



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 Agenda

Thursday 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**

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, tabouleh, 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.