



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 2

SUMMER 2011

Mother-Daughter Book Club About to Delve into the World of Betsy Ray

Heather Vogel Frederick came to Mankato in the fall of 2010 to visit the Betsy-Tacy houses and to do research for the fifth book in her Mother-Daughter Book Club series, which features *Betsy In Spite of Herself* with references to other Betsy-Tacy books. The book, titled *Home for the Holidays* is set to be released October 4. Board President Susan Brown asked Vogel Frederick about her upcoming work:



Q. Do you determine the titles of your books before writing the stories or afterwards?

A. It works both ways. Sometimes I have a title before I even have a story to go with it, which is what happened with my recent picture book *Babyberry Pie*. I was out picking boysenberries at a farm a couple of summers ago, and suddenly thought, *boysenberry*. Now that's a funny name for a berry. Why aren't there such things as girlsenberries?" And from there it was a very short leap to "babyberries." (This is what writers do, by the way – we noodle around with words!) As I was heading home to make a boysenberry pie, the words *Babyberry Pie* swam into thought. Bingo! Great title – but then I had to get to work to come up with a story to go with it. Most of the time, though, the title is an integral art of the development of a story. Something eventually rises to the surface as I'm going along.

Q. Are the characters based on real people in your life?

A. Yes and no. I'm generally very careful not to base a character completely on a real-life person. I wouldn't want to offend someone if they didn't like the character – just imagine if you were reading along and suddenly thought, "Good heavens, I'm

Mrs. Chadwick!" (A very bossy and domineering woman.) That being said, there are definitely bits and pieces of real people in my characters. It's almost like creating a patchwork quilt – I may take someone's hair color or eyes and pair it with another's personality or hobbies or talents, while other bits are just completely made up.

Q. How do you decide what classics to feature in your series? Are these your favorite books?

A. The first classic that my fictional book club tackled was *Little Women* in *The Mother-Daughter Book Club*. This was a natural, given that the series is set in my old hometown of Concord, Massachusetts, where Louisa May Alcott lived when she wrote her famous tome. It's a book I read and loved growing up (I don't think any girl growing up in Concord can avoid it, actually), and once it was determined that my fictional club's adventures would continue, it seemed natural to choose other favorite classics of mine. With the exception of the Betsy-Tacy series, to which I was only recently introduced, they're all books I was passionately fond of as a young reader.

Q. What was your favorite book or author when you were a young reader? Did you like classics then?

A. I was and remain an omnivore. Growing up, I read both classics and contemporary books, and had many favorites. It's really impossible to winnow it down to just one. I was particularly fond of fantasy, though – everything from *The Borrowers* and anything by Roald Dahl to *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*, *Half Magic*, Lloyd Alexander's *Prydain Chronicles* – the list goes



Story continues on page 6

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

BTS Staff
 Operations and Outreach Coordinator -
 Jenny Guldan
 Membership and Gifts Coordinator -
 Sandy Karstens

Board of Directors
 President - Susan Brown
 Vice President - Jackie Hilgert
 Secretary - Laurie Pengra
 Treasurer - Barbara Schnoor

Board Members
 Joan Brown, Katherine Hughes, Candy
 Laven, Doug Laven, Kathy Mork,
 Pat Nelson, Renata Olson, Lisa Wolf

Newsletter Editor: 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

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

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
 March 1, 2011 - June 30, 2011

Lifetime Members
 Mary Markland, North Dakota

Patron Members
 Linne Gipson, Texas
 Kathryn Hazlett, Colorado
 Lisa Wolf, Minnesota

Basic Members
 Faith Adams, Georgia
 Kelsey Adams, Georgia
 Erin Barnes, Colorado
 Anna Brannin, Mississippi
 Brian Fors, Minnesota
 June Geiger, Virginia
 Deborah Lester, New York
 Jennifer Slate, Minnetonka
 Ella Steim, Massachusetts

**All Gifts to BTS
 are Gratefully Appreciated**
 The BTS gratefully acknowledges
 donations received from
 March 1, 2011 - June 30, 2011
 from the following:

Gifts greater than \$1,000
 Janine Johnson, Restoration

Gifts from \$500 to \$999
 Helen Gift

Gifts from \$100 to \$499
 Alliance Data
 Colleen Canavan, Endowment,
 in memory of Kathleen Phipps and
 Robert Borowski
 Lincoln Park Neighborhood
 Association
 Jefferson Elementary School
 D'Lene Sandleback
 Anita Baerg-Vatndal

Gifts from \$50 to \$99
 Ameriprise Annual Giving
 Campaign
 Judy Kutulas
 Mary Markland
 Jennie Adams Rose

Gifts up to \$49
 Marilyn Anderson
 Krista Barrett
 Robert and Susan Brown, in
 memory of Scott Michael Johnson
 Julie Burchett
 Colleen Canavan, Endowment, in
 memory of Charlene Tegels
 Bonnie Catron, Restoration
 Cynthia Collins
 Susan Feasey
 Brian and Deborah Fors, in
 memory of Scott Michael Johnson

Judith French
 Linne Gipson
 Bonnie Gunderson
 Susan Hackman
 Eloise Hendrixson
 Virginia Heyerdahl
 Kathryn Hazlett, Restoration
 Barbara Lloyd
 Jennifer Marshall
 Aldythe Schmidt

Paver Fundraiser
 March 1, 2011 - June 30, 2011
 Janine Johnson (2)
 Victoria McAllister
 Penny Murphy

In Kind Operating Donations
 Tom Bengtson
 Neil Nurre, South Central
 College, North Mankato

Artifacts and Archive Donations
 March 1, 2011 - June 30, 2011
 Helen Gift, Antiques, Dishes and
 Linens
 Linda Karow, Collars
 Sue Nemchick, China
 Kathy Stolenwerk, Books

Thank You, Volunteers!
 March 1, 2011 - June 30, 2011
 Ron Affolter
 Ana-Brit Asplen
 Penny Banwart
 Halle Blais
 Grace Brosnan
 Bob Brown
 Hedda Brown
 Joan Brown

Susan Brown
 Abby Cherney
 Meghan Cherney
 Tabitha Cherney
 Margo Druschel
 Rod Elbert
 Lona Falencykowski
 Amy Friedman
 Brian Fors
 Laura Garlow
 Kathryn Hanson
 Becky Hilgert
 Jackie Hilgert
 Jim Hilgert
 Anna Bayer Hrdlicka
 Daryl Hrdlicka
 Jack Hrdlicka
 Katherine Hughes
 Charlie Hurd
 Susan Hynes
 Brenda Jaros
 Rebekah Kloster
 Sarah Kloster
 Judy Kraft
 Candy Laven
 Doug Laven
 Jack Madsen
 Pat Nelson
 Alex Oldenburg
 Renata Olson
 Sue Orchard
 Laurie Pengra
 Kelly Reuter
 Megan Rheault
 Barbara Schnoor
 Bryce Stenzel
 Norma Thomas
 Grace Webb
 Dave Wolf
 Lisa Wolf

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 then 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.



Message from the President

Note: I am pleased to share the President's Report from the annual meeting on June 9, 2011. I have done some editing to transform it from an oral presentation to a written letter to the membership, but the message is the same.

I am proud to be the president of an organization that values family, friendships, literature, and history. The mission of the Betsy-Tacy Society is an amazing opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people all over the world.

There are so many ways people support our mission. Certainly time and resources are essential and valuable. However, it is also important and very effective when people promote the BTS in their own communities and social circles. When we tell our friends we are members of the BTS and then invite them to join and to volunteer, we are sharing our mission. When we get excited and talk about Maud's wonderful books, we are encouraging others to read them too. When we buy Betsy-Tacy books as gifts for young readers, we are sharing beautiful stories with the future members of the Betsy-Tacy Society.

When we volunteer to give tours or to work on Saturdays here at the houses, we are telling our story to many guests from many different places. This is advertising and promotion that does not cost us anything and yet it reaches to places way beyond *Deep Valley*. When a group of women from around the country plan a convention in Mankato for fellowship and celebration of Maud's contributions to literature, we know we carry out the mission of the Betsy-Tacy Society together.



Daryl Hrdlicka is just one of many volunteers who share time and talent to advance the BTS mission.

