

GROUT MUSEUM DISTRICT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

# COLLECTIONS

MARCH - MAY 2026  
VOL. CI NO. 4



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## SIPPING ON HISTORY

A quarterly museum update with Executive Director Margaret Moye.

Volunteer Spotlight:  
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## WORLD'S GREATEST SPRING BREAK

• FOR KIDS •

MARCH 16 - 20, 2026

Details Inside!



You Pack Cans?

Processing time, half time and War  
1943 Iowa plains, half covered in snow  
1944 Iowa poultry manufacturing means  
in the United States record revenue, packing plants  
1945 United States record all-time, Game from food  
in billions of Iowa, 20 percent, 4 billion eggs  
15 percent meat, all corn, 15 percent  
1946 available corn, Brown  
the previous record \$4.2 million

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



### KAY SPRATT

Kay Spratt is a retired Special Education teacher with the Waterloo School District who continues to make a meaningful impact through her dedication and service.

"Miss Kay," as she is affectionately known at Museum School, has been a constant source of positivity, encouragement, and insight not only for the students, but for the education staff as well. Her patience, experience, and genuine care for others shine through in everything she does, creating a welcoming and supportive environment for everyone she works with.

The Museum District is truly grateful for her time, energy, and commitment, and deeply appreciates the many ways she continues to give back through her volunteer efforts.



## FEATURED EXHIBIT

### WATERLOO VISITING NURSES: 93 YEARS OF COMPASSIONATE CARE

ON DISPLAY MARCH 17 - JUNE 30, 2026 | GROUT MUSEUM

For more than 90 years, the Waterloo Visiting Nurses Association provided essential medical care to members of the community, from the tiniest tot to the greyest adult, allowing patients to receive treatment in the comfort and dignity of their own homes. Their dedicated nurses and staff played a vital role in improving public health, supporting families, and bringing compassionate, professional care directly to those who needed it most.

Join the Museum District for the newest exhibit, and explore the history of this organization and the lasting impact it had on healthcare in our community. Through photographs, artifacts, and personal stories, visitors will gain a deeper appreciation for the people and the mission that helped shape local healthcare for generations.

## WORLD'S GREATEST SPRING BREAK FOR KIDS

MARCH 16-20, 2026 | 9AM-5PM

Join the Grout Museum District and other downtown attractions for *World's Greatest Spring Break for Kids* sponsored by McElroy Trust! Enjoy **\$1 admission** per child and \$1 per accompanying adult. Watch daily 15 minute **\$1 planetarium shows** in the Norris Corson Family Planetarium on the hour running from 10:30AM-4:30PM. Enjoy a "pop-up" **Imaginariun** for **\$1**. Take part in themed days (sneak peeks at Summer Camps) with an accompanying spring break passport. Complete each day's themed crafts and activities to get a stamp in your passport. Stamped passports will be entered into a drawing for a prize! **The Rensselaer Russell House Museum** will be open Tuesday-Thursday with **\$1 admission**.

LEARN MORE: [MCELROYTRUST.ORG/SPRING-BREAK](http://MCELROYTRUST.ORG/SPRING-BREAK)



## SIPPING ON HISTORY with Margaret

I'd like to take a moment and express my deepest gratitude for the generous support we receive here at the Grout Museum District. We saw a 253% increase in giving between last year's fall appeal and this year's end of the year appeal! Most of these gifts were from our steadfast and loyal donors, and your commitment to our endeavors is sincerely appreciated. We also saw new donors join the ranks. Welcome! It's thanks to all of you that our talented staff have resources to develop programs and exhibits, to preserve and protect our collections and collect oral histories.

Creativity abounds in all departments as we all look ahead for the GMD. You will notice new tour packages for adults and educational groups, packaged experiences that utilize our rental spaces, new merchandise available in the museum store, expanded program offerings for adults and youth, and the creation of exhibits featuring never-before-seen acquisitions. Every department continually improves what we do and how we do things to be efficient and effective.

