



Seeking Sanctuary | Author Bios

Anniqua Rana lives in California with her husband and two sons. When she's not working as an educator in the community college system, she visits her family in Pakistan and England. The rest of the time, she reads, cooks, travels, and enjoys mystical music and poetry and does whatever it takes to keep her grounded and happy. *Wild Boar in the Cane Field* is her debut novel.

Veena Rao was born and raised in India but calls Atlanta home. A journalist by profession, she is the founding editor and publisher of NRI Pulse, a popular Indian-American newspaper. Although her day job involves news reports, interviews, and meeting press deadlines, she devotes her spare time to creative writing and long walks in the woods. *Purple Lotus*, her debut novel, is the winner of the She Writes Press and SparkPress Toward Equality in Publishing (STEP) contest.

Cindy Rasicot's spiritual journey took on new dimensions when she, her husband, and their son moved to Bangkok, Thailand for three years. There, she met her spiritual teacher, Venerable Dhammananda Bhikkhuni, the first fully ordained Thai Theravada nun. This deepening relationship led to writing her memoir, *Finding Venerable Mother: A Daughter's Spiritual Quest in Thailand*, which chronicles her adventures along the spiritual path. She currently resides in Point Richmond, California, where she writes and enjoys views of the San Francisco Bay.

Judith Teitelman has straddled the worlds of arts, literature, and business since she was a teenager and worked her first job as a salesperson at a B. Dalton/Pickwick Bookstore. Life's journeys took her from bookstores to commercial fine art galleries to the nonprofit arts and cultural sector, in which she has worked as staff, consultant, and educator for more than three decades. Throughout this time, Judith continued her pursuit of all things literary. *Guesthouse for Ganesha* is her debut novel. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and three beloved cats.

Moderator Bio

Joanna Broussard is the founder of The BizMark Group Inc, a marketing and communications consultancy. She has lived and worked in Edgewater since coming to Chicago from her hometown of New Orleans in 2003. Joanna is actively involved in the neighborhood, serving as Communications Co-Chair, webmaster, and technology guru for Friends of the Edgewater Library. She is also a member of Edgewater Village Chicago, and recently moderated an informal evening of conversation with Cedille Records founder Jim Ginsburg for them.