

GREATER BALTIMORE TEMPLE NEWSLETTER



2909 Bloom Road, P.O. Box 690, Finksburg, MD 21048
Tel: (410) 861-8387, Web: baltimoreemple.org, E-mail: info@baltimoretemple.org



Volume 36, No. 1

January to April 2025

New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1st 2025



Temple will be open from 9am to 8:30pm
on the New Year's Day.
Archana will be performed all day,
(except during bhajan program).
3.30pm Ganesh Abhishekam

**4:30pm - Bhajan program by Vid. Uma Kumar
(in multiple languages)**

Followed by Aarti

Grand Sponsor: \$501

Abhishekam - \$51, Archana - \$21

**Cafeteria will be open from 11am to 2pm
and 5pm to 7pm.**

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love.
May God's *blessings* shower upon you and bestow upon
each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful *new year*.

Vaikuntha Ekadashi

Thursday, January 9th 2025



9am to 12:30pm - Shri Venkateshwara (Balaji)
Abhishekam, Utharadwara Pooja & Archana
5:30pm to 7:00pm Vishnusahasranama, Archana & Aarti

Friday, January 10th 2025

6.00 pm Nitya Pooja Aarti

Saturday, January 11th 2025

9.00 am Venkateshwara Abhishekam
10.30 am – Geeta Path (Parayana), Archana & Aarti
Followed by Utharadwara (Vaikunthadwara)
Closing Ceremony & Mahaprasad

Sponsorship

Grand Sponsor: \$1001; Mahaprasad Sponsors \$251/each;
Puja Sponsor \$101; Abhishekam \$51
Group Archana \$21

Pongal/ Makar Sankranti

Saturday, January 11th 2025

Cultural Program

3.00PM to 5.30PM



Singing, Dancing and Instrumental Performances related to
Pongal celebration.

Temple cafeteria will be open for food and beverages.

(Fee: \$10 per performer & \$101 for Sponsor)

**If interested in participating, please sign up online at
the temple website or scan the following QR code.**



Contact: Bhavesh Patel 410-409-3686, Sanjeev Gholap
240-381-6122, Ashwini Nagarkar 443-812-1548 and
Donika Patel 410-926-5855,

PRIEST SERVICES

Priest services are available for Pujas and ceremonies at
the temple and outside locations. Please visit the temple
website at www.baltimoretemple.org and click under Ser-
vices and fill in the form to request a service. Also, call tem-
ple at 410-861-8387 or Pandit Joshiji at 443-791-1727,
Pandit Muraliji at 443-762-6128, Pandit Prashanthji 410-
907-1209 to discuss.



Maha Kumbhabhishekam

Ram Mandir
Ayodhya Inauguration
First Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, January 26th 2025



3:30 pm - Ramcharitmanas Sundarkand Path.
(This is an extremely popular and powerful prayer glorifying Hanuman Ji – one of Lord Rama's most trusted, selfless, loyal, and loving devotees) Shri Rama Puja/ Bhajan & Kirtan
Followed by Aarti & Mahaprasad

Sponsorship

Grand Sponsor: \$1,001; Maha Prasad Sponsor: \$251/ each; Sponsor: \$101; Archana \$21, Donor: Any Amount

Vasant Panchami
Sunday, February 2nd 2025



4:00 pm - Shri Sarasvati Puja
Followed by Bhajan, Aarti & Mahaprasad

Group puja with children. Sri Saraswati photo with puja thali will be provided.

Sponsorship

Grand Sponsor: \$501; Maha Prasad Sponsor: \$251; Puja Sponsor: \$51/ family; Donor: Any Amount

GBT Membership Renewal

We are committed to Celebrating Religious Festivals, Cultural programs and providing a community place for socializing. As a loyal devotee, your annual support for our temple is critical. Please renew your membership by sending \$121 by mail or online by scanning the following QR code from your cell phone photo app.



Maha Shivaratri
Tuesday, February 25th 2025
Temple will be open all night.



Ekadasha Rudrabhishekam Pooja & Jagran followed by four Kaala Puja throughout the night.

6:00 pm – First Kaala Puja
9:00 pm – Second Kaala Puja
12:00 am – Third Kaala Puja
3:00 am – Fourth Kaala Puja

Sponsorship:

Grand Sponsor: \$1,001
Maha Prasad Sponsor: \$251
Four Kaala Puja: \$151
One Kaala Puja: \$51
Archana: \$21

Holi Celebration /
Festival of Colors
Friday, March 14th 2025



6:30 pm – Aarti
Followed by Holika Dahan
Temple will provide Puja thali with coconut, colors and Dhani will be provided for \$11.
Colors will be available for the Holi celebration.
The temple cafeteria will be open for dinner.

