

GROUT MUSEUM DISTRICT | TOUCH IT. SEE IT. FEEL IT.

# COLLECTIONS

DECEMBER 2024 - FEBRUARY 2025  
VOL. XCVI NO. 3



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the Snowden House

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## ***NEW! Sipping on History***

*A quarterly column from Executive  
Director Margaret Moye.*

New Bosnian Exhibit  
Opening at the Grout



## Christmas at Russell Square



December 7  
at Russell &  
Snowden House

Details on reverse!

EXHIBITS ON DISPLAY



**D-DAY: FROM NORMANDY TO BERLIN**  
ON DISPLAY THROUGH MAY 31, 2025

2024 marked the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings at Normandy in northern France.

Many Iowans were involved in those landings, the liberation of Europe and the ending of the Holocaust. Nearly 227,000 Iowans served in the war and almost 8,400 died.

In commemoration of that struggle for liberty, the exhibit showcases the D-Day landings and the year-long struggle through northern Europe.



**BLACK STORIES COLLECTIVE**  
**ON THE BALLOT: CEDAR VALLEY AFRICAN AMERICANS IN POLITICS**  
ON DISPLAY THROUGH OCTOBER 18, 2025

Learn about local African American politicians throughout the history of the Cedar Valley and their impact on the political landscape. This installment will include artifacts from the Museum's Collection and the community, newspaper clippings, Voices of Iowa Black Stories Collective interviews, archival photographs and more.

*Pictured Above: Iowa Association of Colored Women's Clubs photo taken in 1903 - Wikimedia Commons*



UPCOMING EXHIBIT

**WHO WE ARE: CELEBRATIONS**

OPENS FEBRUARY 11, 2025 | GROUT MUSEUM OF HISTORY & SCIENCE

Visit the Museum's second installment of the ongoing Bosnian exhibit series "Who We Are: Celebrations." Learn about traditional Bosnian clothing, folklore, holidays and special events. View photographs and items from the Museum's Collection and from area community members.

*Pictured Above: 25 Krajiški Teferić*



**HONOR A VETERAN THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

**VETERANS PLAQUES: \$200**

Do you have a special friend or family member who gave time, talent and courage or perhaps even life to serve the United States in the Armed Forces? Honor your veteran on the Wilbur and Mildred Demmel and Melvin Juel Veterans Memorial Plaza.

A 5"x2.5" plaque with up to three lines will honor your Iowa Veteran. It's a gift that gives for years to come!

To purchase, call 319.234.6357 or visit [gmdistrict.org/shop](http://gmdistrict.org/shop)



**GIVE THE GIFT OF A MEMBERSHIP**

**A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING ALL YEAR ROUND!**

GMD Memberships allow the card holder unlimited admission to the Grout Museum District and the Norris Corson Family Planetarium for an entire year. Members also have access to free or discounted admission to hundreds of museums across the US through a reciprocal program. Other perks include discounts on programs, store purchases and facility rentals.

Purchase in store, by calling 319.234.6357 or online at [gmdistrict.org/membership](http://gmdistrict.org/membership)



**SIPPING ON HISTORY WITH MARGARET**

Greetings friends! As I mentioned last newsletter in my introduction, I am quite the tea enthusiast. One thing I appreciate about the ritual of a teatime is the chance to slow down, act with intention, and create an opportunity to reflect. I'd like to take this opportunity each quarter to share my thoughts and reflections honestly with you. After two months here, I find myself settling into something of a daily rhythm. While that is a bit of a misnomer given that museum work always requires flexibility, I'm beginning to recognize patterns even in "normal" daily and weekly fluctuations. There is one constant that I have seen here at the Grout - a deeply passionate and committed staff doing great things.

I am continually awed by every project being done in every department. Each team member shares their strengths for the betterment of our organization. It is because of our team that we meet our mission and provide quality visitor experience and programming. Every one of the men and women here are vital ambassadors to our community. They plan and execute exhibits and educational programs, welcome visitors and donors, create promotional materials, provide behind-the-scenes support in collections processing, financial management, technology needs, administrative organization, maintain our buildings and grounds and exhibit elements, collect oral histories, conduct research, coordinate events, manage clients, and build relationships. I am proud to work alongside each and every one of our staff and strive to lead and support them in their continued successes.

I also look forward to getting to know each of you as our members. I would like to create opportunities for us to gather in fellowship as like-minded supporters of the Grout. Don't be surprised if you get a call or email from me asking for thoughts on how to accomplish this goal. Quarterly potlucks with a program? Semi-annual or annual meetings to share an in-depth look at our organization? Socials? I'll be pondering and asking for your thoughts in the upcoming months.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season, and until you hear from me again, stay safe and well.

*Margaret Moyer*

Grout Museum District Executive Director

WINTER PROGRAMS

REGISTER AT: [GMDISTRICT.ORG/CALENDAR](http://GMDISTRICT.ORG/CALENDAR)

**SENSORY FRIENDLY PLANETARIUM SHOWS**

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH  
9:30 AM | AGES 5 & UP | \$2  
NORRIS CORSON FAMILY PLANETARIUM

Visit outside of normal hours for a sensory friendly planetarium experience. Planetarium lights will remain dimmed, sound muted, and the planetarium door will remain open to allow guests the freedom to move around.

**TEA PARTIES**

DECEMBER 21, 2024 - WONDER YULE  
FEBRUARY 15, 2025 - VALENTINES  
10AM | SNOWDEN HOUSE  
\$12 MEMBERS, \$18 NON-MEMBERS

Join Museum Staff for themed tea parties with treats, crafts, and more!

**SAVE THE DATE!  
MARDI GRAS TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER  
MARCH 1, 2025**

Further details coming soon at [gmdistrict.org/mardigras](http://gmdistrict.org/mardigras)

**MEMBERS ONLY D-DAY PLANETARIUM SHOW SCREENING**

JANUARY 24, 2025 | 4PM  
NORRIS CORSON FAMILY PLANETARIUM  
FREE FOR MEMBERS

Be the first to experience the newest planetarium show! In coordination with our exhibit *D-Day: From Normandy to Berlin*, this show highlights the events that changed the course of WWII and incorporates interviews from Iowans who participated in this historic event. *This is a FREE showing for Grout Museum District members only. New memberships must be purchased 24 hours prior to the event. Pre-registration preferred.*

WINTER NOTICES

**SCIENCE DEMO & PLANETARIUM SPECIAL DATES**

Dec. 26-28 & 31, 2024 at  
11 AM & 1:30 PM

**CLOSED**

Dec. 24-25, 2024 & Jan. 1, 2025



Grout Museum District  
503 South St.  
Waterloo, IA 50701

WINTER 24-25



# Christmas at Russell Square



## December 7, 2024

RENSELAER RUSSELL HOUSE MUSEUM  
& SNOWDEN HOUSE

5:00 - 8:00 PM

**\$15 ADULTS AND CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE**  
**PRE-REGISTER AT [GMDISTRICT.ORG/RUSSELLCHRISTMAS](http://GMDISTRICT.ORG/RUSSELLCHRISTMAS)**  
**REGISTRATIONS WILL ALSO BE TAKEN AT THE DOOR!**

Join the Friends of the Grout Historic Houses for *Christmas at Russell Square*. Tour both historic houses, fully decorated for the season. Enjoy live entertainment at both houses, including Union High School Victorian Carolers and a silent auction. Cookies, hot cocoa, wassail (cider) will be available at Snowden House.

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL PRODUCE IOWA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA



BLACK HAWK COUNTY GAMING ASSOCIATION



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