Many different people have brought the BTS to the place it is today. Many ideas, a variety of visions, countless volunteer hours, incredible hard work, and a commitment to preserving Maud's legacy have all made a difference. But the hard work will never be done. Our society owns property. Now, along with promoting the books, we must focus on keeping the Betsy-Tacy houses open and in good repair. Homeowners know that is an ongoing job and also an important responsibility.

The BTS Board has voted to begin the research and process of setting up an endowment fund in the name of Maud Hart Lovelace. The Board understands we need to think forward with the maintenance of these historic homes. All members are part of this ownership and maintenance responsibility.

Throughout the past year we have accomplished so much. For example, we have a new Point of Sale system in the shop. We reviewed our insurance coverage and have made important adjustments. After careful research and study the board decided this is not the right time to buy Tib's house. We completed six library kits based on three of the Betsy-Tacy books for distribution through the public library system. Again in March we presented six sessions at the annual Young Writers and Artists Conference at Bethany College.

Requests for private tours have increased – and the groups are getting larger. Many guests visit the houses on Saturday afternoons during our open hours. We operate a gift shop, thus we are in the retail business too. We continually need more volunteers to accommodate the requests for tours and the busy Saturdays.

I am incredibly proud of the Board of Directors – and I want to applaud their hard work and faithfulness. It is rare that a nonprofit board assumes responsibility to run an organization without any paid staff during their busiest time of the year and to do it with success and professionalism. They have continued to work hard all year and to collaborate about our future and how to get there.

I know a wonderful gift shop. It is at Tacy's house and offers many books, notecards, shirts, and other gift ideas. So I went shopping there and bought a journal for each person on the Board of Directors. I told them if they do not journal, they can use the book for a notepad by their phone or comfy chair. Hopefully the journal with Maud's photo on the front reminds them they are appreciated and that they have made a difference in our organization!

I am grateful to everyone on the Betsy-Tacy Society team. You all are valuable as we carry out our mission together!

Susan Brown

President, Betsy-Tacy Society

Board News

Renata Olson joined the BTS board in June. Renata made her first trip to Deep Valley in the summer of 1990 when she was seven years old. Renata says she can't remember exactly when she read the Betsy-Tacy books for the first time, but she's pretty sure she taught herself how to read because she was sick of waiting for grown-ups to read them to her. A K-6 educator in the Twin Cities metro area, Renata began volunteering for the Betsy-Tacy Society in 2009 after an impromptu visit to Mark Twain's Hannibal, Missouri, made her aware of the historical and literary significance of the Betsy-Tacy houses. She is thrilled to be welcomed to the board and is committed to sharing her love of all things Betsy Ray with a new generation of young readers.

News & Notes

Staff, committees working toward the future

The Betsy-Tacy Society has made significant strides in organizing its operation as we anticipate the 2012 convention. Summer is our busiest season and as we pull together to welcome guests nearly every day, committee members are busy checking items off their respective to-do lists so the houses will be in tip-top shape by next July, the shop shelves will be fully stocked with souvenirs, and we all can be prepared to welcome to Mankato hundreds of Betsy-Tacy/MHL fans from across the country and beyond.

Part of the preparation for the future includes hiring the right staff to meet our goals. This summer the Society added two part-time staff persons to manage its operations.

Jenny Guldan joins the BTS as Operations and Outreach Coordinator. Her duties include processing incoming mail and messages, recruiting volunteers to match tour requests, maintaining shop inventory, keeping the BTS web site and Facebook sites up-to-date with Society events, bookkeeping, and providing support to the Facilities and Restoration, Shop, and Program committees. Jenny also will act as Society liaison for the 2012 convention committee. You can reach Jenny via email at: BTSMankato@gmail.com.

Sandy Karstens joins the BTS as Membership and Gifts Coordinator. Her duties include keeping the BTS membership database and member correspondence current, acknowledging gifts given to the Society, and coordinating production of The Deep Valley Sun. Sandy also will provide support to the Archives and Collections committee in its efforts to build a new database of all BTS archival and artifact holdings. You can reach Sandy at: Betsy.Tacy@gmail.com.

Our dedicated volunteer corps performs many tasks for the BTS. (See page 2). We continue to recognize and thank our volunteers and members who faithfully and generously contribute their time and resources to keeping our mission alive.

