



## ENTERTAINMENT

## FESTIVALS

# Diwali 2021: Bay Area parties and celebrations in honor of the festival of lights

Anne Schrager | November 1, 2021 Updated: November 1, 2021, 6:33 pm



Shoshana Wolff (left), Sachin Chopra, chef and owner of All Spice, with their nephew Ahab Chopra, light diyas at home in Woodside in 2011.

Photo: Liz Hafalia / The Chronicle

Held annually on the first day of the Hindu lunisolar calendar, the Diwali (also known as Deepavali) holiday celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, and toasts to prosperity and health in the year ahead. Taking place over five days, the festival of lights, featuring sweet treats and feasts, typically happens on the third evening with the new moon, this year on Thursday, Nov. 4.

Many observe Diwali by lighting *diyas*, little oil lamps, in honor of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and good fortune; hanging colorful doorway garlands (*toran*); and creating intricate artistic designs on terraces and outside entryways with chalk, sand and other ephemeral pigments called rangoli. The holiday is also often celebrated with firecrackers and fireworks displays, though this element has been reduced in recent years in an attempt to make it a “greener” event.

Check out The Chronicle’s guide to celebrations of Diwali in the Bay Area this year:

## Alameda County Diwali 2021 Celebration

Join Alameda County District One Supervisor David Haubert’s Diwali Festival. The celebration is set to include snacks and tea. Consider bringing canned food for a local food drive.

*6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 3. Free, registration required. Heritage House, Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton. [alamedacountyfair.com](https://alamedacountyfair.com)*





Rangoli, a colorful form of Indian folk art celebrating art, beauty and culture, are seen drawn on the sidewalks of Bishop Ranch City Center to celebrate the Hindu holiday Diwali in San Ramon last year.

Photo: Jessica Christian / The Chronicle

## India Community Center Presents: Diwali Dhamaka 2021

A Diwali celebration with live music from Krishnan and Dabandd Orchestra, dance performance featuring the California Nupur Dance Academy, Indian food, treats and more.

5-9:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 5. \$35, registration **required**. India Community Center, 525 Los Coches St., Milpitas. 408-934-1130. **indiacc.org**

## SFSU Indian Student Association Diwali Party

A Bollywood dance party offers a bit of “lit” fun at San Francisco State University during their Diwali celebration event.



5-10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 5. \$2-\$5, registration and vaccination proof required. Jack Adams Hall, Cesar Chavez Student Center, SFSU, 1650 Holloway Ave., S.F. sfsu.edu

## Bridges International S.F. Diwali Party

Join the interfaith student organization for their second annual Diwali party. Light diyas, paint rangoli and eat Indian food and treats.

6:30 -9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 5. Free. 250 Stevenson St. S.F. 415-558-2903.

bridgessanfrancisco.net



A person walks past a display of rangoli on the sidewalks of Bishop Ranch City Center to celebrate the Hindu holiday Diwali in San Ramon last year.

Photo: Jessica Christian / The Chronicle

## Make it Funky Presents: A Diwali Celebration



The **DJ collective** hosts a party celebrating the festival of lights with live sets from DJs Baalti, Varsha and Onemohit.

10 p.m. Nov. 5- 2 a.m. Nov. 6. **\$10**. F8, 1192 Folsom St., S.F. 415-857-1192. **feightsf.com**

## Children's Discovery Museum's Diwali: Festival of Lights Celebration

The children's museum honors the celebrated Indian holiday with cultural crafts, including diya lamp making, Bollywood dance with Sun Bollywood and a brilliantly colored rangoli installation by artist Purvi Shah.

9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6. Included with museum admission. Children's Discovery Museum, 180 Woz Way, San Jose. **cdm.org**



A group celebrates at a past Diwali Festival of Lights in Cupertino.

Photo: Cupertino Chamber of Commerce Pi

## Illumination: Literary Works Imagining New Light

A literary Diwali-themed gathering exploring personal meaning of light and new beginnings. Enjoy inspirational readings by local artists Preeti Vangani, Nidhi Jaisoor, Anita Felicelli and Karthik Sethuraman in a program presented in partnership with [ARTogether](#).

*2-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov 6. Free, registration and vaccination proof or negative PCR test [required](#). Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 Ninth St., Oakland. 510-637-0455. [oacc.cc](#)*

## Diwali Celebration at City Center Bishop Ranch

Observe Diwali with a rangoli art experience, Indian music, Bollywood dance, henna artists and more.

*4-7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6. Free. City Center Bishop Ranch, 6000 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon. 925-815-1902. [citycenterbishopranch.com](#)*







Kathak dancer Purnima Jha and her students perform in a past celebration of Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, at Oakland Public Library's Golden Gate Branch.

Photo: hanout / handout

## Satrangi Diwali: A Diwali Fundraiser for Parivar Bay Area

This Diwali, ParivarBayArea invites you to join it in bringing the light of love, goodness of life and knowledge of trans identities. Help bring the light, love and acceptance that our Trans Hijra Intersex Nonbinary South Asians yearn for. With an illustrative dance drama “Simha Vahini” and much more.

6-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6. \$15, registration required. CounterPulse, 80 Turk St., S.F.

[counterpulse.org](https://counterpulse.org)

## Stanford Diwali 2021

The university plans to celebrate the holiday this year with cultural performances at Memorial Church; food and drinks; traditional and contemporary music and dance performances at White Plaza; and a Bollywood DJ party at the Old Union Ballroom.

