

# The New York Browning Society, Inc. Newsletter

*Founded in 1907*

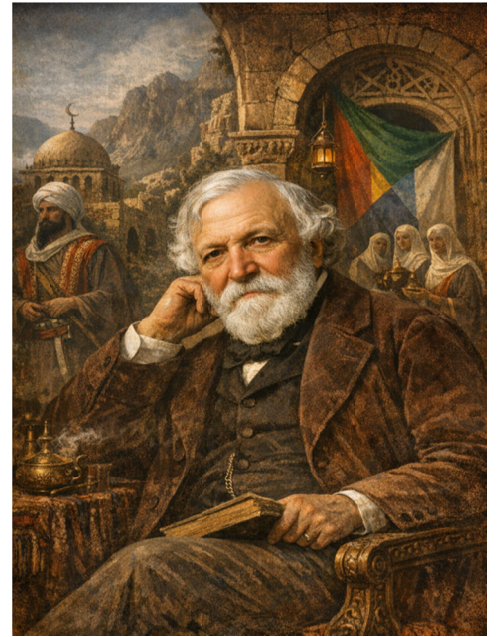
**Date** Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 2026

**Time** 6:00– 7:30PM

**Place** Jefferson Market Library  
425 Avenue of the Americas

**Mansour Ganjehlou**

## **Return of the Druses: Revolution, Revelation, & The Stranger Within**



The New York Browning Society welcomes Iranian-American performer **Mansour Ganjehlou** for an electrifying exploration of Robert Browning's *Return of the Druses*. Part dramatic reading, part communal investigation, this evening invites the audience to step inside Browning's world of mystic rebellion, contested identity, and the dangerous charisma of leadership. Through interactive readings and guided discussion, we'll trace the echoes between Browning's 19th-century imagination and the complexities of cultural identity today.

"The year's at the spring, The day's at the morn..."  
— *Robert Browning, Pippa Passes*

### **This Month at the Browning Society**

As March opens its long, brightening corridor, the New York Browning Society turns once more to the poetry of thresholds — those moments when a voice steps forward, when a season shifts, and when something long held in silence begins at last to speak. This month's program invites members and guests to enter that space with us as we explore *Return of the Druses*, a work alive with questions of identity, revelation, and the perilous charisma of leadership. In the spirit of the season, we also inaugurate **THE FIRST SIGNAL**, our annual poetry call, seeking new voices ready to emerge into the light. March asks us to listen — to Browning, to Elizabeth, and to the rising chorus of poets who continue the work of awakening.

*"Every wish is like a prayer—with God."*

— Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Join us for our March Presentation @  
**JEFFERSON MARKET LIBRARY – 425  
AVE. OF THE AMERICAS 03/18/26 6pm!**  
**Third Floor Mae West Room**



RETURN OF THE DRUSES

[nybrowning.org](http://nybrowning.org)



## Browning in March: Thresholds, Voices, and the Weather of the Heart

March has always occupied a curious position in the English imagination — a month poised between persistence and renewal, carrying the last austerities of winter even as it gestures toward the coming light. In Robert Browning’s work, this transitional quality becomes more than meteorological. It becomes psychological, dramatic, and deeply human. Browning’s speakers often inhabit the very space March represents: the moment before change, the breath before declaration, the threshold where feeling sharpens into voice.

In *A Lovers’ Quarrel*, Browning opens with an image that captures March’s mercurial charm:

“Oh, what a dawn of day!  
How the March sun feels like May!”

The line is deceptively simple. Beneath its brightness lies the emotional volatility that characterizes both the month and the poem. Browning uses the early warmth of March as a counterpoint to the speaker’s unresolved tension — a reminder that the world may soften even when the heart resists. It is a study in contrasts: thaw and hesitation, light and longing, the promise of renewal shadowed by the memory of discord.

By contrast, *Marching Along* from *Cavalier Tunes* presents March not as a gentle thaw but as a summons. Browning adopts the voice of a loyalist soldier, and the month becomes a verb — an imperative toward action:

“Cavaliers, up! Lips from the cup...  
till you’re Marching along, fifty-score strong...”

Here, March is movement, resolve, and collective purpose. The poem’s rhythm carries the energy of a procession, its voice firm and forward-leaning. Browning’s mastery of the dramatic monologue is on full display: the speaker’s urgency becomes the reader’s pulse.

Taken together, these works reveal Browning’s sensitivity to the season’s dual nature. March is both invitation and challenge, both softening and stirring. It is a month in which Browning’s characters — like the weather itself — negotiate between what has been and what might yet be.

“*Light tomorrow with today.*”

— Elizabeth Barrett Browning



## THE FIRST SIGNAL — NYC Poetry Call 2026

The Society is pleased to announce the opening of **THE FIRST SIGNAL**, our annual citywide poetry competition presented in partnership with Underground Books. This open-age contest invites poets across New York to submit a single original poem responding to the theme of emergence — the moment something begins, interrupts, or awakens. In keeping with the spirit of March and the Brownings’ shared fascination with thresholds, we seek work that captures the instant a voice steps forward from silence. Submissions will be accepted from **March 4 through April 1st**, with the winning poet receiving a **\$50 honorarium**, **publication of their first book of poetry** with Underground Books, and a **featured reading with the New York Browning Society on April 15<sup>th</sup>** during National Poetry Month. We look forward to discovering the new voices who will answer this year’s call. Submit a poem to: [undergroundbooksnyc@gmail.com](mailto:undergroundbooksnyc@gmail.com) See rules and submission guidelines here: <https://nybrowning.org/2026/03/04/open-call-nyc-poetry-competition-all-ages-deadline-april-1st/>

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JOIN US THIS  
WEDNESDAY  
March 18<sup>th</sup>  
Mae West Room  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor 6pm!  
[nybrowning.org](https://nybrowning.org)