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 Melbourne 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.

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.

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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 Foulike, 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:

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 Karolyn M. Fitzpatrick, Einar Hokland, 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
Marlaine Magee

Gifts up to $49
Carol Elbert
Susan Rutledge
Robert and Susan Brown, in memory of Matthew Cherney
Wendy Robelo, Restoration
Krista Barrett
Suzanne Hackman
Karen Myers, Thanks Drew Campbell, and Dong and Candace Laven
Paula Becker, Restoration
Jean Baughman

In Kind Operating Donations
Robert and Susan Brown, rugs, painting supplies, treats for painting 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 Nattrakul, corn gluten
Pat Nelson, tea party items, treats for painting volunteers
Barbara Schnoor, treats for painting 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
Savidhra By
Abigail Globes
Andrew Globes
David Globes

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.

Deep Valley Sun Autumn 2011

The Betsy-Tacy Society
Est. 1990
P.O. Box 94
Mankato, MN 56002-0094
507-345-9777
www.betsy-tacy.org
301(c)3 organization

BTS Staff
Operations and Outreach Coordinator – Jenny Guldan
Membership and Gifts Coordinator – Meghan Rodgers

Board of Directors
President – Susan Brown
Vice President – Jackie Hilgert
Secretary – Laurie Pengra
Treasurer – Kathy Mork

Board Members
Kay Dedinski, Katherine Hughes, Candy 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

Contact information:
Mail: Betsy-Tacy Society
P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002
BTSMankato@gmail.com
Membership:
membership@betsy-tacy.org
Shop: shopkeeper@betsy-tacy.org

Shop Catalog:
Shop our online catalog:
www.betsy-tacy.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
July 1, 2011 – October 31, 2011
Visit 501(c)3 organization
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.

Deep Valley Sun.
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.

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Mail: Betsy-Tacy Society
P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002
BTSMankato@gmail.com
Membership:
membership@betsy-tacy.org
Shop: shopkeeper@betsy-tacy.org

Shop Catalog:
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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 Hometime 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.
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*.

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**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.
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 Guldan, 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.

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. Thumber’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. Thumber’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 Gesing 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.betsytaconvention.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:
Deep Valley Sun Autumn 2011

- 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 Pryce
- “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
- Non-BTS member: $297
- BTS member Child (up to age 12): $237
- Non-BTS Child (up to age 12): $247

Per day registration fees:
- Thursday Minneapolis events only (including bus to Mankato): $42
- Thursday Mankato events: $15
- Friday Mankato events: $115
- Saturday Mankato events: $115
- Sunday Mankato events: $25

Additional fees:
- Go on a Bat with Betsy: $25

Please select _____ Friday or _____ Saturday

Adopt a Table:
- “A Simple Nosegay,” $6
- “Mrs. Ray Entertains,” $15
- “The Mellborn Ballroom,” $23

Lake Minnetonka Excursion (Sunday): $22

Family Meal Pass: $110
Includes ice cream social, two breakfasts, two dinners and brunch

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

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**
- Naifí’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. Tabbit’s Mazza Platter (vegetarian) — olives, feta, hummus, taboluc, 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-tacy.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.
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

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