

# GREATER BALTIMORE TEMPLE

2909 BLOOM ROAD, P. O. BOX 690

FINKSBURG, MARYLAND 21048

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Volume 18 Number 3

SAMACHAAR

July - September 2007

## SRIMAD BHAGAWAT KATHA

Monday, August 13 to Sunday August 19, 2007

By Acharya Padmanabha Joshi

(Our own Punditji)



### Schedule of Katha:

Monday, August 13 thru

Friday, August 17

Saturday, August 18

Sunday, August 19

6 pm – 8.30 pm

4 pm – 7 pm

2 pm – 5 pm

(Followed by Prasad)

For information and to sponsor this event, please contact Pundit Padmanabha Joshi (410-861-8387) or the Temple Manager (410-861-8387).

## SECOND SATURDAY SATSANG

This program was started in October 2004 to combine devotional and cultural activity every month at GBT. On the second Saturday of every month, Venkateshwara (Balaji) abhishekam and archana are performed as usual between 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon. This is followed by a cultural activity for about an hour - artists are invited to perform music, dance, and sometimes give a spiritual lecture. The program ends with a light vegetarian lunch. The cultural performance each month is usually by an individual artist or a group. The upcoming programs for the next few months are as follows:

2nd Saturday, July 14: “Connecting to our roots – A Journey to India” by Priya Sashidaran and Deepa Ganachari

2nd Saturday, August 11: Dance program by Natya Kala Mandir (students of Vatsala Srinivas)

2nd Saturday, September 8: Devotional music by Sri Hamid Hossain's students

Devotees are encouraged to sponsor the Abhishekam (\$ 31.00) and/or Archana (\$ 11.00), enjoy the puja and the cultural event. Suggestions for artists to be invited for future events are most welcome.

For information please call Vimala Naganna (410-876-7071), Nandini Mouli (410-308-8883), Padma Vanguri (410-252-4440), Geetha Ramaratnam (410-529-7051), Sheela Ramaiah (410-252-3723), Chandra Raju (410-252-4622), Anasuya Swami (410-581-9161), Lakshmi Chetty (410-667-1316), Janaki Balakrishnan (410-527-0740) or Geetha Raja (410-825-6414).

## RAKSHA BANDHAN

Monday, August 27, 2007 & Tuesday, August 28, 2007

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Satyanarayana Puja

Donation: Puja - \$51

## SRI KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI

Tuesday, September 4, 2007



We invite you to come and celebrate Bhagwan Krishna's birthday on Tuesday, September 4 2007 at the Greater Baltimore Temple. The program will be as follows:

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Sri Radha-Krishna Abhisheka, Vastra Alankar
7 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Cultural Program
8 p.m. to 9 p.m.	Dinner
9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.	Bhajans, Raas/Garba
11:30 p.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Sri Krishna Aradhana
12:00 midnight	Janma Mahotsav, Aarti & Prasad

The Temple gratefully thanks Kamlesh and Murli Mathur for sponsoring the dinner and puja, as they have often done in prior years. New silk saris are available at the Temple that can be purchased for \$101 and donated for the deities. Those wishing to provide additional sponsorships for the puja, provide prasada and fruits, help with the arrangements, or need additional information, should please contact Murli or Kamlesh Mathur (410-877-8494), Nandini Mouli (410-308-8883), Sushma Swami (410-532-9320), Hari Razdan (410-833-4290), Bhanuben Patel (410-833-1330), Padma Vanguri (410-252-4440) or Priti Parikh (410-876-0365).

Aarti or Puja Sponsorship-\$101, Abhisheka- \$31, Archana- \$11.

## BHAGWAN MAHAVIR'S BHAVANA AND POOJA

Sunday, July 15, August 19 & September 16, 2007

11 a.m to 1:30 p.m.

The Greater Baltimore Temple and the Jain Society hold Mahavirswami Bhagwan's Bhavana and Pooja on every third Sunday of the month starting at 11a.m. Your active participation is requested.

For suggestions, please contact Bhupendra Mehta (410-771-0251) or Annasaheb Anuje (410-269-8837)

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**HEALTH FAIR**  
**Sunday, August 26, 2007**  
**From 9 a.m. to Noon**

The Greater Baltimore Temple in cooperation with the Finksburg Plaza Shopping Center will hold community health fair on August 26, 2007 at the Finksburg Plaza Shopping Center parking lot. The Plaza is located at the corner of Route 140 and Route 91 (Gamber Road) in Finksburg, MD, next to the Temple. Please visit the Health Fair tent for free testing of blood glucose, blood pressure, breathing test, oxygen saturation, etc.

Free Consultations will be provided by many physicians including the following: family physician, internist, pulmonologist, allergist, cardiologist, gynecologist, pediatrician and others.

