2006 Calendar of Events

Mark your calendar for these events. More information can be found in the newsletter and on our website.

March
4 Story Time-each Sat. afternoon in March reading from Betsy-Tacy
18 St. Patrick’s Party

April
1 Meet the Author - Jan Schultz
9 Victorian Tea with Faith Sullivan

May
6 Meet the Author - Joy Kuby
13 Annual Clean-up Day
21 Glenwood Cemetery Tour
27 Winner of drawing contest chosen

June
10 BTS Rummage Sale
18 Annual Meeting & Cheryl Harness Book Release Party

July
15 Carol Gappa, singer-musician
22 Meet the Author – Audrey McClellan

August
12 Betsy-Tacy Neighborhood Walking Tour

September
23 Lincoln Park Walking Tour

October
28 Halloween Party

November
11 Deep Valley Book Festival
www.deepvalleybookfest.com

December
2 Victorian Christmas

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You are cordially invited to attend a

Victorian Tea with Author Faith Sullivan

Date: Sunday, April 9, 2006
Time: 12:30 pm – 1st seating
       3:00 pm - 2nd seating
Where: The Peddler of Rapidan
Cost: $25.00 for BTS Members
      $28.00 for Non-Members
Guest Speaker: Faith Sullivan

Join us for an afternoon Victorian Tea. Everyone is invited to come dressed in Victorian attire (optional). The tables will be spread with linens and delightfully mismatched china. Foods will include finger sandwiches, scones, sweets, and tea. Meet and visit with special guest author, Faith Sullivan.

Reservations are required. Seating is limited to 50 people per seating. For tickets, please complete the form on page 7 and mail ASAP. Please specify the seating time you prefer and we will assign on a first come-first serve basis. Check our website for more information and a menu as it becomes available.

The Peddler of Rapidan is located just six miles south of Mankato on County Road 33 near the Red Jacket Trail. The Peddler is a renovated old creamery built in 1920 and has the charm of a European roadside bistro. The Peddler also has a great selection of gifts, antiques and crafts creatively displayed the second floor and guests will have the opportunity to shop at their leisure.

Minnesota novelist, Faith Sullivan will join us to talk about her new book, her life, her work, answer audience questions and autograph copies of her new book, Gardenias. Copies will be for sale at the tea.

Faith Sullivan is the author of seven novels, including The Cape Ann (1989), The Empress of One (1997), What a Woman Must Do (2003) and Gardenias (2005). Her work has received numerous awards, including a Milkweed National Fiction Prize and the Benjamin Franklin Award for Fiction.

“Gardenias proves that even life’s missed opportunities can offer some of the most rewarding story lines.”

Minneapolis Star Tribune

It’s 1942, just a month after the United States entered World War II. Lark, her mother Arlene, and Aunt Betty are in a station changing trains, leaving their lives in Harvester, Minnesota behind, and waiting for the train going to Los Angeles. Young men — soldiers — swarm the platform, heading off to war. Against this dramatic backdrop, Gardenias revisits Faith Sullivan’s most beloved characters from The Cape Ann, taking them from their hometown to new lives, new dreams, and new risks. Arlene has left her husband behind after he gambled away the money she’d saved to finally build the Cape Ann house of her and Lark’s Depression-era dreams. As a new life takes shape in San Diego in a wartime housing project full of neighbors they know little about, Lark wonders, as does the reader, if a dream means losing everything of value or finally finding it. Visit www.faithsullivan.com for more information.
The Betsy-Tacy Society
Est. 1990
P.O. Box 94
Mankato, MN 56002-0094
507-345-8103
www.betsy-tacysociety.org

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          Africa, Australia
$30.00    Business Member

Contact information:
Mail: P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002
Membership: membership@betsy-tacysociety.org
Shop: shopkeeper@betsy-tacysociety.org

Tours: Call Lona - 507-345-8103 or lonaf@charter.net. For group tours: reservations are requested two weeks in advance of the tour.

Shop Catalog: send a SASE to P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094 and mark CATALOG on the front of the envelope.

Tacy’s House and Gift Shop is open every Saturday afternoon from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Tacy’s House is located at 332 Center Street in Mankato and Betsy’s House at 333 Center Street.