Ugadi/ Gudi Padwa /
Bharateeya New Year
Saturday, March 29th 2025



5:30 pm – Ugadi/ Gudi Padwa Celebration followed by Aarti & Prasad

Sponsorship

Puja: \$51; Archana: \$21

**Ugadi/ Holi/ Vaishakhi and a New
Year Cultural Program**
Sunday, March 30th 2025



3.00pm to 5.00pm

Singing, Dancing and Instrumental Performances related to Ugadi/Holi/Folk or New year theme celebration.

Temple cafeteria will be open

(Fee: \$10 per performer and \$101 for sponsor)

If interested in participating contact: Temple 410-861-1548, Ashwini Nagarkar 443-812-1548, Meghana Swamy 443-622-1548, and Donika Patel 410-926-5855

Sri Rama Navami
Saturday, April 5th 2025



10:30 am - Shri Rama Parivar Abhishek

4:30 pm - Sundarkanda Parayana
Followed by Aarti & Mahaprasad

Grand Sponsor: \$1,001

Mahaprasad Sponsor: \$251/ each

Puja sponsor \$101

All above sponsors will have an opportunity to participate in a Puja and Aarti

Abhishek \$51

Archana \$21

Contact: Rita Ghodasara 410-807-2073, Asha Goel 443-838-0885 and Temple 410-861-8387

Community Hall Facility Rental

Community center, lobby, cafeteria, gazebo & meeting rooms are available for your events.

Visit the temple website at
www.baltimoretemple.org for additional
information or email to info@baltimoretemple.org

Hanuman Jayanti
Saturday, April 12th 2025



5:30 pm – Hanuman Puja & Chalisa Chanting
Followed by Aarti & Mahaprasad

Sponsorship

Grand sponsor: \$501, Mahaprasad sponsor: \$251/ each,
Puja sponsor: \$101, Archana \$11

We like to have 100 devotees to participate and recite Hanuman Chalisa 11 times to make a grand total of 1008 times. For information please call or text Rita Ghodasara at 410-807-2073. Scan the following QR code to register for chanting.



Sita-Rama Kalyanam
Sunday, April 13th 2025



11:00 am - Kalyanam/ Wedding Ceremony
Followed by Aarti & Mahaprasad

Grand Sponsor: \$1,001

Mahaprasad Sponsor: \$251/ each

Puja sponsor \$101

Abhishek \$51

Archana \$21

Senior Program

We are exploring to start a senior program at the temple. We need your feedback. If you would like to join the WhatsApp group, please text Sachin Hebbbar at 410-336-3615, Atul Patel at 410-978-6472 or email at info@baltimoretemple.org.



Annakut

Mahavir Janma Kalyanak **Thursday, April 10 2025**



11.00 am to 1.00 pm

24th Jain Tirthankar Mahavir Swami was born on Chaitra Sudi Teras. Jain sangh will celebrate Mahavir Janm Kalyanak followed by Arati, Managl Divo and Swamivatsalya Bhojan.

For further information & sponsorship please contact, Bhupendra Mehta (410-241-0673), Sadhana Shavdia (410-952-7526) or Kanan Shah (443-676-6611).

Interfaith Dialogue **Sunday, April 27th 2025**

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

The Annual GBT Interfaith Dialogue will be held to bring various religious organizations together to foster understanding and cooperation for peace and harmony in our communities.

Navagraha Pranaprathista **Mahotsav (Celebration)** **May or June 2025 (Dates TBD)**



Deities Alankar Sponsorship

You have an opportunity to sponsor the Silver Kavach for the Navagraha deity and the Sarees & Mukut for the other deities. Please call Rita Ghodasara at 410-807-2073, Atul Patel at 410-978-6472, or the temple priests at 410-861-8387.

RECURRING MONTHLY EVENTS

Hanuman Chalisa – 1st Saturday of the month – Jan 4th, Feb 1st, March 1st and Apr 5th

Sri Lalitha Sahasranama Archana - 1st Friday of the month – Jan 3rd, Feb 7th, March 7th and Apr 4th

Murugan Abhishekam Krittika Nakshatram – Jan 9th, Feb 6th, Mar 5th and Apr 1st

Jain Bhavana – Jan 19th, Feb 16th, March 16th

Sri Satyanarayana Puja - Purnima – Jan 13th, Feb 11th, March 13th and Apr 11th

Sri Ganesh Abhishekam - Sankasthi Chaturthi – Jan 16th, Feb 15th, Mar 17th and Apr 26th

Antakshari Competition **Spring 2025 - Dates TBD**

We are planning an antakshari competition for individual & groups. Look out for the announcement.

