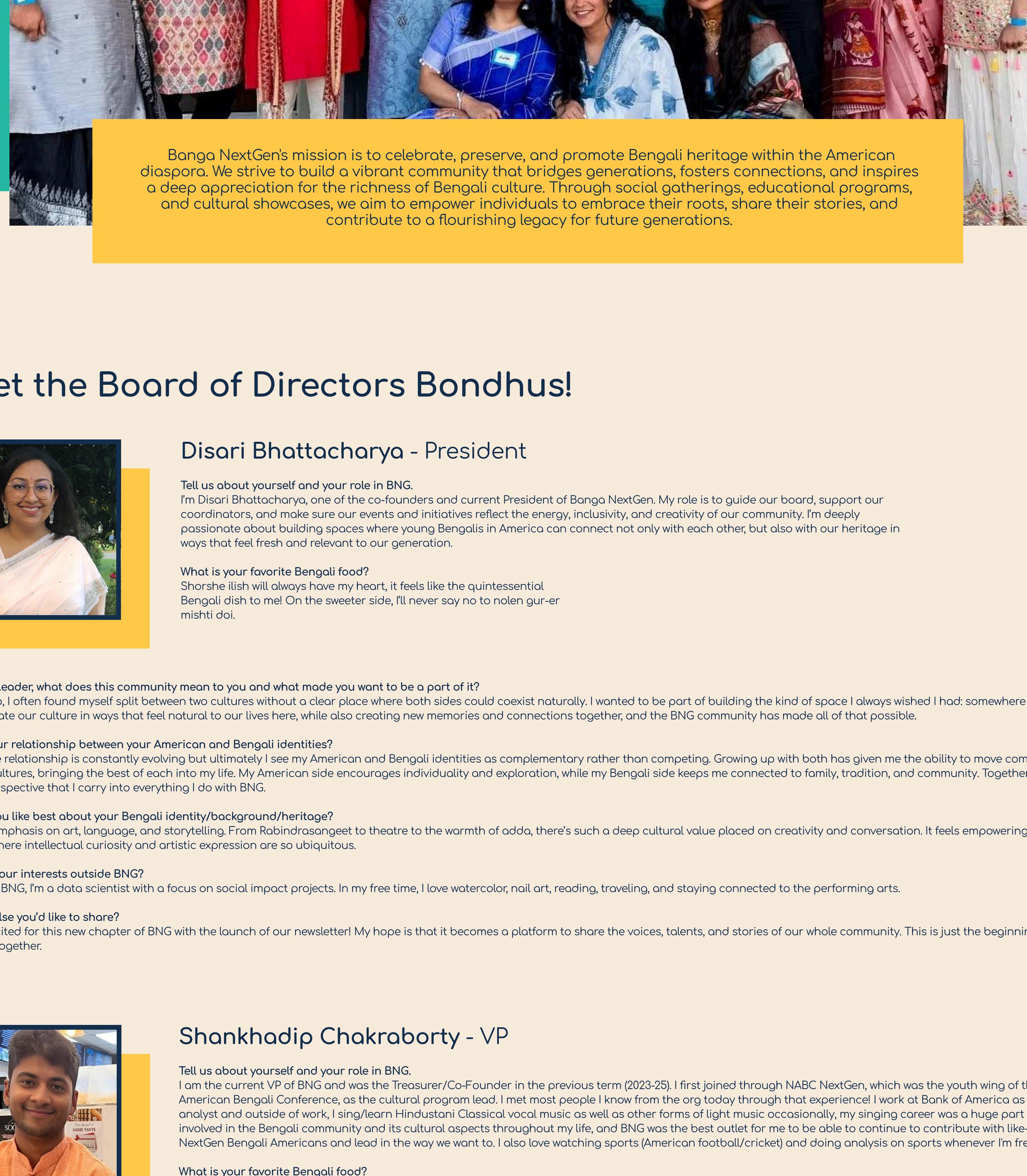




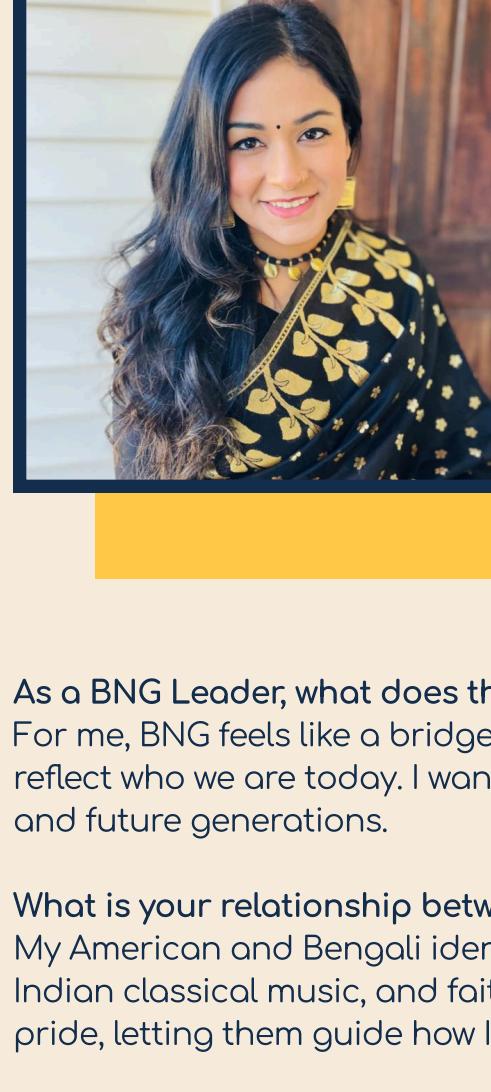
Newsletter co-leads: Tuhina Chakravorty & Arka Ghose

About BNG



Bongo NextGen's mission is to celebrate, preserve, and promote Bengali heritage within the American diaspora. We strive to build a vibrant community that bridges generations, fosters connections, and inspires a deep appreciation for the richness of Bengali culture. Through social gatherings, educational programs, and cultural showcases, we aim to encourage individuals to embrace their roots, share their stories, and contribute to a flourishing legacy for future generations.

Meet the Board of Directors Bondhus!



Disari Bhattacharya - President

Tell us about yourself and your role in BNG.
I'm Disari Bhattacharya, one of the founders and current President of BNG. My role is to guide our board, support our coordinators, and make sure our events and initiatives reflect the energy, inclusivity, and creativity of our community. I'm deeply passionate about building spaces where young Bengalis in America can connect not only with each other, but also with our heritage in ways that feel fresh and relevant to our generation.

What is your favorite Bengali food?
Shorshe lish will always have my heart, it feels like the quintessential Bengali dish to me! On the sweater side, I'll never say no to nolen gur-er mishti doi.

As a BNG Leader, what does this community mean to you and what made you want to be a part of it?
Growing up, I often found myself split between two cultures without a clear place where both sides could coexist naturally. I wanted to be part of building the kind of space I always wished I had: somewhere young Bengalis can celebrate our culture in ways that feel natural to our lives here, while also creating new memories and connections together, and the BNG community has made all of that possible.

What is your relationship between your American and Bengali identities?
