

Elizabeth Anne Socolow, High School Liaison

16 Woodmont Drive, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 2106

Telephone 609 2191239

elizascup@earthlink.net



THE NEW YORK BROWNING SOCIETY, since 1907

THE NATIONAL ARTS CLUB
15 GRAMERCY PARK SOUTH
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10003

Mr. Christian Del Ré, Assistant Principal, Humanities

(718) 368-8500

Leon Goldstein High School For The Sciences

1830 Shore Boulevard

Brooklyn, NY 11235

Dear Mr. Del Ré:

We at The New York Browning Society are dedicated not only to the Brownings' poetry and our enjoyment of it, but to ensuring that the next generation learns to admire poetry as well. To that end, for many years we have held a high school poetry contest. This year, to launch the 200th year since Robert Browning's birth, we are expanding this student contest to include, for the centennial and pre-centennial years, more schools and two kinds of poems. An award of \$50.00 and a certificate will be presented to each winning student.

We are inviting you to locate the appropriate person in your school to find up to five students to submit a poem in either of two categories or both. We are seeking a poem of not more than two pages in any form of the student's choosing. As well, and for the first time, we are seeking a poem **INSPIRED** by either Robert or Elizabeth Browning, again no longer than two pages. (Although Robert wrote short poems, four lines each, ***we will consider a minimum of twelve lines for this contest.***)

We are writing to some forty high schools, both private and public institutions based in the boroughs of New York, and asking for student contributions. **We will pick two winning poems in each of the two categories from these submissions, a total of four winning poems by four different students. (No student can win in both categories.)**

The due date is March 15th, 2011, and the winners will be announced on April 22nd, 2011. I will phone the contact person for the four winning entries and e mail them as well, but, once I have received submissions, I will not be in touch except with the teachers or staff members overseeing the winning students.

Each winner will be expected to attend the May meeting of the Browning Society on the first Wednesday in May, May 4th, 2011 from noon to 2 P.M. at the National Arts Club at 15 Gramercy Park South. A parent or parents of each student will be warmly welcomed and each student **MUST BE ACCOMPANIED** as well by a faculty representative. We expect the student to read the poem to the society, explain a bit about the writing of it and have a special lunch which we will provide for all winners and their guests at our expense, student, parent(s), and staff member. *If the student accompanied by a faculty representative cannot be present to perform the poem, we will select a different poem by a student who can attend. The reading to our group is key.*

You may e mail me, Elizabeth Socolow, at my e mail address above with questions about the contest, but once submissions are in, unless there is an emergency, I will not be communicating with you until winners are announced. We look forward to seeing your student's work.

If you would like to receive news of our meetings, please contact Bob Griffiths, who creates our electronic newsletter at griffithsbob@comcast.net. An announcement of the winning poets, the titles of their poems and a report of the May 4th, 2011 presentation will be in the newsletter.

Yours sincerely,


Elizabeth Anne Socolow,

Former Poet in the Schools with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, winner of the Barnard Poetry Prize and former Judge for the Poem on a Philosophical Theme for the Poetry Society of New York. Poetry Society

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RULES

The New York Browning Society High School Student Poetry Contest:

THERE ^{IS} A CASH REWARD of \$50.00 for EACH winning poem, a total of \$200 for the four winners. Each student will also receive a certificate as a winner.

Each student winner is invited to bring a parent or parents to the presentation lunch on May 4th, 2011 and **MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SCHOOL STAFF MEMBER.**

Each student winner will be asked both to **READ** the winning poem to the audience at the luncheon and to say a few words about the writing process and, if reading a poem inspired by one of the Brownings, **TO READ** from the inspirational work and say a few words about the seed of inspiration.

Each student from each school, up to a maximum of five students, can submit up to two poems, of up to two pages each but only one in each of two categories, **FREE FORM** and **INSPIRED** by Elizabeth Barrett or Robert Browning. (We seek a minimum of twelve lines of verse and a maximum of two pages for any poem.)

ENTRIES WILL NOT BE RETURNED, SO MAKE CERTAIN THAT NO STUDENT SENDS A UNIQUE COPY and that the student and the supervisor each have duplicate copies of the submission. **Include a post card addressed to the student c/o the supervisor with the school address for notification of receipt of entry.**

Each entry must be **word processed** (no handwritten entries) and have the **student's name on each page**, and, in addition, the following **information on the upper left corner of the first page.**

- **Student name and grade.**
- **The name of the school.**
- **The name of a contact person in charge of overseeing the student at the school.**
- **A contact telephone number and e mail address for the contact adult.**
- **The name of the poem the student is inspired by on the poem from a Browning poem (either by Elizabeth Barrett or Robert Browning).** (We would like to know the student's favorite Browning poem in ANY case but it is not required for the free form entry.)

The entry must be post marked by March 15th, 2011 and mailed to Elizabeth Anne Socolow at the Lawrenceville, NJ address above. NO ELECTRONIC ENTRIES.