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Donations
The BTS would like to gratefully acknowledge donations received during the months of November 15, 2005 through February 15, 2005 from the following:

Memorials
Colleen Canavan – In Memory of Chuck Humphrey, Karlynn Johnson , and Wilda Schultz
Suzanne Nezin – In Honor of Barb Fecteau
Noel VanTol – In Memory of Marguerite & Ed Keene

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Donations $250-$500
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Donations $500-$1000
Thomas, Richard & Jean
Book Release Party

Battle Cry
By Jan Neubert Schultz
Saturday, April 1st

We are proud to host the book release and signing party for author and BTS member, Jan Schultz on Saturday, April 1st, at Tacy’s House. Jan Neubert Schultz, was born and raised in Mankato, MN. A fifth-generation Minnesotan, Schultz has been fascinated since childhood by the stories that have been handed down in her family and by the people and events that have shaped Minnesota's history. She has written two previous historical fiction novels set in Minnesota. Horse Sense: The Story of Will Sasse, His Horse Star, and the Outlaw Jesse James, published in 2001, was chosen as a finalist for the 2002 Benjamin Franklin Award and was a finalist for the 2002 Bank Street College of New York’s Best Children's Books of the Year 2002. Firestorm, published in 2003, won the 2003 Minnesota Book Award for Children's Fiction. This book is the tragic story of the 1894 Hinckley, MN, fire, which killed more than 400 people in four hours, is recounted by 13-year-old Maggie.

Her new release, Battle Cry, is a young adult historical fiction novel, set against the Dakota Conflict of 1862. The story is about two best friends and neighbors, Johnny and Chaska. The boys had never known firsthand the struggles that long-plagued relationships between their people—white settlers and Dakota Indians. But when their federal government, caught up in the Civil War, is late in sending the Dakotas’ annuity payment, the situation changes. Suddenly the boys find themselves caught between opposing sides of a bloody war. The battle of the Dakota Conflict rips apart their homes and the lives of everyone they know and love.

On Saturday, April 1st, readers will have the first chance to get an autographed copy of Battle Cry at a book release party at Tacy’s House. Jan will give a reading at 1:30 pm and discuss and answer questions concerning the book and the process of researching, visiting historical sites, and gathering first person accounts.

“The reading my book at Tacy’s house is thrilling for me, as I grew up with the Betsy-Tacy series, and had met Maud when she had come to the old Carnegie Library. I had written to her and she wrote back. She was my ‘heroine’. Thank you for this privilege.”

~ Jan Neubert Schultz

Visit: www.childrensliteraturenetwork.org for more information about Jan Schultz and her books.

The Betsy-Tacy Society invites you to attend the 2006 Annual Meeting
Sunday, June 18, 2006
at the Historic Schumacher House
202 No. 3rd St. in St. Peter, MN

Sunday Night Lunch - 6:00 pm
Meeting and Book Release Party - 7:00 pm

The Schumacher House is a beautiful Victorian Queen Anne style house, designed and built by H.C. Gerlach, father of Marjorie Gerlach (Tib). Gerlach’s handwritten notes of the specifications and blue prints were found in the walls of the house after it was damaged by the 1998 tornado. These plans will be on display. The house has been beautifully restored by owner, Judy Ahlstrom. Judy is a BTS board member.

Reservations required for dinner – watch our website for details or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to have information mailed. The meeting and book release party is open to the public.

BOOK RELEASE PARTY

Just for You to Know
By Cheryl Harness
7:00 pm following the meeting

“It’s my first novel and I’m so excited I could bust. The main character is Carmen Cathcart, a 12-going-on-13-year-old girl living in Independence, Missouri, in 1963. She’s a daydreamer and she’s the oldest in a big messy family. They all seem pretty embarrassing and annoying until something awful happens and Carmen has to try to save them - and her dreams.”

~ Cheryl Harness

Cheryl recently returned from the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. where she spoke and signed copies of her book, The Remarkable Benjamin Franklin, at a celebration for Franklin’s 300th birthday! Visit www.cherylharness.com for more information about Cheryl Harness and her books.
Meet the Author
Joy Kuby
Saturday, May 6th
at Tacy’s House

Author, Joy Kuby is a personal story preservationist and the owner of Joyful Images. Her quest is to gather stories from women who have journeyed before her—spirited women who have experienced much of the twentieth century. She resides in Wayzata, Minnesota. Joy’s book, The Fortunate Four, is a collection of stories she has gathered by connecting with and listening to women.

“As a baby boomer, life before the 1950s was often a mystery to me. I knew there were many incredible stories from my mother’s and grandmother’s generations that were soon to be lost forever. They were like precious gifts that had been wrapped up with a bow and were not being shared. I had a strong desire to write about their journeys through life—to show their passions, hopes, dreams, and fears—for in learning about their journeys we can better understand ourselves.”—Joy Kuby

The Fortunate Four
& Other Journeys of the Heart

The Fortunate Four is a celebration of women whose journeys carried them through much of the twentieth century. Their true stories—filled with love, destiny, adventure, and lifelong friendships—will lighten your soul and give you a sense of connection with those who traveled before you.