Health education material will be available at various booths to address various diseases.

For further information please contact Natwar Rajpara (410-840-8408) or Jitesh Parikh (410-876-0365). Also, if any physicians or specialists are interested in providing their services at the fair, please contact Dr .Natwar Rajpara



**YOGA CLASSES**  
**Wednesday Evenings, starting September 5,**  
**2007**  
**6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.**

*Cultivate a healthy mind, body and spirit through yoga postures, breath awareness and meditation*

Yoga classes will be held at the Greater Baltimore Temple on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. starting on September 5, 2007

Practice Yoga for:

- Stress Reduction
- Back Problems
- Anxiety/Depression
- Chronic Disease
- Increase Strength and Flexibility
- General Health and Well being

The classes will be taught by Sandy Levy, RYT, who is a Certified Yoga Instructor

Cost: \$12.00 per class (4 week session) or  
\$15.00 per class drop-in

To register contact: Sandy Levy @ 443-858-1473, or e-mail her at [innerspiritryoga@yahoo.com](mailto:innerspiritryoga@yahoo.com).

**SRI SIDDHIVINAYAKA GANESH**  
**CHATURTHI UTSAV**  
**Saturday, September 15, 2007**



**4 p.m. to 5 p.m.**  
**5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**  
**7 p.m.**

**Sri Ganesh Abhisheka & Archana**  
**Bhajans & Cultural Program**  
**Aarti & Mahaprasad**

This is one of the holiest of Hindu ceremonies. In all their endeavors and prayers, Hindus first seek the blessings of Lord Ganesh. So please bring your family and friends to celebrate this auspicious event. As in prior years, the Mahaprasad will be sponsored by Chandra Nigam and family. Our sincere thanks to the Nigam family for their sponsorship. For further information, please call Pundit Joshiji (410-833-1931), Nandini Mouli (410-308-8883) or Hari Razdan (410-833-4290)

Puja Sponsorship - \$101, Abhisheka - \$31, Archana - \$11.

**GANDHI JAYANTI**  
**(Mahatma Gandhi's 137<sup>th</sup> birthday)**  
**Sunday, September 30, 2007, 2 p.m.**

**"Bread for the Community"**



On behalf of the Greater Baltimore Temple, Board member Kali Mallik and Dr. Alex Alexander participated at the Second Interfaith Convocation on Monday, June 11, 2007 at the Washington National Cathedral, Washington, D.C. The purpose of this convocation was to mobilize members of all faiths, along with the U.S. government, to provide leadership to overcome hunger and poverty in the U.S. and around the world. The 2007 theme "Sowing Seeds: Growing a Movement" was organized by the Bread for the World Institute ([www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)). Over 2000 national leaders from various faiths including Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Jews, Christians and others participated in this event.

This was an exciting and stimulating event that motivated participants to give money or food, or to volunteer their services for the hungry and to prevent poverty. The spirit of the event evoked the teachings of the great Indian philosopher and spiritual leader, Swami Vivekananda, who said "He who serves others serves God".

The Greater Baltimore Temple's Board of Trustees, at a recent meeting, approved the Interfaith Dialog program. The goal of this program is to help remove misunderstandings between members of different faiths, help them live in harmony and to make the world a better place to live for all. In pursuance of this goal, the Greater Baltimore Temple will celebrate Gandhi Jayanti on September 30, 2007 (instead of October 2) and will use this occasion to further the inter-faith dialogue and initiate a "Bread for the Community" program. This will help the members of the Temple community to open a dialogue with members of other faiths in our area and to give back to the community. We are looking for adult and youth volunteers to prepare, distribute and serve vegetarian meals in homeless shelters in the Greater Baltimore area. More details on this will follow.

Please join us at this event and support a great cause. The event will be held at the Temple's Community Center on September 30, 2007 at 2 p.m. It will include a two-hour discussion by various religious groups and the relevance of the effort to Gandhi Jayanti. The event will include religious music and bhajans. A light vegetarian dinner will be served to the devotees.

For further information, please contact Kali Mallik (410-252-4865) or Geetha Raja (410-825-6414). To volunteer to feed the hungry, please contact Nandini Mouli at 410-308-8883 or at [nandinimouli2001@yahoo.com](mailto:nandinimouli2001@yahoo.com).



## KALASH PRANAPRATHISTA MAHOTSAV- A JUBILOUS CELEBRATION

On Sunday, June 17, the Greater Baltimore Temple celebrated the installation of the Kalash on top of the Temple's main structure with much spiritual and jubilant fanfare from the entire Temple community. As many as 400 devotees attended the celebration with enthusiasm in a show of support and cooperative spirit. The event coincided with the 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Temple's Pranaprathista (installation of the deities) and drew a wide interested audience from Delaware to Virginia.

