the books ourselves once we learned to read), so when my sister Anna and I were planning a girls' trip to celebrate our youngest sister's high-school graduation, Mankato – or Deep Valley – Minnesota seemed like the perfect destination. We were giddy with excitement the moment the thought hit us, and we immediately began calling out the names of places we wanted to go: "Let's see the Carnegie Library!" "Let's go shopping in the big city!" "Let's go see the U!"

We kept the destination a secret from our sisters, Joeli and Sarah, and Mom. Their displeasure at this brought to mind Mrs. Ray's saying, "Bob, you know I don't like surprises!" They guessed New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago – finally one of them guessed "Milwaukee!" Anna and I couldn't help but exchange a glance because of that Betsy-Tacy reference, and we watched as the same idea that had occurred to us dawned on them as well: "Deep Valley! It's Deep Valley!"

They had guessed. To Minnesota we would go! Although they knew the general destination, we did our best to keep each stop a surprise. When Joeli and Sarah and Mom arrived at our apartment in Raleigh, N.C., the night before our flight, we had itineraries for each (complete with quotations pertaining to each stop, in true Betsy Ray/Joe Willard Junior-Senior Banquet style), and bags of caramels and Betsy-Tacy books for the plane.

We arrived in Minneapolis early Friday, and spent the day shopping in the big city (we had to have presents to take home), enjoying the beautiful Minnehaha Falls, and touring and "river-banking" by the U. We even ate dinner at a diner in true Heinz's style! Later that evening, we made one quick trip over to Fort Snelling, where Joe and Sam were stationed at the end of *Betsy's Wedding*.

Saturday we were up early and en route to Deep Valley! On the way there we stopped at Murmuring Lake and went to the site of the old inn. We spent the afternoon excited over seeing Betsy's house, Tacy's house, the bench, Tib's house (there was a pane of colored glass!), Winona's House, Carney's house (with the side lawn and the sleeping porch)... and the list goes on! We went to the train station, saw what used to be the Melborne



Erin Banks (far right), her mom, Jerri (center), and her sisters, from left, Joeli, Sarah, and Anna, enjoyed a family reunion of sorts by visiting the Betsy Ray sights that have meant so much to them throughout the years.

Hotel, and stopped by the Carnegie Library, picturing Betsy and Joe talking on the steps. We went by the Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church, envisioning the crowd there for Christian Endeavor. We walked and drove all over town. It was so much fun. After leaving Deep Valley, we had dinner beside Lake Minnetonka, and drove along the road encircling the lake, before returning to our hotel in Minneapolis.

Although we had only two days, we filled up each moment with as much of Betsy as possible. The memories we created will last us a lifetime. It was so special to see the places we had only been able to imagine from our home in North Carolina. Maud Hart Lovelace made the Ray family and the Crowd come so much alive that this was no ordinary vacation; – it was a reunion. ■

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The Betsy-Tacy Society
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 501(c)3 organization

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 Vice President - Jackie Hilgert
 Secretary - Laurie Pengra
 Treasurer - Kathy Mork

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 Laven, Doug Laven, Pat Nelson, Renata
 Olson, Lisa Wolf

Newsletter Editing: Betsy Sherman
 Newsletter 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. Saturday Admission -
 Adults \$3, Ages 6-16 \$1. Under 5-Free (no
 admission to gift shop only) BTS members
 are admitted free during regular hours with
 current membership card.

Special House Visits: Call 507-345-9777
 For special house visits, advance reservations
 are requested 2 weeks in advance.
 Admission for special appointments: \$20 -
 up to 5 people. Over 5 people, additional
 \$3 for adults and \$1 for ages 6-16. This fee
 applies to members and non-members of the
 BTS. Special rates available for bus tours or
 school visits. Contact us for more details.

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Welcome New Members

July 1, 2011 - October 31, 2011

Patron Members

Alisa Beckwith, Oregon
 Lois Jahnke, Minnesota
 Patricia Ryan, New York
 Jean Setering, Wisconsin

Basic Members

Betty J. Andrews, Washington
 Mary Avery, Virginia
 Julie Bachman, Indiana
 Elizabeth Bond, New Jersey
 Mary Foulke, Michigan
 Angelina Fracchiolla, California
 Marie Keeling, Massachusetts
 Sharon Parker, Minnesota
 Trudy Severson, Minnesota
 Helen Straight, Maryland
 Helen R. Swenson, Minnesota

**All Gifts to BTS
 are Gratefully Appreciated**

The BTS gratefully acknowledges
 donations received from
 July 1, 2011 - October 31, 2011
 from the following:

Gifts from \$500 to \$999

Helen Gift
 Norma Thomas

Gifts from \$100 to \$499

Anita Baerg-Vatndal
 Chris, Suzanne & Ayda Estes
 Patti Freymuth
 Debra Farrell

Gifts from \$50 to \$99

Colleen Canavan, *Endowment, in
 memory of Carolyn M. Fitzpatrick,
 Einar Hovland, and James V.
 Sullivan*
 Julie Chuba, *In honor of the 50th
 birthday of these fans: Julie Chuba,
 Kim Moon, Wendy Robelo and
 Kathleen Waldron*
 LaVonne Ellingson, *In memory of
 Joan Fredell*
 Mary Markland
 Marlaina Magee