Your journey will begin with four young Hamline University women on their incredible nine-week road trip across the country in the summer of 1935 and will end with another group of four young career women as they bury their dreams beneath the Lake Street Bridge on a rainy day in 1924. Tucked between these pages are over 25 more true stories about the journeys of spirited women. There will be laughter—there may be tears. Enjoy the journey!

For more information, visit: www.joyfulimages.com

Books Available in Tacy’s Gift Shop

All the books mentioned in this newsletter are available to order from Tacy’s Gift Shop. If you can not attend the book signing events, but would like a signed copy, please send your order so that it reaches us at least one week before the event. Please include instructions if you want the book personalized.

Shop Talk

Tacy’s Gift Shop is open every Saturday afternoon from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, or by appointment. You can also shop our online catalog: www.betsy-tacysociety.org

Your purchase supports the BTS!

NEW
Pink Stationary
12 sheets/12 envelopes
$7.95
8 1/2 x 11 pink parchment paper and envelopes

Betsy’s story, “Flossie’s Accident” was written on pink stationary in Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown. “They put the pink stationary into an envelope and addressed it to the Ladies Home Journal.”

Battle Cry – by J. Schultz, hardcover - $15.95
Firestorm – by J. Schultz, hardcover - $15.95
Gardenias – by F. Sullivan, hardcover - $24.95
The Cape Ann – by F. Sullivan, softcover – $14.00
The Empress of One – by F. Sullivan, softcover - $14.95
What a Woman Must Do – by F. Sullivan, softcover – $14.95
The Fortunate Four – by J. Kuby, softcover - $18.95
Just For You to Know – by C. Harness, softcover - $16.99
The Remarkable Benjamin Franklin – by C. Harness, hardcover - $17.95

King Kong – softcover - $10.95
Written by Delos W. Lovelace, based on the story by Merian C. Cooper and Edgar Wallace, (Did you know that Maud’s husband, Delos W. Lovelace was commissioned to novelize the screenplay? The book was released in 1932 before the movie came out in 1933.)
Living Dangerously: The Adventures of Merian C. Cooper, Creator of King Kong by Mark Cotta Vaz. Hardcover - $26.95
Biography of the remarkable life of Merian C. Cooper, a war hero, aviator, explorer and filmmaker, was a close friend of the Lovelace’s. He was the namesake for Delos and Maud’s daughter, Merian.

*Order forms can be printed from our website.

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

If you are interested in volunteering some of your time to help the Society, please give us a call. We can find a project to suit your interests and skills. Some examples are:

- Fund Raising & Grant Writing
- Participating on committees/help with programs
- Tour Guides or helping with tours
- House and yard maintenance
- Journal layout/production
Seniors—Class Record

(Left) Rupert Burke Andrews - Mankato High School. Delta Omega Literary Society 3,4; Mathematics Club 4; Foot-ball 3; Capt. Foot-ball 4; Class Base-ball 3,4; Class Basket-ball 4; Capt. Class Track 4; Class Track 4; Class Track 3; Pres. Of the A.S.B. 4.

Nancy Wilson, BTS member from Seattle Washington sent photos of Rupert and Helmus Andrews (characters of Larry and Herbert Humphrey) that she found in the San Diego High School yearbook, The Russ, June 1909. Nancy writes:

“I first met Betsy and Tacy when I was just their age—5 years old. My best friend and near neighbor, Virginia, introduced me to these stories. I checked them out one by one from the old children’s library in Santa Ana, California, and I continued to check them out of the library and read them over and over, even as an adult, until I discovered at about the age of 50 that they were available in paperback. Quickly I purchased every one, and now I have a complete collection. Only then did I discover the Betsy-Tacy Society.

It was only after my grandmother’s death in 1978 that I began to realize that the characters in these books, everyone in the Crowd, were her contemporaries, not my own. I had read the books so many times, yet I somehow never let go of the illusion that we were all the same age at Deep Valley High School. I will never forget how I waited for Betsy’s Wedding to be published, rounding out the series.

Sharla Whalen’s biography of Maud Hart Lovelace gave me a new insight into the real-life details from which she created the books. All of a sudden it dawned on me that my grandparents had graduated from San Diego High School in 1909. This meant that they might have known Rupert and Helmus Andrews, the Humphrey boys, who moved to San Diego at the end of Betsy’s freshman year. Sure enough, my sister and I found the school yearbooks in the archives of the San Diego Historical Society, and there were the pictures of Rupe and Helmus, alias Larry and Herbert.

