



**Biography** for Eleanor Bluestein, author of *Tea and Other Ayama Na Tales*

Eleanor Bluestein grew up in Brookline, Massachusetts, and attended Tufts University. After graduating with a degree in biology, Eleanor taught science in public school, first in New York and then in Maryland.

Following a move to California, she worked as an editor of science textbooks for Harcourt, then for Curriculum Concepts, and later designed multimedia educational materials for Compass Learning. She has a Masters of Education degree from San Diego State University.

Through the work of such writers as Cynthia Ozick, Philip Roth, Kurt Vonnegut, James Baldwin, Margaret Drabble, and the incomparable Jane Austen, she acquired an ardor for words and began writing fiction. For a decade, along with an early literary mentor, Mel Freilicher, Eleanor co-edited *Crawl Out Your Window*, a San Diego based journal featuring the work of local writers and artists.

Eleanor spent a year in Paris, France, writing fiction and studying French at the Alliance Française. Later, she completed a Professional Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language at U.C. San Diego. *Tea and Other Ayama Na Tales* is inspired by her travels to South East Asia.

Eleanor lives with her husband, a professor of medicine, in La Jolla, California, where she writes fiction, sometimes travels to exotic lands, and volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for foster children. She has a son and a daughter.