Gifts up to \$49

Carol Elbert
 Susan Rutledge
 Robert and Susan Brown, *in
 memory of Matthew Cherney*
 Wendy Robelo, *Restoration*
 Krista Barrett
 Susan Hackman
 Karen Myers, *Thanks Drew
 Campell, and Doug and Candace
 Laven*
 Paula Becker, *Restoration*
 Jean Baughman

Paver Fundraiser

July 1, 2011 - October 31, 2011

Robert and Susan Brown
 Abby Chandler
 Elizabeth Del Sol
 Riley Harrison
 Lois Jahnke
 Dianne Lattermann and Denise
 Figlewicz
 Sara Martin

In Kind Operating Donations

Robert and Susan Brown, *rugs,
 painting supplies, treats for paint-
 ing volunteers*
 Mary Budge, *professional counsel*
 Jackie Hilgert, *professional services*
 Daryl Hrdlicka family, *dresses*
 Sandy Karstens, *shawl, treats for
 painting volunteers*
 Doug and Candy Laven, *painting
 supplies, paint, decorated cakes,
 treats for painting volunteers, 2
 easy-up tents, refinishing services*
 Mara Natrakul, *corn gluten*
 Pat Nelson, *tea party items, treats
 for painting volunteers*
 Barbara Schnoor, *treats for paint-
 ing volunteers*

Artifacts and Archive Donations

July 1, 2011 - October 31, 2011
 Abdo Family, *Yearbook*
 Doug and Candy Laven, *maple
 bookshelf, 2 painted oil lamps*
 Nancy Painter, *plates, candle holder,
 vase, picture frame*
 Cornelia and Lou Pepoy, *"Jesus
 in the Temple" and "Pharaoh's
 Horses" framed.*

Thank You, Volunteers!

July 1, 2011 - October 31, 2011
 Dave Allan
 Nancy Allan
 Amanda Appel (Healthy Lawns)
 Penny Banwart
 Anna Lee Bayer
 Victoria Bayer
 Kathy Bodelson
 Zander Boettcher
 Bob Brown
 Hedda Brown
 Joan Brown
 Susan Brown
 Christian Butler
 Molly Butler
 Savidra By
 Abigail Clobes
 Andrew Clobes
 David Clobes

Dawn Clobes
 Hannah Clobes
 Joshua Clobes
 Nathan Clobes
 Steve Cszimadia
 James Dahlvang
 Pam Determan (Rake the Town
 volunteer coordinator)
 Margo Druschel
 Christina Dyslin
 Rod Elbert
 Anders Evenson
 Lona Falencykowski
 Kim Frisell
 Devin Gassowitz
 Laura Garlow
 Samantha Gjovik
 Soleil Gjovik
 Kathryn Hanson
 Jacob Hernandez
 Jackie Hilgert
 Daryl Hrdlicka
 Jack Hrdlicka
 Katherine Hughes
 Charlie Hurd
 Susan Hynes
 Brenda Jaros
 Rebekah Kloster
 Sarah Kloster
 Candy Laven
 Doug Laven
 Bennet Madden
 Maynard Manthe
 Kathy Mork
 Marcia Nagel
 Mara Natrakul (Healthy Lawns)
 Noah Nelson
 Pat Nelson
 Renata Olson
 Laurie Pengra
 Chris Pipes
 Gary Pipes
 Bob Qualset
 Kelly Reuter
 Meg Rheault
 Barbara Schnoor
 Elsie Sieberg
 Lyla Sieberg
 Bob Singelstad
 Antoni Soroka
 Jakub Soroka
 Abigail Tenney
 Mackenzie Tenney
 Victoria Tenney
 Norma Thomas
 Brenni Veit
 Elli Veit
 Grace Webb
 Lisa Wolf
 Brooklyn Youngerberg
 Lucas Youngerberg

Correction: The BTS volunteer who designed the poster based on the classic covers of the first four B-T books was named incorrectly in the summer edition of the Deep Valley Sun. The posters were designed by Megan Rheault. Megan's work can be viewed at www.pixiegirlstudios.com. Contact her by email at: megan@pixiegirlstudios.com.

Message from the President

Requests for funds are all around us! In our mailboxes we receive address labels and calendars with donation envelopes. Professional solicitors call asking for money. We see collection jars and fundraiser posters in our communities. Kids sell magazines and candy to fund playgrounds and band trips. Stories and pictures tug at our hearts – and because we want to make a difference, we open our checkbooks.

The board of directors of the Betsy-Tacy Society has the important job of ensuring there is enough money to carry out the organization's mission. This responsibility is also a challenge because the society owns and maintains two historic homes.