For me, the relationship is constantly evolving but ultimately it sees my American and Bengali identities as complementary rather than competing. Growing up with both has given me the ability to move comfortably between cultures, bringing the best of each into my life. My American side encourages individuality and exploration, while my Bengali side keeps me connected to family, tradition, and community. Together, they give me a unique perspective that I carry through everything I do.

What do you like best about your Bengali identity/background/heritage?
I love the emphasis on art, language, and storytelling. From Rabindranath's theatre to the warmth of odda, there's such a deep cultural value placed on creativity and conversation. It feels empowering to belong to a heritage where intellectual curiosity and artistic expression are so ubiquitous.

What are your interests outside BNG?
Outside of BNG, I'm a data scientist with a focus on social impact projects. In my free time, I love watercolor, nail art, reading, traveling, and staying connected to the performing arts.

Anything else you'd like to share?
I'm very excited for this new chapter of BNG with the launch of our newsletter! My hope is that it becomes a platform to share the voices, talents, and stories of our whole community. This is just the beginning of what we can build together.



Shankhadip Chakraborty - VP

Tell us about yourself and your role in BNG.
I am the current VP of BNG and was the Treasurer/Co-Founder in the previous term (2023-25). I first joined through NABC NextGen, which was the youth wing of the 2023 North America Bengali Conference. I have been involved in various capacities since then, including organizing events, managing the budget, and working on data analysis and outside of work, I sing from Hindustani Classical vocal music as well as other forms of light music occasionally, my singing career was a huge part of me getting involved in the Bengali community and its cultural aspects throughout my life, and BNG was the best outfit for me to be a part of. My singing career was a huge part of me getting involved in the Bengali community and its cultural aspects throughout my life, and BNG was the best outfit for me to be a part of. I also love watching sports (American football/cricket) and doing analysis on sports whenever I'm free.