We will provide dates and times to sign up for the competition. Please email your thoughts at info@baltimoretemple.org

BAL VIHAR PROGRAM

Bal Vihar is an academic program that is made up of a vibrant group of children and parents with an ever evolving curriculum that varies according to age. It includes Shlokas and prayers, an introduction to Gods, meaning of Hindu symbols, the history of India through the stories of saints and leaders, the epics Ramayana and Mahabharata, and the overarching Vedic values, principles, and practices of the Hindu religion.

◇ Connect your kid with Heritage and Culture
à Enjoy & Learn festivals, customs and tradition
à Foundation of Hindu religion and spiritual beliefs
à Practice language & proud to speak mother tongue

Our 21 years of valued dedication to children so they can learn and enjoy performing pujas, celebrating festivals such as Diwali, Holi, Vasant Panchami and many more. This inculcates them with the pride & joy of celebrating Hindu festivals, and gives them a meaningful and religious perspective behind them. Bal-Vihar program also offers learning opportunity for various Indian languages such as Hindi, Gujarati, Telugu, Tamil, Marathi.

For information, visit the website at www.baltimoretemple.org

Outreach and Interfaith Committee -Fall Activities 2024

The following are some the activities that the committee has been involved in since September, 2024.

Soup kitchen: This year GBT joined the consortium of faith-based organizations in Carroll County to provide a hot midday meal to the homeless 4-5 times a year on a rotational basis. The committee members have so far planned, obtained supplies, cooked and served in the soup kitchen since March and will go on till November at the Westminster United Methodist Church in downtown Westminster in Carroll County. We serve hot vegetarian meals each time. We plan to continue this service in 2025.

Alzheimer's Walkathon- Saturday October 26, 2024. This year due to other major events going on at the temple the Walkathon effort was a subdued affair. Hoping to enhance the involvement next year as it's a devastating disease in our society and more people need to be aware of and learn ways to prevent it.

Annual Diwali Food and Clothing Drive - October 12- Nov 17. The committee is thankful for the wonderful response from our congregation to help less privileged people with basic needs. The food and clothing will be distributed to the needy in Carroll County and Baltimore County.

Interfaith Activities: The committee is a participant in the Carroll County Interfaith Alliance for Racial justice. This will help to learn about social injustices in the community at large and the efforts to remedy them. Members of the committee take part in discussing topics on Hinduism with church groups.

The committee thanks the GBT Board of Trustees and other devotees for their support. If interested in participating in the committee activities or wish to provide financial support or suggestions for community engagement, please email sraja12345gmail.com

Geetha Raja

GBT Outreach and Interfaith Committee



ANNAPURNA FUND Sunday's Mahaprasadam / Lungar/ Annadanam

Namaste,

As part of Greater Baltimore Hindu and Jain Temple's continued commitment of service towards our community, we are pleased to begin our Mahaprasadam/ Lungar service beginning this January. Mahaprasadam/ Lungar will be served every Sunday. Please join us with your family and friends for prayer/ pravachan at 11:30am, followed by Aarti and then Mahaprasadam/ Lungar until 2 pm in the temple cafeteria. We also serve Mahaprasad during major religious celebration.

We are making a humble request for volunteers to sign up so we can make this program a success. Please contact Pankaj Grover at 410-419-0336 with your availability.

Furthermore, to sustain our efforts and continue serving our community, **we are seeking sponsors to support us in providing food and resources.** We are reaching out to you with a heartfelt request for sponsorship due to the length and ongoing nature of our commitment. Your support would have a significant impact on our ability to continue this service. Specifically, we are seeking contributions in the form of grocery donations, financial support, or a combination of both.

By partnering with us, you will not only help us keep this program to continue and grow, but also demonstrate a strong commitment to our community's well-being. In recognition of your generous support, we would be delighted to acknowledge your contribution in our communications, including our website, social media channels, and any relevant promotional materials.

Please feel free to contact Pankaj Grover at 410-419-0336 or email at infor@baltimoretemple.org for any additional information you may require.

Thank you for considering our request.

Pankaj Grover

President's Message

Namaskar,

I am honored and grateful for the privilege of serving as a president of our temple. On behalf of our temple board, I would like to express sincere gratitude to all devotees for their support throughout the year.