That means we have two furnaces, two air conditioners, two roofs, two yards, two water heaters – in other words, double everything! Maintenance and restoration expenses will always be part of the historic treasures we proudly share with others.

So what does it mean to be a donor? I can answer that from personal experience. My husband and I are financial donors to the Betsy-Tacy Society. We feel a connection to the mission

and the houses because we have invested time and money in them. We know our contributions make a difference. Bob and I believe we have an opportunity to invest in the future as we preserve the past.

I invite everyone reading this newsletter to consider being a donor. Gifts can be given to the general fund or to designated funds, such as street assessments and restoration. An engraved paver can be purchased for the walkway at Betsy's house. Money can be given in honor or memory of someone. All donated funds make a difference.

Betsy-Tacy Society members, whether they live in Mankato or faraway places, own the Betsy-Tacy houses. We share the awesome, important, and challenging responsibility of keeping Maud's legacy alive and the houses open for future generations.

On behalf of the board of directors, I want to thank our members and donors for their generous support and friendship.



Susan Brown

President, Betsy-Tacy Society

Board News

A special thank you and best wishes go to Joan Brown and Barbara Schnoor. Both women retired from the BTS board of directors in October. Barbara served the Board's executive committee as treasurer from 2005-2011 and Joan served the board as vice president from 2007-2010.

Kathy Mork joined the BTS board of directors in September and was elected treasurer in October. Recently retired, Kathy

comes to the BTS with a background in elementary education and accounting. She has served on the board of directors for Merely Players Community Theater and Twin Rivers Council for the Arts. Her time is spent volunteering at her church, working part-time at Twin Rivers, knitting and reading! Kathy has lived in Mankato for more than 30 years and enjoyed introducing her daughter to the world of Betsy, Tacy and Tib. She is now doing the same with her granddaughter.



Painting Effort Gets Boost With Grant Funds

Volunteers and free paint together made it possible for Betsy's house to receive a fresh coat of yellow paint.

See page 4 for more information.

Painting Effort Gets Boost With Grant Funds

Volunteers and free paint together made it possible for Betsy's house to receive a fresh coat of yellow paint. The Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation and Valspar Corp. provided the paint through the Picture-It-Painted grant program. The project was completed in two phases.

In phase 1, the garage and workshop were painted. They desperately needed a coat of yellow paint, especially since some sides were still green!

Every August, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Mankato sponsors "CSI: Christ's Servants Involved," a community service week for teens. As the schedule states, "The goal is to have youth interact with adults in a positive and meaningful way - learning and developing a servant's heart." When the group volunteered to paint Betsy's garage and workshop, Bob and Susan Brown offered to coordinate and supervise the two-day project.

Volunteers from Bethlehem, Grace, and Epiphany Lutheran churches scraped, primed, and painted every square inch of the garage and workshop. Not only did the buildings get painted, but 22 teens learned a life skill. The eight supervising adults taught the youth how to paint while also painting themselves.

The BTS board and others hosted tours of the Betsy-Tacy

houses and the neighborhood for all the Christ's Servants teams volunteering in the community that week. It was a wonderful opportunity to share our story and to personally thank the painters for their combined 192 volunteer hours.

Betsy's house was painted during phase 2, coordinated by Doug and Candy Laven. Some of the original siding had been replaced by the Hometown television crew and volunteers during the filming in 2005, but the nail holes on the trim had never been filled. Only one coat of tinted primer was on that new siding. It was time to prime and paint Betsy's house again.

The siding was primed with oil-base primer and then covered with two coats of yellow latex paint. City Council member Charlie Hurd scraped, primed, and painted the windows, while other volunteers painted the house body and trim. The original lap siding on the front of the house is now tightly nailed and caulked, and Betsy's front porch and Tacy's back porch both have newly-stained floors.

Thank you to these volunteers who donated 128 hours to paint Betsy's house: Doug and Candy Laven, Bob and Susan Brown, Charlie Hurd, and Christina Dyslin.

The north side of Betsy's house will be restored and painted next summer. ■



The Betsy-Tacy Society Collections Plan

By Katherine Hughes

Over the years the Betsy-Tacy Society has received items relating to Maud Hart Lovelace and her lifetime. As this collection expanded, the society recognized the importance of comprehensive record-keeping so that it can acknowledge the generosity of the donors and lenders.

In August 2011 the society's board of directors revised its plan for keeping track of the items it holds — items that have come as donations or loans from friends of the society and fans of the Betsy-Tacy books. The Archives and Collections Committee prepared the Collection Management Policy and Manual, outlining the purpose of the collection and the methods and records the society will use to accept and care for donations.

In the statement of purpose and description of the collection, the document describes the society's holdings as "both historical and interpretive," adding, "The historical aspect consists of objects and documents owned and used by Maud Hart Lovelace and her family." Included among these items are Mrs. Hart's brass bowl, letters written by Maud, Maud's prayer books, and Mr. Hart's rocker and footstool. The document also states, "The interpretive aspect consists of objects not belonging to Maud Hart Lovelace or her family, but having historical significance in interpreting her life and works." Many items in Betsy's house represent the kinds of furniture, pictures, dishware, etc., that would have been used in the years Maud lived there.