What is your favorite Bengali food?
Mutton Biryani

As a BNG Leader, what does this community mean to you and what made you want to be a part of it?
Being a NextGen Bengali, we've had to take our parents' footsteps in cultural decision-making for many years. When me and a small group of individuals decided we wanted to do something on our own and get involved in our culture while being a hub for young Bengali Americans on our own terms back in 2023, it was after years of seeing the amazing culture I grew up in and the desire to give back to that culture through a leadership capacity, while also meeting new people who share my Bengali background/heritage from this area. Getting to reconnect with people through BNG that I hadn't seen in years was very special, and meeting new people who have become my close friends since 2023 is something I will be forever grateful for in this endeavor. After a few zoom calls and fun conversations in 2023, we founded BNG, filled out the necessary documents, recruited our first leadership team, and the rest is history!

What is your relationship between your American and Bengali identities?
I was born in Bengal, I grew up in America, and I have been involved in American culture besides TV shows and movies since I learned Bengali before English, a conscious decision made by my dad who taught me Bengali. I have the best of both worlds, I grew up in America but I have Bengali roots. I have been involved in American culture since I was a child. I watched Bengali movies, listened to Bengali music (from tulabes and film music to popular contemporary music), and visited Kolkata almost yearly for over a decade. I went to lots of Pujas and volunteered at my local temple that was predominantly Bengali, so naturally, most of my friends were Bengali growing up. Post high school, I became more in tune with my American identity and made more friends outside my Bengali circles, but at that point I was more immersed in my Bengali identity, and that carried through all the way to today. I now find myself more deeply reconnecting with it as a leader in BNG over the past few years. Even though sometimes they may seem like two different worlds, they are blended together in my day-to-day life growing up in the US while deeply surrounded by my growing community of Bengali-American friends!

What do you like best about your Bengali identity/background/heritage?
Bengal culture/heritage is incredibly rich and filled with many historical figures particularly in the Indian Independence Movement (Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Khudiram Bose), in forms of music (Rabindra Nath Tagore, Kishore Kumar, Manna Dey, science Satyendra Nath Bose, Jagadish Chandra Bose), and others. These are trailblazing figures not just for Bengal or India, but leaders in a global context and respected worldwide, making it even more special that I get to share my heritage with these great figures and attempt to be a steward of the culture that's known worldwide in my own way.



Tanaya Badosa - Secretary

Tell us about yourself and your role in BNG.
I grew up right here in Edison, NJ, and currently work as an Occupational Therapist at JFK Hospital. This year, I'm serving as Secretary for BNG Next Gen, helping keep things organized behind the scenes while supporting the amazing work our team is doing. Last year, I was part of the Social Events Core, so I'm excited to take on a bigger role in shaping how our community grows and connects.

What is your favorite Bengali food?
Rui Maacher Jhol

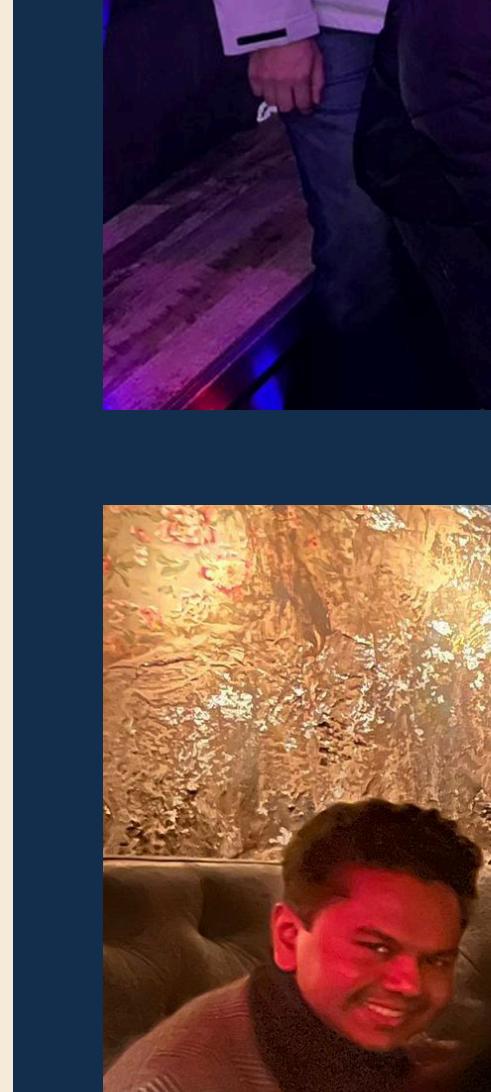
As a BNG Leader, what does this community mean to you and what made you want to be a part of it?
For me, BNG feels like a bridge—it connects our shared Bengali heritage with the experiences of growing up here in the US. It's a space where we can celebrate traditions, but also build friendships and opportunities that reflect who we are today. I wanted to be part of BNG because I believe our generation deserves a platform that's both fun and meaningful, where we can honor our roots while also creating something new for ourselves and future generations.