This discovery seemed very fitting to me. My only regret is that I did not figure it out when my grandparents were alive. How I wish I could have asked them about the Andrews brothers. I’m sure they knew one another, because the school was quite small in those days.

Now my parents are in their late 80s and have relocated to San Diego, where my mother was born. As we began to pack up their belongings, I came upon the very same yearbooks, San Diego High School, 1905-1909. There were the photos of Rupert and Helmus again. Since I have always loved the Betsy-Tacy stories, it seems quite wonderful to me that we have this family connection with the Crowd.”

San Diego High School Track Team:


Front row: Eugene Daney, Helmus Andrews (Herbert Humphreys), Rupert Andrews (Larry Humphreys), Paul Sloane, George Harper, Sydney Morgan.
Spruce Up For Spring
Clean-Up Day - May 13th

Plans are being made for our annual Clean-Up Day at Betsy and Tacy’s house. We’re looking for volunteers to help with the following tasks:

- Paint exterior of Betsy’s house – the new siding had only a coat of primer before winter.
- Paint the kitchen at Tacy’s house
- Paint the bathroom at Tacy’s house
- Seasonal yard work
- Provide food for volunteer workers

If you are able to volunteer for any of the above, please call Barb Lamson at 507-388-6543 or email lamson@hickorytech.net for more information. Check our website for more details as they become available.

Glenwood Cemetery Tour

As you all know, Maud Hart Lovelace is buried in Glenwood Cemetery in Mankato. But did you know that many other real life “characters” from the Betsy-Tacy books are also buried in Glenwood? The Society is planning a tour of the cemetery on Sunday, May 21st. Watch our website for more details.

BTS Rummage Sale Fundraiser

Would you be interested in donating items for a rummage sale at Betsy’s house in June? All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to paying the principal on the mortgage. If interested, please contact Barb Lamson, at 507-388-6543 or email lamson@hickorytech.net for more information.

Restoration updates

Next on our priority list is to have much needed electrical work done at both houses for safety and to bring up to code. We will continue to work on this project as funds are available.

David Lamson has volunteered many hours this winter repairing the windows at Betsy’s house. Thanks!

In Memoriam

We are saddened to announce the passing of Doris Pagel, librarian and professor of library media education at Minnesota State University Mankato. Dr. Pagel died on January 17, 2006 in Rochester, MN at the age of 77. An advocate for children’s books and libraries, Dr. Pagel established the Maud Hart Lovelace Award, the winner of which the children of Minnesota choose each year.

Did you ever write a letter to Maud?

We have a data base of the names of fans who wrote letters to Maud from 1943 – 1980. We may have your letter to Maud on file. If you would like us to check the data base for your name and letter, please write to us and include a self-addressed and stamped envelope. We’ll check our data base and mail you a photocopy of your letter.

Letters from our Members

Susan Kraus, BTS member and fourth grade teacher in Kissimmee, Florida wrote to us in January 2006. This is the second year Susan has read the first four Betsy-Tacy books to her class and she writes: “The books mean so much to me, and I am thrilled to be able to pass them on to this next generation. I purchased the first book, Betsy-Tacy, for all of my students as Christmas presents, and asked them to save them to read to their own children someday. With any luck, they will pass them on as well.”

Susan’s students each wrote wonderful letters to the Betsy-Tacy Society telling us why they liked the Betsy-Tacy books. We love to get letters from new fans! Thank you, Susan, for introducing another generation to Betsy-Tacy and Maud Hart Lovelace. We applaud our teachers and parents who continue to keep Maud Hart Lovelace’s work alive by reading the books to their children and students.

BTS members Sue Ellen Jensen and Steve Henricks write…

“We are delighted to be a part of the effort to preserve the legacy left to us all by Maud Lovelace. Your steadfast dedication in leading the rest of us and doing so much hands-on work does not go unnoticed. Thank you for everything you do! It may not always seem like important work when compared with the huge problems and tragedies facing our world. But the lessons of Maud’s books are exactly those that may someday lead us out of this time of darkness—or at least serve as a reminder that gathering around the fire with friends and family on a Sunday night in a spirit of peace and inclusiveness is more important than anything else.”

Thank you all for your continued support of the BTS!

Drawing Contest

Check our website for drawing contest details.

Winners chosen May 27, 2006 - www.betsy-tacysociety.org

Wishing For...