To support the collection as it grows, the document delineates

the society's policy for future donations and acquisitions. The items will be divided into four categories: 1) those that were associated with Maud Hart Lovelace; 2) those that are typical or representative of objects made or used by the characters in the books; 3) those that are of a historical, cultural, or aesthetic nature; and 4) those that were typical (or representative) of the period spanning Maud Hart Lovelace's lifetime (1892-1980).

Because the society is limited by space and insurance constraints, these categories will determine whether a possible donation can be accepted. The local Blue Earth County Historical Society (BECHS) has an excellent collection of archives and artifacts relating to Mankato/Deep Valley. The Betsy-Tacy Society will avoid duplicating the work of it and other organizations. If the society is unable to use a donation, the board will recommend the BECHS or the Kerlan Collection at the University of Minnesota as possible recipients.

Two of the most important decisions the board of directors faced concerned anonymous donations and the acceptance of loans. Many items on display in the houses are family artifacts loaned by the Merian Lovelace Kirchner estate. Also, friends of the society have loaned furniture, stoves, dishware, and other items to enhance the interpretive experience in Betsy's house. The society will continue to house and cherish these items as long as they are available.

The Collection Management Policy and Manual also outlines the procedures for receiving and disposing of items in the society's collection. The Archives and Collections Committee developed the forms and record formats that will be used, and recommended the purchase of the museum record-keeping software PastPerfect. The society purchased PastPerfect through a grant from the Schmidt Foundation. In September the committee began an inventory of the society's collection.

The Betsy-Tacy Society's collection of artifacts and keepsakes has benefited from the interest and support of many friends and fans over the years. The society has gratefully accepted those donated items. Now it has a plan in place to give those generous individuals the recognition they deserve. ■



The stove in Betsy's kitchen is an example of an item on loan to the BTS. It is a prized piece in place to enhance the interpretive experience of visitors — especially children.

Rake the Town Event Includes B-T Lawns



About 30 students from Mankato West High School spent a recent Saturday morning raking leaves at the B-T houses. Their efforts were part of VINE's "Rake the Town" event in Blue Earth and Nicollet counties. In addition to the yard work occurring at the B-T houses, more than 700 volunteers fanned out to help the elderly and disabled spruce up their surroundings. At the end of the day, a record 243 yards were cleaned up. It was the 15th year for VINE's "Rake the Town" effort.

Kerlan Collection Seeks Hart-Lovelace Items

By Jackie Hilgert

Set deep within a limestone bluff overlooking the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, in a climate- and light-controlled cavern is the Kerlan Collection, comprising over 100,000 children's books as well as original manuscripts, artwork, galleys, and color proofs for more than 12,000 of those books. The collection is seeking to increase its Maud Hart Lovelace holdings. In September, museum curator Karen Nelson Hoyle offered representatives of the Betsy-Tacy Society a tour to see how the collection manages its holdings and how researchers can gain access to them through its reading room.

The Kerlan Collection is housed in the Elmer Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota's West Bank campus. Andersen (1909-2004) was a University of Minnesota alumnus, the president and CEO of H.B. Fuller Co., a former governor, a dairy farmer, an environmentalist, and a newspaper publisher, but perhaps most importantly, he was also a champion of educational programs. In addition to housing the Kerlan Collection, the Andersen Library holds an array of research materials ranging from the documented history of information technology to literary and performing arts to gay and lesbian culture. The entire library collection is available to view either through interlibrary loan or by visiting the reading room during its public hours.

The Kerlan Collection is one of six core collections that compose the University of Minnesota's Children's Literature

Resource Library. The collection is named for Dr. Irvin Kerlan, an alumnus of the University of Minnesota's Medical School who collected children's books with their manuscripts and original art.

Nelson Hoyle, who is set to retire at the end of 2011, said letters or correspondence from Maud Hart Lovelace, first-edition books in mint condition with dust jackets, autographed books, and later-edition books that could circulate are being sought by the Kerlan Collection. Anyone who has those items in their possession is encouraged to contact the library, where artifacts can be preserved and protected from environmental damage and made available, under supervision, to researchers.

The cavern, which is 82 feet below ground, offers 93,000 cubic feet of storage. The ambient temperature in the cavern ranges between 57 degrees and 62 degrees Fahrenheit with relative humidity set at 50 percent year round. It's the perfect environment to protect paper, which can quickly deteriorate. More information on how to donate items to the Kerlan Collection can be obtained by calling (612) 624-4576.

In order to view holdings, one must register at the library's reading room. Once registration is complete, personal items such as coats, backpacks, and purses must be locked up. Researchers can bring only a pencil, notepaper, and/or a notebook computer into the reading room. Detailed information on viewing library holdings, including hours of operation, can be found on the collection's website, <http://special.lib.umn.edu/clrc/usingcollections.php>.