The Program Committee had a busy spring. Members planned and executed Betsy's Birthday Party, the BTS Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Picnic, the Victorian Lawn Party, and a visit from a bus-full of patrons from the Gaylord Public Library. Program Committee co-chairpersons Pat Nelson and Susan Hynes do a terrific job recruiting volunteers to provide music and costumed characterizations at special events. Work is already underway for the Victorian Christmas Open House on December 3.



BTS Board member Pat Nelson welcomes guests to the annual meeting.

The Shop Committee is working with volunteer artist Megan Rheault to develop a small poster featuring the classic covers of the first four books in the Betsy-Tacy series.

Early drafts of the poster were posted on Facebook, where fans were asked to vote on their favorite design and to offer comments. We thank all who participated in the voting. The Shop Committee also is developing a plan for 2012 convention souvenirs which should be available for purchase in time for the upcoming holiday shopping season.

The Archives and Artifacts Committee has worked diligently over the last few months to develop a policy for accepting items that are so generously offered to the Society. The committee also refined its donation forms to bring them in line with



The BTS shop: Purchases support the mission.

museum standards. Lastly, a grant request has been submitted to the Schmidt Foundation to purchase a computer and Past Perfect, a software program that will allow for efficient data entry and tracking of the Society's holdings.

The Facilities and Restoration Committee members have paint on their minds. The BTS has received 26 gallons of free paint from the Picture-It-Painted Grant, sponsored by The Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) and Valspar Corporation for restoration and beautification projects in southern Minnesota.

In the coming weeks, volunteers will be preparing and painting Betsy's house, the garage and shed, and also the porches on both houses. Repairs have been started on the siding that was damaged in a 2010 hail storm. The committee will report the maintenance and restoration progress and costs to the BTS Board. More volunteer handymen and painters are needed for prepping and painting. Please call 507-345-9777 or email BTSMankato@gmail.com for information.

* * * * *

Hart, Kenney houses added to local historic registry

The Betsy-Tacy houses in Mankato have been added to the Local Registry of Historic Places. The Betsy-Tacy Society requested consideration for this designation and agreed to be included in the professional study and surveys. These homes are significant properties in the literary context of Mankato.

Bob Brown, a member of the Facilities/Restoration Committee, represented the BTS at the Mankato Planning Commission meeting on May 25 and the Heritage Preservation Commission meeting on June 9.

After the Planning Commission's recommendation, the Heritage Preservation Commission recommended to the

Mankato City Council that the Kenney and Hart houses were eligible for designation as Heritage Preservation Landmarks.

On June 27, Doug Laven, Bob Brown, and Susan Brown attended the public hearing at the city council meeting. Council members approved the "Ordinance Amending Section 10.82, Subdivision 20(1) Designating 332 Center Street (Tacy Kelly's House) and 333 Center Street (Betsy Ray's House) as Heritage Preservation Landmarks."

* * * * *

Convention planning committee members visit

The Board of Directors hosted its annual meeting June 9 with a reception and potluck supper at Tacy's house, which was open to members, volunteers, and past board members. Three BTS members who are part of the 2012 convention planning committee, Radhika Breaden (Oregon), Barb Fecteau (Massachusetts) and Kathy Baxter (Minneapolis), were welcomed as special guests. After the business portion of the meeting concluded (see President's column, page 3), Radhika opened a Powerpoint presentation to share feedback she'd gathered from the 2009 convention along with details of plans that are unfolding for the next. Radhika's intelligence will be used to tweak programs, meals, outings, and development of convention souvenirs. The BTS Board of Directors thanks the convention committee for the numerous hours they are putting into planning this outstanding event.



Above: Kathryn Hanson (left) visits with Radhika Breaden. Left: Kathy Baxter (far left) visits with Ron Affolter while Peggy Bartelt greets Barb Fecteau (right).

* * * * *

Did MHL borrow Betsy's name from Herndon?

The BTS shares the following letter from a reader:

Possibly, I've discovered something about Maud Hart Lovelace that hasn't been noticed before.