What is your relationship between your American and Bengali identities?
My American and Bengali identities have always been intertwined. Growing up in Edison, my family's deep involvement in the Bengali community shaped how I see the world—I performed in cultural programs, trained in Indian classical music, and faithfully wrote my nightly Bengali diary (even if it didn't always love it). At the same time, living in the US gave me experiences that are uniquely my own. I've learned to carry both identities with pride, letting them guide how I connect with others, contribute to my community, and shape who I am today.

What do you like best about your Bengali identity/background/heritage?
What I love most about my Bengali heritage is the perspective it gives me—o lens to understand the world, my family, and my place in the community. I don't have extended family here in the US, so staying connected to my family. My heritage connects me to both my roots and the community I choose, shaping how I navigate life and relationships today.

What are your interests outside BNG?
Outside of BNG, I'm into anything that lets me pretend I'm slightly more talented than I actually am—playing piano, experimenting in the kitchen, or trying to pull off a fashion moment without tripping over my own feet. Basically, if it involves creativity, curiosity, or me eating. Mostly me eating. A lot.

Anything else you'd like to share?
TEAM MAACH WOOOOO



Riju Sanyal - Treasurer

Tell us about yourself and your role in BNG.
I am the newly appointed treasurer in charge of managing the budget and costs for our events. I am also coordinator of the book club. I am an internal medicine hospitalist by profession.

What is your favorite Bengali food?
Dali bhoothia

As a BNG Leader, what does this community mean to you and what made you want to be a part of it?
It is very important to me to maintain my Bengali heritage and keep our culture alive for the next generation. My parents are very involved in the pujo cultural organizations in central NJ and NABC so I naturally learned to embrace my Bengali heritage by supporting their initiatives.

What is your relationship between your American and Bengali identities?
It is very important to embrace both sides of my Bengali American identity and learn about the history of Bengalis in America.

What do you like best about your Bengali identity/background/heritage?
I enjoy the extended Bengali family experience of the "aunties" and "uncles" who we grew up with and helped foster our Bengali community.

What are your interests outside BNG?
Hobbies include sports, trying new restaurants, reading, and practicing Sponish and Bengali.

Anything else you'd like to share?
Amra shobai roja.