The 2012 Betsy-Tacy Convention will offer an opportunity to visit the Andersen Library and learn more about the Kerlan Collection. A reception featuring author Heather Vogel Frederick will be held the afternoon of July 19 in the Andersen Library's three-story atrium, where a special Maud Hart Lovelace display is being planned in the library's exhibit space. ■



News and Notes



The BTS thanks Daryl Hrdlicka for representing the society at 2011 History Fest, which is held annually during the 2nd weekend of October at the McGowan Farm in Mankato, Minn. History Fest allows children to get hands-on learning experiences with periods in history and taste what life was like in days gone by. Daryl is pictured here with his children: Victoria Bayer, Anna Lee Bayer, Jack Hrdlicka and Alex Hrdlicka.



Becky Fjelland Davis (front row, far left) visited Betsy's House in October with members of her Children's Literature class. Davis, who teaches at South Central College in North Mankato, has made the field trip to the Betsy-Tacy houses into an annual ritual for her students. Davis writes young adult fiction. Her books include: *Jake Riley: Irreparably Damaged* and *Chasing AllieCat*.

Opposite Page: Far left: Betsy-Tacy Convention attendees will have an opportunity to visit the Kerlan Collection at the Elmer Andersen Library; a reception is planned in the library atrium. (See pages 10-11 for more information) Top right: BTS Board President Susan Brown (left) and Kathy Baxter (center) in the library reading room with Karen Nelson Hoyle. Bottom right: Baxter and Brown are assisted with their reading room registration forms by library aide Rachel Thompson.

New in the BTS Gift Shop!



Discover Deep Valley

A Guide to Maud Hart Lovelace's Mankato

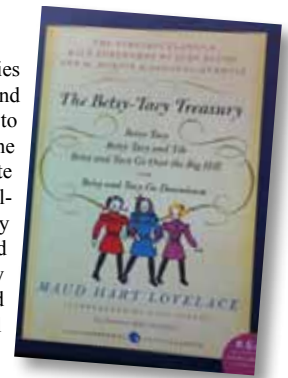
By Julie A Schrader

Over the years fans of Maud Hart Lovelace have traveled to Mankato to visit the homes of Betsy and Tacy and seek out the places of Maud's childhood.

It is still possible to revisit the streets of Maud Hart Lovelace's Deep Valley. Let your imagination take you back in time to an era when Maud was a young Victorian girl. Step into the pages of the Betsy-Tacy books when you visit Maud Hart Lovelace's childhood home. Walk in her footsteps through the historic Lincoln Park neighborhood nestled in the picturesque hills of Mankato. This guidebook will lead you on a self-guided tour of Maud's Deep Valley.

The Betsy-Tacy Treasury

The first four books in the beloved Betsy-Tacy series are ready to delight a new generation of readers—and to bring a grownup generation of readers back to the engrossing stories of their youth. Following the childhoods of Betsy Ray and her friends in the late 1800s and early 1900s, this handsome anthology collects the original Betsy-Tacy as well as Betsy, Tacy and Tib, Betsy and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill, and Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown. Forewords by Judy Blume, Esther Hautzig, and Johanna Hurwitz, and illustrations by Lois Lenski, will make readers of all ages feel at home in the imaginative life of young Betsy Ray as she awakens to the challenges and triumphs of her home in quaint Mankato, Minnesota.



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

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.



AAUW Chapter Surprises Members with Betsy-Tacy Tea Party

In October, 1961 the Mankato Chapter of the American Association of University Women hosted Betsy-Tacy Days in Mankato. Throughout the summer the AAUW members planned and prepared for Maud Hart Lovelace's visit to her childhood home. At that time Maud was living in Claremont, Calif. Many of her childhood friends, who are characters in her Betsy-Tacy books, also gathered in Mankato for a memorable reunion. A keepsake program from the event, which is autographed by Maud (Betsy), Bick (Tacy), Midge (Tib), and others from the Crowd, is on display at Tacy's house.

Fifty years later in October, 2011 the Owatonna (Minnesota) Chapter of the AAUW boarded a bus for their annual mystery tour. When the bus stopped on Center Street in Mankato,

the members had reached their destination. They toured the Betsy-Tacy houses, walked in the neighborhood, and enjoyed a tea party at Tacy's house – just as Maud did with her friends in 1961.

Volunteers lent their prized china and silver to the BTS so it could put on a proper tea for visitors. Board member Candy Laven, who has created cakes for the BTS in the past, donated five specially decorated cakes to be served with the tea.

Kathryn Hanson, a Betsy-Tacy Society member and volunteer, was the local AAUW president in 1961 when Maud visited Mankato. Fifty years later Kathryn welcomed the Owatonna AAUW guests to Betsy's house. ■



Some of the volunteers who welcomed the Owatonna Chapter of the AAUW to a special tea party in October, from left, are: Kathryn Hanson, Pat Nelson, Joan Brown, Laurie Pengra, Jenny Guldán, Jackie Hilgert and Hedda Brown. The specialty cakes were donated for the event by BTS board member Candy Laven.