To explain: My wife and I have two handicapped girls. Along with physical handicaps, they have learning ones and cannot read. As a result, we read to them. We have recently gone through the Lovelace books. In reading "Emily of Deep Valley" Emily wants to know what biography of Lincoln would be best to give her grandfather. She is advised that Herndon's is best. I have had Herndon's book on the shelf for 30 years without opening it. I took it down and read it. In chapter three, he describes a double

wedding of these backwoods people... One of the brides in this double wedding is named Betsy Ray. It is my surmise this is where Maud gets her name. My wife thinks this must be a coincidence. But the chance of putting those two names together randomly is one in a million. And it is very likely she herself read the Herndon biography.

I will only add that if not for reading to our girls, I would never have thought to read Betsy-Tacy and the other books. Girls' books! But they are remarkable – and endearing, and among the finest of American writings.

My "discovery" may be known already, but I thought I would pass it along just in case.

- Don Wilcox, Ann Arbor, Mich.

* * * * *

Victorian Lawn Party offers old-fashioned fun for all

There were games on the lawn, songs on the porch, stories in the parlor, carriage rides on the lane, and cake. Yes, cake! – unfrosted yellow cake for all who braved the drippy skies for the chance to step back in time with Betsy, Tacy and Tib.

June 18 was the date of the Victorian Lawn Party, held in conjunction with Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association's annual historic home tours. It did rain, heavily for a bit, but there were also plenty of clear stretches for visitors to take part in all the festivities. The Lawn Party, along with Betsy's Birthday celebration and the Victorian Christmas, is a perennial favorite of locals and visitors alike. Here are some snapshots from the day:



Top right: Lonesome Ron and Susan Hynes take shelter from the rain on Tacy's porch. Top left: Meghan Cherney, Abbie Cherney and Halle Blais play Betsy, Tacy and Tib. Left: Grace Webb helps Laura Garlow with her hair. Below: Guests enjoy a carriage ride through the Lincoln Park neighborhood.



Interview with Heather Vogel Frederick,

Continued from page 1

on. I also loved realistic stories such as Dorothy Canfield Fisher's *Understood Betsy*, Sydney Taylor's *All-of-a-Kind Family*, and yes, *Anne of Green Gables*.

Q. Did you read the Betsy-Tacy books when you were a young reader?

A. I did not. And I'm still just completely gobsmacked at the realization that I missed them somehow! There's a funny scene in *Home for the Holidays* in which Emma (the club's resident bookworm and the character most like me) first hears of the books, and is shocked – shocked! – that she hasn't heard of them, then delighted at the prospect of 10 whole new books to look forward to. That was totally me.

Q. How were you introduced to the Betsy-Tacy books?

A. I was literally pounced upon by several people while I was on a book tour in the Midwest a couple of years ago. One of them, Melissa Posten, a bookseller from Missouri (a shout out here to the wonderful Puddnhead Books of Webster Groves!), pressed the first two of the series into my hands as I was leaving her store and made me promise to read them. She said she thought the series would be perfect for my fictional club – and she was right.

Q. Why did you base the 5th book in the series on *Betsy in Spite of Herself*? What made this book “the one”?

A. Although I touch on the entire series in *Home for the Holidays*, I highlight *Betsy in Spite of Herself* because the girls in my fictional club are now sophomores in high school, the same age as Betsy and her friends in that book. Plus, there's that really fun episode with Betsy traveling to visit Tib in Milwaukee for Christmas. Being partly of German extraction, I was drawn to that and thought I could make some hay with it. It turned out to be the inspiration for ALL of my characters heading elsewhere for the holidays – so in fact the title is a bit ironic. I probably should have called it “Gone for the Holidays”!

Q. Why do you think Maud's books continue to appeal to young readers?

A. The same reason that Louisa May Alcott's and Lucy Maud Montgomery's and Jean Webster's and Jane Austen's continue to appeal – because despite the window dressing of 1910 (or the 1860s or Regency England or what-have-you), these books capture the emotional truths of adolescence, which are timeless. Growing up, navigating family and friendships, learning about the wider world, falling in love – these kinds of things are common experiences we all share with characters like Betsy and Tacy. They speak to our hearts, and always will.