BNG Events

Ki Holo - Past Events

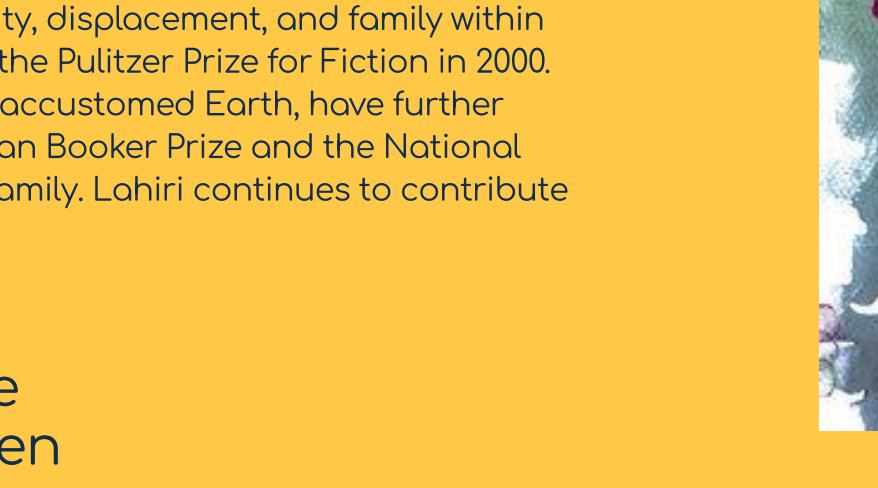
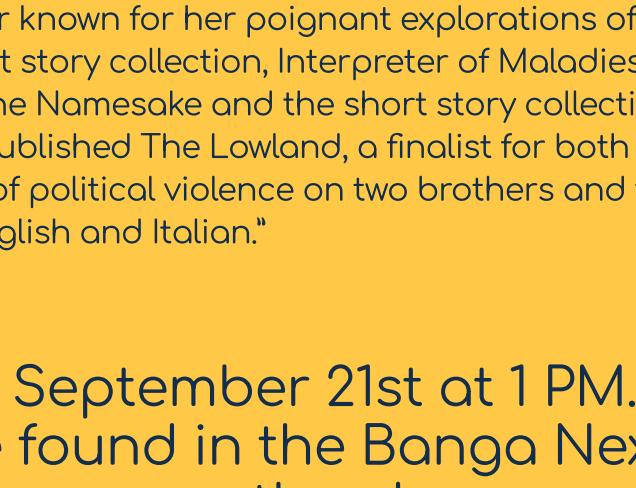
May 17th 2025: Bongo Utsav
May 31st 2025: Art & Adda at the Asia Society and Museum
June 5th 2025: Brooklyn Bondhus dinner at Bricolage
June 13th 2025: unbound: the South Asian Theatre Festival
June 15th 2025: Quarterly Book Club featuring Sunshine and Spice by Aurora Palit
July 26th 2025: Bongo Next Gen Members Beach Day
August 13th 2025: NYC Restaurant Week Dinner at Le Jardinier
September 6th 2025: New Brunswick Tea Crawl

Ki Hobe - Future Events

September 21st 2025 at 1PM: Quarterly Book Club featuring The Lowland by Jhumpa Lahiri
November 14th 2025: Adda & Aux in Brooklyn, buy tickets [here!](#)

Catch us at these Durga Pujas:

- ECCA Durga Puja 9/27
- GSCA Durga Puja 10/4 and 10/5
- Maitree Durga Puja 10/12



Current book: The Lowland by Jhumpa Lahiri

From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Namesake*, comes an extraordinary novel that explores the beauty and the heartbreak of a family torn apart by a single moment.

Mostly suspenseful, sweeping, and grippingly intimate, *The Lowland* is a work of great beauty and complex emotion: an engrossing, perceptive, and belief that people of colour deserve love and stories too. During its time, *The Lowland* was a masterful immigrant experience; topics

she now explores in her writing. [Author's website](#)

About the Book

About Jhumpa Lahiri:

The Indian-American acclaimed, *The Lowland* is a powerful novel that explores the beauty and the heartbreak of a family torn apart by a single moment.

Lahiri's subsequent works, including the novel *The Namesake* and the short story collection *Unaccustomed Earth*, have won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award.

Mostly suspenseful, sweeping, and grippingly intimate, *The Lowland* is a work of great beauty and complex emotion: an engrossing, perceptive, and belief that people of colour deserve love and stories too. During its time, *The Lowland* was a masterful immigrant experience; topics

she now explores in her writing. [Author's website](#)

About the Book

About Aurora Palit:

When she's not writing, Aurora Palit is a music teacher and a violinist who has performed in India and the US. She is the author of the New York Times bestselling novel *Unaccustomed Earth*.

Mostly suspenseful, sweeping, and grippingly intimate, *The Lowland* is a work of great beauty and complex emotion: an engrossing, perceptive, and belief that people of colour deserve love and stories too. During its time, *The Lowland* was a masterful immigrant experience; topics

she now explores in her writing. [Author's website](#)

About the Book

Thoughts of Participants:

A delightfully light book shows us, read, effectively blinding all boundaries, hearted romance with deep—dunes to the Bengali diaspora

What do you like best about your Bengali identity/background/heritage?

I enjoy the extended Bengali family experience of the "aunties" and "uncles" who we grew up with and helped foster our Bengali community.

Anything else you'd like to share?

TEAM MAACH WOOOOO

Bongo NextGen Newsletter

September 12, 2025

Thank you for reading our very first edition of Ki Khobor! — our Bongo NextGen Newsletter. Stay tuned for the next edition! If you are interested in joining BNG, [click here](#).