The following is a list of items needed by the Society. Remember, donated items are tax-deductible. Anyone able to contribute the following items, make a donation for their purchase, or advise us as to their procurement is asked to contact Lona: 507-625-8056 or Julie: 507-625-8056.

Security System for Betsy & Tacy’s house
Telephone service for Tacy’s House
Portable DVD player - for programs/events
32 cup coffee maker – new or like new condition
Fireproof safe or cabinet for archival materials
1905-1910, 1912-1920 Otaknam Yearbooks
Turn of the century kitchen cook stove
Cast iron parlor stove with isinglass doors (as described and pictured in “Betsy-Tacy” – for pictures see our website.)

We are deeply grateful for the following

Wishes Fulfilled...

Computer and Printer – donated by Marian Anderson
Bookcases for Shop – donated by Sandy Pavelka
New Copy Machine – donated by Bob Dale
New Members

Every new member receives a new member packet which includes the most recent Journal and newsletter, a History of the Betsy-Tacy Society, a Restoration Fact Sheet, Maud Hart Lovelace Timeline and laminated bookmark. With each new paid Lifetime membership you’ll receive a hardcover copy of “Winona’s Pony Cart” and a Lifetime Membership Certificate.

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

- Receive our newsletters and Journal.
- Receive a 10% discount at Tacy’s Gift Shop or catalog.
- Be a part of an important effort to restore Betsy and Tacy’s houses, historical literary landmarks in Mankato to educate future generations about the importance of the period.
- Be informed of all upcoming events

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 below with the recipient’s name and mailing address and tell us how to sign your card.

Reservation for Victorian Tea Party

HURRY – Seats are Limited

Name: ____________________________
Address: _________________________________________
City __________________ State: ______ Zip: __________
Phone: __________________________ Email: __________________________

Indicate the number attending and choose seating time:

_____ $25.00 BTS Member
_____ $28.00 Non-Member

Indicate seating choice

_____ Sunday 12:30 pm seating
_____ Sunday 3:00 pm seating

Please mail your check and this reservation form to: Betsy-Tacy Society, P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope and tickets will be mailed to you. Tickets will indicate your seating time. Deadline for reservations is March 25th. Check www.betsy-tacyhouse.org for updates and news of ticket availability. Tickets are non-refundable. Please call Julie if you have any questions: 507-625-8056 or email: julie@mnheritage.com

Betsy-Tacy Society Membership Form

(Form may be photo-copied)

First Name ____________________________ Last Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________________________________________________________
City __________________ State: ______ Zip Code __________________
Phone __________________ Email Address ____________________________________________

Annual Membership Levels

_____ $15 Regular
_____ $25 Patron
_____ $30 Business Member
_____ $30 Canada, Europe, Asia, Australia
(Money order in US Funds only)
_____ $200 Lifetime

Additional Information

_____ New Member
_____ Renewal
_____ If renewing, is this a new address?
_____ Tax-deductible donation – Betsy-Tacy House Fund

_____ $100 Gift choice: _____ Print _____ Maple _____ No Gift

_____ No acknowledgment for donation required

_____ This is a Gift Membership – please sign gift card From: ____________________________

Make checks payable to the Betsy-Tacy Society and send this form to: P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094

For membership office use only: Invoice#___________ Check#___________ Amount paid___________ Date __________ Packet sent ______

For membership office use only: Invoice#___________ Check#___________ Amount paid___________ Date __________ Packet sent ______
Help Us Reach Our Goal!

We’ve come a long way, but there’s much more work to be done! Your generous donations have allowed us to continue our preservation and education efforts over the years. With your help we can continue this progress. As the end of another year approaches, we ask that you consider a tax deductible gift to the Betsy-Tacy Society to help us reach our goal of paying off the mortgage. With a monthly mortgage payment of $962.00, the Society still owes $47,477.55 for the mortgage on Betsy’s house. Thank you for your continued support!

With each donation of $100 or more you will receive a special gift from us – your choice of The Immortal Trio by Cheryl Harness signed/numbered print or a rough piece of Betsy’s maple tree (as is) laser imprinted with Lenski’s illustration (see image at right). Limited quantities. Thank you to BTS members, Bob & Mimi Cerny. Bob laser imprinted the maple tree rounds for us.

Contributions to The Betsy-Tacy Society are tax-deductible.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please remember to inform us if your 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.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

You will find your expiration date on the mailing label. If you mailed your membership dues after Feb. 15th, the new expiration date will not be reflected on this mailing label.

Check our website for updates of new events and catalog items

www.betsy-tacy.org