Q. How did your visit to “Deep Valley” in October, 2010 influence the writing of *Home for the Holidays*?

A. An enjoyable part of this series (for me at least, being the

research wonk that I am) is the opportunity to slip in “Fun Facts” about each of the writers, and give my readers a chance to get to know more details about their lives, writing habits, and times in which they lived. Visiting Mankato, touring the houses, seeing the library and the town, dipping into the treasure trove of materials at the Blue Earth County Historical Society, sitting on the bench – let me tell you, I came home with my “fun facts” cup running over! I do a great deal of my research online and at the library, but nothing compares to actually visiting a place, and having the opportunity to walk in an author's footsteps.

Q. Where do you write your books? Do you have a special place in your home that inspires you as you write?

A. I write mostly where I'm sitting right now – in a comfy armchair in my office here at home. When the weather's nice, I often divide my time between here and my “outside office” under our cherry tree in the back yard.

Q. How long does it take to complete the draft of one of the books in your Mother-Daughter Book Club series?

A. Usually between six and nine months. Sometimes a little longer, depending on the amount of research involved.

Q. Who reads the drafts? Do young readers also read the drafts and then give their feedback?

A. Mostly, just me and my editor. I don't have young readers I turn to, but once in a while I'll ask a friend or two – or in this case, three – for feedback. With this book, I tapped the collective wisdom of Kathy Baxter, Colleen O'Neal, and Radhika Breaden, who were phenomenally helpful with vetting all the Betsy-Tacy details.

Q. Do your young fans suggest their own favorite classics to be featured in future books in the series?

A. Absolutely! I've had a lot of requests for *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Heidi* and the Laura Ingalls Wilder books. The problem is, though, my fictional club continues to grow older – they're in high school now – and these are books that are generally read at the elementary or middle school level these days.

Q. Who will be on the 6th book cover? What classic will be featured?

A. That is the big question I'm wrestling with this summer. It's a tough decision! *Jane Eyre* is a top contender, although I've always found it a little bleak. As for the cover, since I think the sixth book will be the final one in the series, I'm hoping to get the entire club on there. We'll have to wait and see what Simon & Schuster's amazing art department comes up with, though – their ideas invariably trump mine! ❖

Heather Vogel Frederick is the author of numerous books for young readers. Heather's work spans several genres, from historical fiction to fantasy to contemporary realism and picture books, and has been honored both nationally and internationally. Visit www.heathervogelfrederick.com to learn more.

New Members

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

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

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

Great Gift Idea

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



When contacting the BTS....

By Mail - Always send mail to the following address:

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

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

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

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

Privacy Statement

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

* * * * *

Address Changes

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

Betsy-Tacy Society Annual Membership Form

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Phone _____

New Renewal

I would like: Mailed Newsletters

Electronic Newsletters

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

Membership Levels

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

\$50 Patron

\$100 Silver*

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

\$500 Lifetime (Gifts A and C)

Pay in 4 installments of \$125

* Denotes business memberships

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

GIFTS

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

Gift B: Immortal Trio notecards

Gift C: Betsy's House ornament

Donations

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

I would like to allocate my gift to:

Unrestricted

General Fund

Restoration Fund

Assessment Fund

No acknowledgement for donation required

Donation in Memory of:

Donation in Honor of:

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

Please return this form to:

BTS Membership

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



Betsy-Tacy Society
P.O. Box 94
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www.betsy-tacysociety.org

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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 1,500 Facebook fans! Stay current on BTS events or simply join in the conversation. It's fun!

www.facebook.com/BetsyTacy

Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 30	Lincoln Park Night to Unite
October 6-8	History Fest
December 3	Victorian Christmas
July 18-22, 2012	Betsy-Tacy Convention

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

www.betsy-tacysociety.org/catalog

"The Winding Hall of Fate!" July 18-22, 2012

Mark your calendars now to join us in July, 2012 for the Betsy-Tacy convention. The convention begins in "Betsy's Minneapolis," and concludes in "Deep Valley." Find all the details about this exciting event, plus registration information, online at: http://web.mac.com/btconvention/BT_Convention/Welcome.html You can also find a link to this site on the events page of the BTS web site. Excitement is building. The membership is abuzz. The Betsy-Tacy convention is on the horizon. We hope you will attend.