Event organizer Pat Nelson distributes keepsakes of the event to a group gathered for tea in Tacy's parlor.

Leave a Legacy: Consider a Gift to BTS Endowment Fund

We all leave our own unique mark on this world through our families, work, and the organizations we believe in and support. We celebrate these legacies at the Betsy-Tacy Society – after all, this is the heart of the history we are passionately working to preserve every day. As we look to the future, the BTS is in the development stages for the Maud Hart Lovelace Endowment Fund.

A legacy gift, also known as a planned or estate gift, can help ensure the Betsy-Tacy Society has the resources to preserve and promote the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace and her works for future generations. If you are also thinking about

the future, please consider a legacy gift to help ensure the Betsy-Tacy Society has the resources to preserve these historic literary houses (childhood homes of Maud Hart Lovelace and Frances “Bick” Kenney) and the precious Lovelace artifacts and archives for many years to come.

The BTS is a member of LEAVE A LEGACY® Mankato Area, a collaborative effort to educate the public and promote the idea of giving through bequests and estate plans by increasing awareness of and interest in charitable giving options. To learn more about LEAVE A LEGACY® Mankato Area, visit its website: www.leavealegacymankato.org.



Registration Information

Welcome to the 2012 Betsy-Tacy Convention, July 19–22! We have a wonderful weekend planned for you. In this packet, you'll find information about the various Convention activities and events, and a registration form to complete and return.

A Convention in Two Cities

The Convention will be held in both Minneapolis and Mankato. You may register for individual days of the Convention (see *Daily Registration Form*) or the Convention as a whole. We start in Minneapolis on Thursday, with events and tours in the land of *Betsy's Wedding*. That afternoon, we're on the road to Deep Valley! On Friday and Saturday mornings, you can choose among several activities. Other Friday activities include breakout sessions, a Costume Parade, and a Keynote Address by the inimitable Kathy Baxter. Saturday's activities include an Author Panel and book-signing and the beloved Legacy Panel. The Convention officially ends Sunday morning, but if you can't bear to leave —visit Lake Minnetonka!

2012 Convention Agenda (subject to change)

THURSDAY, JULY 19, MINNEAPOLIS

8:30 am - Leave DoubleTree Bloomington

9 – 11 am - Arrive Muller Park, site of Hart home with walking tour of Bow street and Canoe Place homes

11 am – 1 pm - Lunch at Minnehaha Falls

1 –3 pm - Tour Kerlan Collection of Maud's artifacts, with talks by Amy Dolnick Rechner "Maud in The Great World" and by Mother-Daughter Book Club author Heather Vogel Frederick.

3 –5 pm - Stop at DoubleTree Bloomington and leave for Deep Valley. The party begins!

Approx. 5 pm - Arrive Deep Valley

(remaining agenda takes place in Mankato)

Dinner on your own

5 - 8 pm - Registration open

7 pm - Ice Cream Social starts

7:30 pm - Introduction

8 pm - Betsy-Tacy Mixer

FRIDAY, JULY 20, DEEP VALLEY

8:30 – 9:30 am - Mrs. Mullers' breakfast and announcements

9:30 am - Choice of Activities

- Mr. Thumbler's Touring Hack
- Deep Valley Bus Tour
- A Bat With Betsy

Lunch on your own

10 am- 12 noon - Children's Program

10 am- 12 noon - Teen Program

2 – 4 pm - Breakout sessions

4 – 6 pm - Free time

6 – 7 pm - BTS annual meeting (all are welcome) and Costume Parade

7-9 pm - Dinner and Keynote Address by Kathy Baxter

9 pm - Perfectly Awful Girls Activities in Bank Room

SATURDAY, JULY 21 DEEP VALLEY

8:30 – 9:30 am - S. S. Columbic Breakfast and announcements

9:30 am - Choice of Activities

- Mr. Thumbler's Touring Hack
- Deep Valley Bus Tour
- A Bat With Betsy

Lunch on your own

2 – 4 pm - "Stories for Girls About Girls Who Write Stories" by Perri Klass. Followed by Author Panel with Melissa Wiley, Mitali Perkins and Perri Klass and book signing

4 - 6 pm - Free time

5:30 pm - Sing at the Piano With Julia

6- 8 pm - Dinner and Legacy Panel

9 pm - Perfectly Awful Girls in Bank room

SUNDAY, JULY 22 DEEP VALLEY

9 am - Linda Gesling speaks on Faith in Betsy Tacy

9:45 - 10:45 am - Brunch to benefit the Betsy-Tacy Society

11 am - Adjourn

Lodging

The DoubleTree Bloomington, the Mankato Hilton Garden Inn and the Mankato City Center Hotel are offering reduced rates for Convention attendees. For more information about lodging, visit www.betsytacyconvention.com.