*6:30-midnight Saturday, Nov. 6. Free, registration required. Vaccination proof or negative PCR test and masking indoors required. 650-723-2300. [web.stanford.edu](http://web.stanford.edu)*

## North Bay Indo-American Association Diwali Mela 2021

Celebrate the festival of lights with Bollywood music from Raju Chithambaram and Andaaz Productions, Indian food, dance, henna, art, clothing, jewelry, community dance and vendors.

*11 a.m.-3 p.m. Nov. 13. Free, registration required. Courthouse Square, Santa Rosa.*

## Bhartiya Mandal Foundation Diwali Celebration

Admission includes food, entertainment and nonalcoholic beverages. Alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase.

*5-11 p.m. Nov. 13. \$35-\$40, registration and vaccination proof for those eligible required. Craneway Pavilion, 1414 Harbor Way South, Richmond. 415-741-5643. [bmfbayarea.org](http://bmfbayarea.org)*





Amber India executive chefs Subash Panneerselvam (left) and Hitesh Gautam delicately choose laddoos while preparing boxes of mithai, or little delicate desserts they've made specifically for the Hindu holiday Diwali while at Amber India in San Francisco last year.

Photo: Jessica Christian / The Chronicle

## Avi Gayi Raat Diwali: Bollywood Dandiya

A supersize India dance party with food trucks, Diwali sweets and snack booths, clothes and jewelry vendors, rangoli and diya decoration contests and more.

6:30-10:30 p.m. Nov. 13. \$10-\$40, registration [encouraged](#). Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. 512-788-5300. [events.sulekha.com](https://events.sulekha.com)

## Jalebi Baby Dhinchak Diwali Bollywood Party

Instant Karma presents a Diwali celebration, Bollywood style, with three levels of action featuring Bay Area DJs AM and RealDeal; Jalebi (fried dough treats); live dholi drums performance; photo booth, sparklers and more.

9:30 p.m.-2 a.m. Nov. 13-14. \$5-\$20, reservations required. Origin SF, 1538 Fillmore St., S.F.  
[originsf.com](https://originsf.com)



Anne Schrager

Anne Schrager is the calendar producer for The San Francisco Chronicle. Email: [listings@sfchronicle.com](mailto:listings@sfchronicle.com)

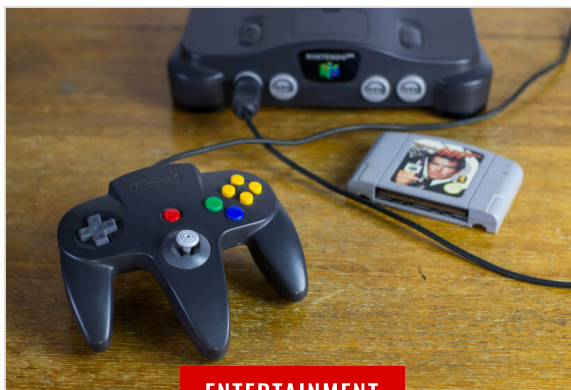
## More In Entertainment, Festivals



ENTERTAINMENT

### Climate change's toll heightens

BY VANESSA HUA

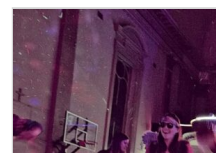
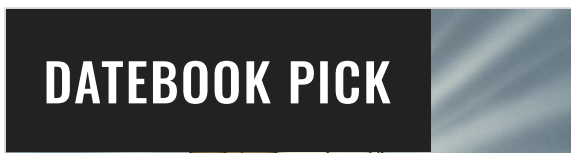
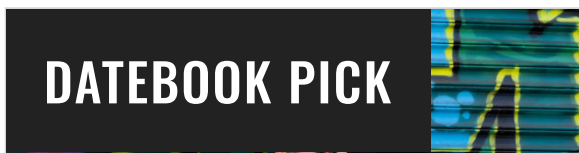


ENTERTAINMENT

### A look back at the best (and worst)

BY JEF ROUNER

## Related Events







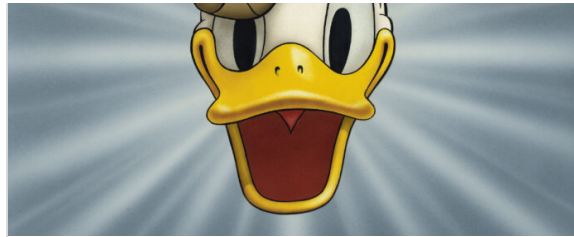
**NOV** WEDNESDAY,  
**03** 7:00PM

## ¿Dónde Esta Mi

Entertainment

📍 KQED Headquarters

\$10



**NOV** THROUGH JAN  
**02**<sup>10</sup>

## The Walt Disney

Art & Exhibits

📍 Walt Disney Family Mu...

\$5 - \$15



**NOV** THU  
**13**<sup>14</sup>

## Pi Re

Art

📍 Pier 70

You must be signed in to comment

[Sign in](#)

## Conversation

Be the first to comment...



Powered by  OpenWeb

[OpenWeb's Terms](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Feedback](#)



San Francisco Chronicle

FOLLOW US



WEBSITES

SFChronicle  
SFGATE  
Datebook  
GreenState

SERVICES

Offers  
Store  
e-edition  
Apps  
Archives  
Subscriber Services

ABOUT

Company  
Careers  
Advertising  
Customer Service  
Contact Newsroom  
FAQs  
Privacy Notice / Notice  
At Collection  
Your California Privacy  
Rights  
Interest-Based Ads  
Terms of Use

CCPA

Do Not Sell My  
Personal  
Information