



BOARD MEMBER LETTER

Hello Khushies, I'm excited to venture into 2022 with you! Sonali here and I want to extend a warm welcome to our new members and a warm hello to our existing members. We are so excited you are with us! As a recap of the end of 2021 we have done some amazing events such as enjoy fall at Cox Farms, come together for Queersgiving and discuss the year in review and year ahead in the Townhall. We are looking forward to what 2022 will bring, but with Omicron we want to keep our community safe, so for now events will be held virtually. While some of us may not have met in person yet, I am so happy that you found KhushDC and I hope it is everything you need it to be and more. I have found so much community and self love here and hope it does the same for you. We are always growing as a community and cannot do this without your input so always feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns you have regarding KhushDC either by messaging us on our social media Facebook, Twitter or Instagram or website or on Khushbox, our anonymous comment form. While my time on the board is ending soon, I will be excited to attend once again as a member of the community and look forward to seeing everyone in person again soon!

-Sonali



WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO!



**October
Cox Farms Event**



**November
Queersgiving**



**December
Town Hall Meeting**



COLORFUL FEST



In October, we had the opportunity to table at the QTAAPI Cultural Festival, which was an event under Capital Pride Alliance's Colorful Fest! Thank you to all of our board and community members who worked during the event and behind the scenes to make it enjoyable for everybody. We can't wait to attend again this year!



TOWN HALL MEETING UPDATES

Every year, KhushDC holds a town hall meeting in which we discuss our finances, organizational bylaws and inclusivity statement. We feel it is important to be transparent with our community and to gather feedback and suggestions so that we may serve you better.

Some changes were made to the organizational bylaws and inclusivity statement, both of which can be found on our website.

[Inclusivity Statement](#) [Organizational Bylaws](#)

BOARD MEMBER APPLICATION

If you identify as a South Asian Queer person, are living in the DMV area, looking for a volunteering leadership opportunity to serve the community, and would like to create and share experiences with a dynamic team of individuals, we are looking for you! Our board member application is open.

To create an equitable space in the board, we highly encourage trans and nonbinary people to apply.

If you would like to apply, please use this [link](#). The application closes on February 15th.



**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
AMBER (SHE/HER)**

About: Hi KhushDC! I'm a new-ish group member and joined after moving to Maryland earlier in the pandemic. It's been great getting to connect with many of you through the virtual events! Right now, I'm a PhD student in Counseling Psychology researching wellbeing in our communities and working toward becoming a therapist. Currently, a friend in my program and I are running a survey about race, mental health, and relational wellbeing for queer men of color. I'm passionate about having open conversations about mental health and radical healing within my own family and communities.

In my spare time, I enjoy creative arts (mostly painting/drawing, theatre, music, and creative writing), hiking, visiting new coffee shops or restaurants, and taking long walks around my neighborhood or DC! Looking forward to meeting more of you in the coming year!

Is there a book, film or other media you'd recommend to other queer South Asian folks?

I'm presently reading your wound/my garden by ALOK and also just started reading Ace by Angela Chen! So far, I'd recommend them both!

QUEER DESI BOOK CLUB

Led by two of our wonderful members Sammy and Kovid, KhushDC has hosted 8 book club meetings virtually. Here is a list of all of the books we have discussed so far:

Marriage of a Thousand Lies - SJ Sindu

The Best at It - Maulik Pancholy

Funny Boy - Shyam Selvadurai

The City of Devi - Manil Suri

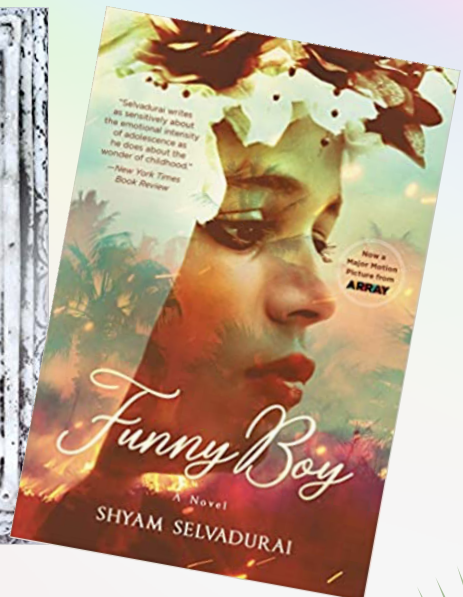
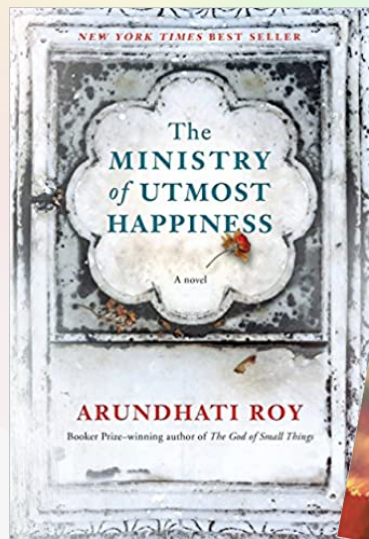
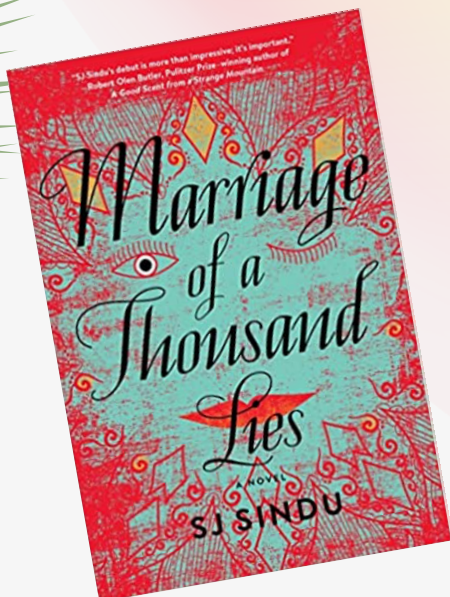
She of the Mountains - Vivek Shraya