Transportation

Our goal is to offer a car-less Convention for those flying into Minnesota. On Thursday, the bus will pick you up at the DoubleTree Bloomington and will stop at the DoubleTree again before heading to Mankato. On Sunday, the bus will go from Mankato to the Minneapolis/St. Paul International airport. There will also be an optional Sunday excursion that will include transportation from Mankato to Lake Minnetonka and then to the DoubleTree Bloomington and the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport

Convention Meals

Your registration fee includes the following meals (served at the Verizon Center unless otherwise noted):

- _ Thursday: Picnic lunch (in Minneapolis) and Ice Cream Social
- _ Friday: Breakfast and Dinner
- _ Saturday: Breakfast and Dinner
- _ Sunday: Brunch

Please note that Thursday's dinner and Friday and Saturday's lunch are not included.

On Friday and Saturday, you may purchase lunch at the Houses, to benefit the Betsy-Tacy Society (BTS). Lunch is \$10 if you sign up at Thursday night registration, and \$12 if you purchase it at the Houses.

Scour the Coal Scuttle

If you have always dreamed of working on the upkeep of Betsy and Tacy's houses but live too darned far away - now is your chance to shine, or rake or sweep! Contact Jenny Guldan at btsmankato@gmail.com to set up a time to come to the houses to help out!

Willard's Emporium

The Silent Auction will be open for bids throughout the weekend. The many wonderful items for sale and all proceeds go to the BTS. For more information or to offer a donation, contact Jackie Hilgert at hilgert.jackie@gmail.com

The Junior-Senior Ball Decorations Committee

This year, we're trying a new approach to table décor in the ballroom! Channel your inner Tib, and design a colorful and lively centerpiece for one of the round tables in our main gathering room. You can focus on a particular B-T book, character, or family, or one year in Betsy's life . . . or take a more big-picture approach. Another option is to "adopt" a table, and we will provide a beautiful floral centerpiece for you: "A Simple Nosegay," \$8; "Mrs. Ray Entertains," \$17; or "The Melborn Ballroom," \$23. All proceeds will go to the BTS. If you'd like to decorate or adopt a table, please note this on your 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@gmail.com.

Convention AgendaThursday Morning in Minneapolis

Explore the Bow Street neighborhood. See where Betsy and Joe shared their first apartment! See the Canoe Place house! See the site of the Ray's home at 909! After a delicious picnic lunch at the Minnehaha Falls, we're off to the Kerlan Collection of Children's Literature at the University of Minnesota for a special event:

- _ A presentation by Heather Vogel Frederick, author of *The Mother-Daughter Book Club* series, whose newest novel features *Betsy in Spite of Herself*
- _ A presentation by Amy Dolnick Rechner, author of *Between Deep Valley and the Great World* (to be reissued in 2012!) and *Future in a Handbasket*
- _ A display of Maud Hart Lovelace's never-before-seen papers

Thursday Night Mixer

Not everyone attends a B-T Convention with their own Crowd. Whether you're a shy Emily, an irrepressible Winona, or somewhere in between, here's a fun way to get to know fellow BT fans.

Friday and Saturday Morning Activities

Go on a Bat with Betsy! A bus takes you to the Hoehn Family Farm, where Mr. and Mrs. Ray were married before the bay window. Next, imagine Tony rowing lazily as you enjoy a pontoon boat ride on Murmuring Lake. The bus returns you to the Verizon Center around noon.

Note: There is an additional fee of \$25 for this excursion. **Space is limited!**

Mr. Thumbler's Touring Hack This shuttle travels on a continuous loop from the Verizon Center to Betsy and Tacy's Houses, the Blue Earth County Historical Society where Maud's scrapbooks and other memorabilia are stored. Get off the shuttle any time, then hop on when it comes around again.

Deep Valley Tour Take a narrated bus tour of the sites most dear to B-T fans, with stops at the Carnegie Library, Carney's House, and Tib's House.

Children's Program - Friday 10 am – 12 noon

Kids under 12 are invited to join Steffi Smith for crafts, storytelling, and fun based on *Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown*. Children younger than 6 must be accompanied by a parent.

Teen Program - Friday 10 am – 12 noon

Young people ages 12–17 (no parents!) are invited to join Andrea Scobie for games and theater fun based on the high school books.

Breakout Sessions and Talks - This year's convention includes:

- “Surpassing All Expectations: Deep Valley Denizens Talk Back” – Keynote Address by Kathleen Baxter
- “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 of the Blue Earth County Historical Society
- “Grandpa Webster's Legacy - Honoring the Civil War in Mankato” - Bryce Stentzel
- “Faith in the Betsy Tacy Books” - Linda Gesling

(sessions subject to change)

Costume Parade

A perennial Convention favorite! Bring a costume related to the books or just watch the crowd.

Author Panel and Book Signing

Perri Klass and daughter Josephine Wolff begin with a presentation on “Stories for Girls About Girls Who Write Stories.” Next, authors Perri Klass, Mitali Perkins, and Melissa Wiley, as well as Jennifer Hart of HarperCollins, talk about the craft of writing. *Note:* Mitali and Melissa wrote the forewords to the reissues of *Emily of Deep Valley* and *Carney's House Party*, respectively. Be sure to get your copies signed!