With the blessing of ISHAVARA / BHAGVAN and under their guidance, we celebrated various religious and cultural events throughout the year including a magnificent Maha Kumbhabhishekam celebration and 25 th Anniversary of Mahavir Bhagwan Pranaprathista.

We are thankful to our priests, volunteers, devotees, board members, various committee members, and devotees for their unwavering support and dedication during the pre-planning, fundraising, preparation, and during religious ceremonies and cultural programs. Your hard effort and dedication were important to the success of Maha Kumbhabhishekam ceremony and associated cultural festival. Everyone's efforts are a living example of the devotion and love that characterize our temple community. More than a thousand devotees participated in the three-day ritual, with many attending all three days events. Our leaders and members of the puja, cultural, fundraising, food, operation, décor, IT, audio/visual, kitchen, volunteer and other committees were crucial to the success of this event.

Our temple serves as the center of worship for the Hindu and Jain community, and the members are grateful that we provide a range of religious and cultural events. We are looking forward to celebrating many more religious and cultural events in the New Year.

We are working on the following programs and projects.

New programs:

1. Sunday's Lungar/ Mahaprasad. (Refer to the message from Pankaj Grover included in this Newsletter.)
2. Health Fair
3. Senior Program

Ongoing/ Future Projects:

1. Navagraha Deities. (Expected date: May/June 2025)
2. Name Temple Driveway to the "Temple Drive" (2025)
3. Landscaping Improvement.
4. Improve main deity chamber.
5. Improve temple lobby and entrance to add temple architecture.
6. Addition to the prayer hall.

Infrastructure Projects: (Long Term Maintenance/ replacement)

1. Driveway/ Parking pavement.
2. Roofing replacement.
3. HVAC replacement.

By giving your time in a variety of activities throughout the temple, such as the kitchen, outreach, religious and cultural activities, and the Balvihar, I would like to request you become an essential part of our temple. Furthermore, a five-member by-laws team has been established to review and recommend the by-laws with policy changes that are relevant to the present time.

Happy New YEAR!

Atul Patel, President

PRIEST SERVICES

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NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

If you would like to place advertisements in the newsletter, please call or text Sachin Hebbar at 410-336-3615 or email at info@baltimoretemple.org

Advertising sponsorship rates:

¼ page \$200, ½ page \$350 & Full page \$500

2024 Year-End & 2025 Donation Appeal

We would like to thank you and your family members for being loyal devotees of our temple and appreciate your contribution. Your donations give our community a place to worship, enjoy cultural programs, provide a place to socialize and nurture our future generation. Our temple is over 25 years old and we are raising fund for the infrastructure projects of Roofing, HVAC and Pavement. Your donation, no matter the size, will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to contribute, please mail in your donation with the following form or visit the temple website at www.baltimoretemple.org or scan the following QR code from your cell phone photo app. Our Tax ID # 52-1671964



For individuals 72½ years and older, Qualified charitable distributions (QCD) allow you to instruct your IRA administrator to direct your Required Minimum Distribution (up to \$105,000 per year) to a qualified 501(c)(3) charities. Since the IRA distribution is sent directly to the charity through your administrator, **the QCD is not reported as taxable income.** This is a win-win option for donors who want to support nonprofits in a tax advantaged way! Also, please consider adding Greater Baltimore Temple as a beneficiary for a portion of your IRA or other assets.

Our goal is to raise \$400,000:

Infrastructure Upgrades: () \$10,000, () \$5,000, () Other \$ _____

Navagraha Deities (New): () \$5,000, () Other \$ _____

Donation Tree: () \$ 351 - Silver Leaf, () \$ 501 - Gold Leaf, () \$ 2,001 - Stone

Flowers for Deities: () \$ 500/month x _____ no. of months = \$ _____

Annadanam/ Kitchen Support: () \$1,000, Other \$ _____

Balvihar: () \$5,000, () \$1,000, Other \$ _____

General Donation: () \$ 5,000, () \$ 1,001, () \$ 501, () Other \$ _____

RMD (Required minimum distribution) from retirement account: \$ _____

We will add GBT as a beneficiary to our Living Will/ Trust/ IRA/ Insurance account _____

If you would like to contribute a large donation in the name of your family, donation of appreciated stocks or any other questions, please send an email at info@baltimoretemple.org or contact Atul Patel at 410-978-6472, Nikhil Sheth at 443-904-4661 or Dinesh Kalaria at 443-536-1235.

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with

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OFFICE: 1-800-913-4326
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