*That creativity is essential as we continue to contend with the changing funding landscape from the loss of the voter-approved levy.*

Navigating the future is never easy, but I continue to be impressed by our staff and the ideas they generate. Initiatives that broaden our appeal as an organization to the wider community.

Thank you for staying with us, for your support as we navigate these waters. And if your creativity is inspired by ideas for us to consider, you are always welcome to contact me and share your thoughts.

I hope to see you at the Museum exploring our exhibits, enjoying a program, or shopping at the store!



Margaret Moye  
Executive Director  
Grout Museum District

## SPRING PROGRAMS

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

### SPRING SPEAKER SERIES

MARCH 10, APRIL 14, MAY 12 | 4-5PM  
GROUT MUSEUM | COST: \$5, MEMBERS FREE

A different guest speaker every month and a meal fundraiser from Friends of the Grout Historic Houses.

### OPEN GAME NIGHTS

MARCH 5, APRIL 2, MAY 7 | 4-10PM | FREE  
SULLIVAN BROTHERS IOWA VETERANS MUSEUM

Join Dark Vassal Gaming and Friendly Meeples for monthly games! Concessions and cash bar available.

### STORYTIME UNDER THE STARS

MARCH 21, APRIL 18, MAY 16 | 9:30AM  
AGE: TODDLERS | COST: \$3

NORRIS CORSON FAMILY PLANETARIUM  
Enjoy 2 toddler friendly books in the planetarium.

### CAMP CURIOUS

APRIL 17 & MAY 8 | 9AM-4PM  
GROUT MUSEUM | AGES 6-12 | COST: \$35/\$40

A series of day camps packed with STEAM powered fun, held on Waterloo no school days.

### TEA PARTIES

APRIL 25 - UNBIRTHDAY TEA | 10AM  
SNOWDEN HOUSE | COST: \$12/\$20

Enjoy an *Alice in Wonderland* inspired tea party with treats, crafts, and more.

### NATIONAL ASTRONOMY DAY

APRIL 25 | 7-9PM | GROUT MUSEUM  
COST: \$5, MEMBERS FREE

Explore the universe in the planetarium and engage in space/astronomy activities.

### STAR PARTY

MAY 16 | 9-10:30PM | PRAIRIE GROVE PARK  
COST: FREE

Join the GMD and BHAC every 3rd Sat. through Sept. Observe/learn about the night sky through telescopes.

### MUSEUM SCHOOL

GRANDPARENTS NIGHT OPEN HOUSE  
MAY 15 | 5-8PM | FREE

Museum school participants, grandparents, and families are invited to enjoy student-led tours, hands-on activities, and light refreshments.

### VOICES OF IOWA: PEARL HARBOR

SHOWTIMES: 11:45AM & 1:45PM  
SBIVM THEATRE | INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION

This 50-minute film, shares the firsthand accounts of Iowa veterans who lived through that day, 85 years since the attack.

### REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

FOR SUMMER CAMPS!

CAMPS BEGIN JUNE 8 - Day & Week Long Options!



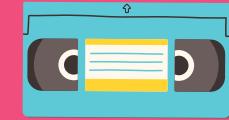
Grout Museum District  
503 South St.  
Waterloo, IA 50701

Join Us for Our Annual Fundraiser!



# NIGHT at the MUSEUM

90s trivia



Saturday April 18, 2026

at the SULLIVAN BROTHERS IOWA VETERNS MUSEUM  
6-9PM | COST: \$40 MEMBERS/\$50 NON-MEMBERS  
TABLES OF 8: \$300

As if you'd miss this **totally '90s** trivia night! Pick your squad and test your knowledge of 1990s pop culture with 10 trivia rounds. Party like it's 1999 while enjoying heavy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, silent auction, and more! Costumes encouraged but optional. All proceeds to support Reimagine the Imag: Inspiring Curiosity for Future Generations, the relocation of our hands-on children's science center.

PURCHASE TICKETS: [GROUTMUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG/90S](http://GROUTMUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG/90S)