The Ministry of Utmost Happiness - Arundhati Roy

The Henna Wars - Adiba Jaigirdar

Stealing Thunder - Alina Boyden

[Click here to sign up for the next one!](#) February's book club is special. The author of "Gay Crow" will be joining us for a special Q&A session.

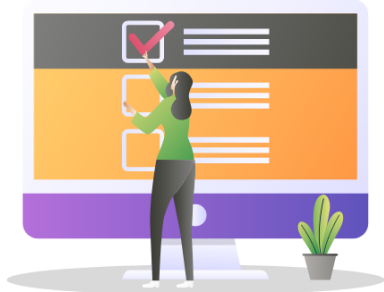


SURVEYS

We have had in increase in requests to send out surveys to study various aspects of the South Asian queer community. This work is very important, please participate if you feel inclined!

An Examination of the Lives of South Asian LGBTQIA+ Adults in the U.S.:

Well-being, Connections, Marital Pressure, and More



TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
The rising STAR of Texas
Debarun Majumdar (Ph.D.)
Professor of Sociology

We are looking to recruit gay, bisexual, and/or queer men of color who are at least 18 years old to participate in a research study on race and mental health. Participants must also currently live in the United States. The purpose of this research is to investigate how various factors related to race influence queer men of color's mental health and relational wellbeing.

Please contact Principal Investigator Thomas Le (at tple@terpmail.umd.edu) to participate in the survey. He will respond with the survey link within 24 hours.

Anyone queer person from South Asia over the age of 18 can participate, regardless of immigration and citizenship status. Please feel free to share with other queer desi folks in the United States as well!

[LINK](#)

Paid Study: Race & Mental Health

IRB #: 18O2523-2



Seeking participants who identify as gay, bisexual, or queer men of color

Must be over 18 & live in the U.S.

The aim of this research is to better understand the contextual factors that influence gay, bisexual, and queer men of color's behaviors and attitudes related to mental health, physical health, and relationships.

Earn a total of \$35 across two 20-30-minute surveys

To Participate:

Email Thomas Le at tple@terpmail.umd.edu
Survey link will be sent within 24 hours

SURVEYS



INTERSECTION OF LGBTQPHOBIA AND ANTI-BLACKNESS

Are you in/have ever been in a South Asian-Black LGBTQ relationship and have a story to share about the LGBTQphobia and anti-blackness in the South Asian community? I want to highlight your stories! Writing a piece about the intersection of LGBTQphobia and anti-blackness in the South Asian community.

Tanya Kaushal (she/her)
Journalist from Columbia University, NY writing about race and social issues.

CONTACT ME:
TK2926@COLUMBIA.EDU
SOCIALS: @TANYAKAUSHALOO
OR FILL OUT THE CONTACT FORM



I am collecting first-hand stories of LGBTQ South Asian-Black couples from around the world. I was wondering if there are any couples part of your group who would like to share their story for this project.

[LINK](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Virtual Movie Night** will be held on **February 17th @ 7:30pm**
- **Peer Support** will be held virtually on **February 19th from 1:30-2:30pm.**
- Our next **Queer Desi Book Club Meeting** will be on **February 24th @ 7:00pm**

FROM OUR PARTNERS

- Join **QSAW & Sher Vancouver** for their monthly **Chai & Chill** on **March 4th, 9:00pm** online. Register through their website: qsawnetwork.com/events
- **Desi Rainbow Parents & Allies** is training their second cohort of Saathi Peer-to-Peer Supporters on **March 19th**. If you are interested, apply at tinyurl.com/SaathiTraining, They are also training their third cohort of **Desi Rainbow Support Group Facilitators** on March 20th. Apply at tinyurl.com/DRPASupportTraining

YOUTH OUTREACH EFFORTS

KhushDC is trying to expand its member base to include college students. If you have any contacts for Queer and or South Asian groups at local colleges, please send the information our way!

ARE YOU A QUEER/TRANS
SOUTH ASIAN PERSON
LOOKING FOR COMMUNITY?

Join KhushDC