Piano Sing-Along with Julia

Sing along to the songs the crowd knew and loved.

Betsy Tacy Society Annual Meeting

This year the annual meeting will be open to all convention-goers. Come hear about all the wonderful activities of the people who keep Maud's legacy alive in Mankato.

The Legacy Panel

Past attendees have cited this as a favorite Convention event. Descendants and friends of our beloved Deep Valley characters share their memories of the real-life Betsy, Tacy, Carney, Cab, etc. Audience members also have an opportunity to ask questions. You won't want to miss it!

Lake Minnetonka Excursion

Extend your Convention fun by visiting Lake Minnetonka, where Betsy and Joe honeymooned! Ride the streetcar boat, and see if the conductor still drives with his hands behind his head. Admire Maud and Delos's lake house and explore the lovely city of Excelsior. Then settle in for a comfy bus ride back to the DoubleTree Bloomington or back to Mankato. (*Note:* There is an additional fee of \$22 for this option.)

Optional Bus to MSP Airport

Leaves Mankato Convention Center at 11:30 am. Expected arrival to Minneapolis St. Paul Airport between 1:30 and 2:00 pm

Please allow time for traffic, security, etc. in making your travel plans. Cost is \$15 per person.

**For the most up-to-date Convention information visit
www.BetsyTacyConvention.com**

Willard's Emporium Needs Your Treasures

The Betsy-Tacy Society encourages you to consider donating to the 2012 Betsy-Tacy Convention Silent Auction.

Look through your collections for BTS memorabilia, signed books, B-T books, special books of interest, small heirloom treasures, linens, and other precious items. 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 to help it maintain the Betsy-Tacy homes and advance its mission. For more information about donating to the silent auction, contact Jackie Hilgert at hilgert.jackie@gmail.com.

Registration Form*(Please complete both pages of this form for each attendee.)*Name *(to be used on nametag)*:

Street Address:

City, State, Zip code:

E-mail address:

Phone number:

Full Convention registration fee (includes picnic in Minneapolis and all meals served at the Verizon Center):

BTS member: \$277 Total: \$ _____

Non-BTS member: \$297 Total: \$ _____

BTS member Child (up to age 12): \$237 Total: \$ _____

Non-BTS Child (up to age 12): \$247 Total: \$ _____

Per day registration fees:

Thursday Minneapolis events only *(including bus to Mankato)*: \$42 Total: \$ _____

Thursday Mankato events: \$15 Total: \$ _____

Friday Mankato events: \$115 Total: \$ _____

Saturday Mankato events: \$115 Total: \$ _____

Sunday Mankato events: \$25 Total: \$ _____

Additional fees:

Go on a Bat with Betsy: \$25 Total: \$ _____

*Please select _____ **Friday** or _____ **Saturday***

Adopt a Table:

___ "A Simple Nosegay," \$6

___ "Mrs. Ray Entertains," \$15

___ "The Mellborn Ballroom," \$23 Total: \$ _____

Lake Minnetonka Excursion (Sunday): \$22 Total: \$ _____

Family Meal Pass: \$110 Total: \$ _____

Includes ice cream social, two breakfasts, two dinners and brunch

Sunday bus from Mankato to Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport: \$15 Total: \$ _____

TOTAL FEE: \$ _____*Note: Due to unpredictable fluctuations in fuel costs, there may be a small additional fee, to be collected at the time of the Convention.*

Meal Choices**Friday dinner**

- Naifi's Chicken Tawook Marinated in Garlic, served with salad, rolls, and jewel rice
- Mrs. Muller's Herb-Crusted Pork with potatoes, green beans, and baby carrots
- Marco's Vegetarian Lasagna al Forno
- Sally Day's Chicken Fingers and French Fries (for children under 12)
- Kelly Kerr's Hamburger and French Fries (for children under 12)

Saturday dinner

- SS Columbic Atlantic Salmon with potatoes and seasonal vegetables
- Anna's Chicken Diane with potato puree and sautéed vegetables
- Mrs. Tabbitt's Mazza Platter (vegetarian)—olives, feta, hummus, tabolue, babaganoush, and pita
- Sally Day's Chicken Fingers and French Fries (for children under 12)
- Kelly Kerr's Hamburger and French Fries (for children under 12)

Will you attend the Children's Program Friday? **Yes** **No**

Will you attend the Teen Program Friday? **Yes** **No**

(Please note that due to overlapping times, the same people cannot attend the Friday Bat with Betsy and the Children's and Teen Programs.)

Please make your check or money order payable to "Betsy-Tacy Convention 2012." Registration closes July 8, 2012. Refunds will not be available after July 1, 2012. Return your completed registration form and payment to: Michele Blake, Convention Registrar, 22 Pond Street, North Easton, MA 02356. Confirmation will occur via e-mail unless otherwise requested.

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.

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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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Find us on
Facebook

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 1,600 Facebook fans! Stay current on BTS events or simply join in the conversation. It's fun!

www.facebook.com/BetsyTacy

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