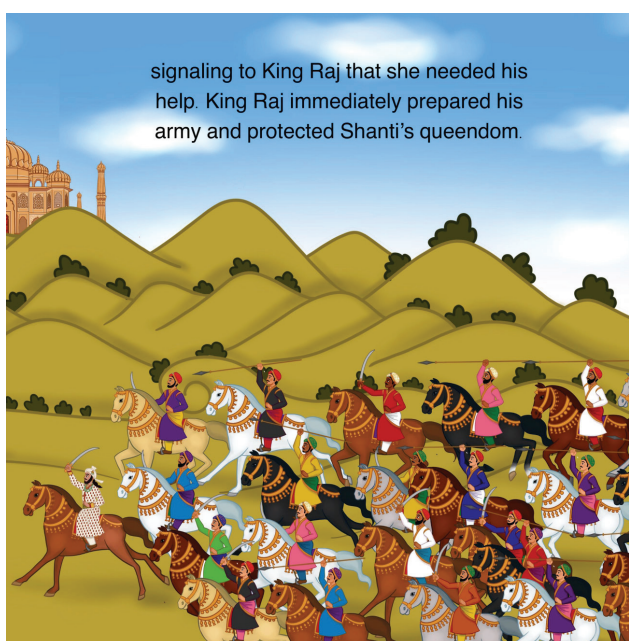


SACHI and Palo Alto Art Center Invite You to a  
Spellbinding Family Event coinciding with Rakhi Festival

*A Book Launch Celebration*  
*And Exploring South Asian American Identity*  
With *Amita Roy Shah* (Author); *Faariha Mastur* (Illustrator)



Shanti riding her horse, 'Toofan'



King Raj Army moving across the Rajasthan landscape

## *Shanti and the Knot of Protection: A Rakhi Story*

### IN-PERSON LIVE EVENT

*August 20, 2023*  
*11:00 AM*

Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium  
1313 Newell Road  
Palo Alto, CA

**The Event is Free and  
Open to the Public**

Please RSVP [info@sachi.org](mailto:info@sachi.org);  
650-315-2095

Families will discover the history and traditions of 'Rakhi' with *Shanti and the Knot of Protection: A Rakhi Story*—a captivating new children's book. Children will also engage in a hands-on activity to make their own 'rakhis'.

Further, the author reflects on her inspired writing of South Asian stories. She will discuss the role children's books and illustrations play in helping new generations connect proudly with their inherited traditions in environments of inclusivity, representation, and belonging in schools and communities.

### *About the Author*

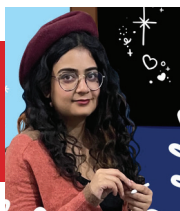


Dr. Amita Roy Shah enjoys teaching children about South Asian American Cultures, emotional intelligence (EQ) and cultural

intelligence (CQ). She has spent her career in multicultural education, social and emotional learning, and curriculum development. She is a Professor at San Jose State University, and the founder of Social Edge, a company dedicated to meeting the social, emotional, and cultural needs of all children.

Amita is the author of *It's Time for Holi! Lights, Camera, Diwali! Brain-Based EQ for Kids!* and *Brain-Based Life Hacks*. Her children's books have won awards for creating memorable content that enhances the gift of learning. They have been featured at Museums across the US, and recommended by various media publications and journals for highlighting issues of cultural authenticity.

### *About the Illustrator*



Faariha Mastur is a children's book illustrator based in Delhi, India. She hails from a small town in the north of India

called Srinagar. She has a love for art and storytelling. Farriha is a design teacher at a school in Delhi, while also volunteering for teaching programs and origami workshops. Previously, she worked as a website designer, advertising designer, NFT artist, and more before settling for her true passion as children's book illustrator and art teacher.

*Shanti and the Knot of Protection: A Rakhi Story* is her first children's book as an illustrator.

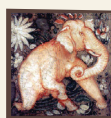
### *About the Book*

*Shanti and the Knot of Protection: A Rakhi Story* is a beautiful children's picture book that helps all children understand why and how Rakhi is celebrated across South Asia. Discover historical tales about the origins of Rakhi from a queen centuries ago, who needed protection from a neighboring king, to modern times where it is celebrated by siblings that are brothers and sisters, siblings that are both girls or both boys, children without siblings, and even cousins and friends!

Colorful illustrations are set in Rajasthan in the 1500s, with enchanting palaces and characters bringing alive the timeless tradition of *Raksha bandhan* (the bond of protection) that has stood strong for centuries. Modern illustrations depict how Rakhi is celebrated today with vibrant colors and a joyful coming together! The Rakhi story celebrates life-long relationships, making us feel secure and protected.



Map of India highlighting Rajputana setting for 'The Rakhi Story'



**SACHI**  
Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India  
[www.sachi.org](http://www.sachi.org)



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