The celebration was preceded by the physical installation of the 20' Kalash on the top of Shikara under a clear blue sky.



Several firms and individuals were involved in the design, construction and installation of the Kalash: the architectural firm of LDA (Mr. Uday Purushe ) was responsible for the design the Kalash; EDON CORP. from Pennsylvania fabricated the Kalash in fiberglass and delivered it to the site; ReSteel, a structural engineering firm from Gaithersburg provided the structural design of the steel platform - Mr. Kishore Mehta of Resteel and his staff donated their valuable time and effort to this project with no charge to the Temple; COX Steel fabricated and installed the platform on the top of Shikara to support the Kalash; Southeastern Construction finished the roof; Fredrick Electrical installed the lighting around the Kalash; and finally and very importantly the crane operator , Justine, who lifted the holy Kalash under the clear blue sky and set it on the Shikara.

The cooperation, dedication and hard work of Messrs. Velji Desai and Ajay Bhatt of Southeastern Construction, who were responsible for coordination of the total construction, was critical in completing this project on time. Finally, the involvement of many Board of Trustees and Board of Governors members and their input during the design process was extremely valuable and the results are there for all to behold.

On the day of the event, a special swarna (gold) Kalash, 6'' tall, was made and duly installed with spiritual rites on top of the fiberglass Kalash.

The main celebration started on the morning of June 17 with religious offerings to Lord Ganesh and all the deities including Navagraha through a homam and pooja. It was then followed with pushpa aradhana for 13 pradhana (main) silver and 101 upa (secondary) copper Kalashas.

The yatra (procession) that ensued after the Kalash aradhana included all the sponsors and guests carrying the 114 Kalashas in a procession around the Temple while our revered priests carried the swarna Kalash. The yatra accompanied a specially arranged soul-filling devotional rendering of bhajans dedicated to all deities. After the yatra, sacred water from all the Kalashas were collected and carried to the top of main Kalash and offered by the three priests with reverence and humility at the allotted muhurth (special time chosen). After the Kalash abhishekam (bathing) with water, pusha-abhishekam ensued with tens of thousands of rose petals strewn over the Kalash, much to the excitement of the watching crowd.



The celebration then proceeded to the Temple community hall where the Mahotsav sponsors, priests, special guests, volunteers, construction engineers and representatives of different religious organization were recognized for their dedicated service to the Temple. The devotees then partook Maha prasad sponsored by community families while the sponsors and visitors paid their individual offerings to the main Kalash by going up to the top of the Kalash in a chair-lift. What followed this was a special treat by the local dancers and singers in a cultural program that lasted for about 2.5 hours. The participants received certificates while all sponsors and guests received gift and prasad bags from the Temple as a token of appreciation. At about 5 p.m. the celebration ended with a Mahaarti to all deities and the Kalash.

The Pranaprathista milestone event in the history of the Temple was made successful with the grace of God, help of sponsors, priests and the volunteers who tirelessly worked in different functions. The Kalash Pranaprathista Mahotsav committee wishes to thank its 11 sub-committee chairs and

more than the hundred committee members for their true commitment and cooperative spirit.

We would like to offer a special thanks to the gold Kalash donors. The pure gold Kalash was donated in memory of Mrs. Lila Khastgir by all her children and grand children including Pratima and Prabir Bose, Anupa and Terrance Khastgir and

Molina and Jaganath Thupari. It was installed on top on the fiberglass Kalash.

At last we have our beautiful and gorgeous religious piece of architecture on U.S. soil for all our Hindu and Jain devotees.

... *Nandini Mouli, Atul Patel, Praful Vani*

## Significance of Pranaprathista Mahotsav

(Kumbha) Abhishekam literally means anointing the Temple with the holy water from the (Kumbha) that has been sanctified and charged with spiritual energy. The Kumbha Abhishekam is performed through elaborate rituals and guidelines that are all prescribed in the Vedas. Abhishekam or Abhisheka, in general, means “bathing” and is derived from the Sanskrit root sic, “to sprinkle,” to which is prefixed abhi, “all around.”

For the abhishekam, a huge pot is kept on the top of the Temple. Consecrated water is then brought and poured into this pot. What is the significance of having the deity inside the Temple and a Kalash above it? The deity—such as Sri Ganesh, Sri Shiva, or Sri Vishnu—has a particular form; its presence in the Temple represents the personal, saguna (with form) aspect of Brahman, the Reality. The Kalash on top of the Temple is not in the shape of any person, however, and so it represents the attributeless, nirguna (without form) aspect of Reality.

A person approaching the Temple from a distance is able to see the Kalash on top, but he or she enters the Temple first to worship the personal form of the Lord inside. Subjectively, this means that from a distance we see the highest goal we want to attain—the formless, nirguna Brahman—but in order to reach there we must first go through the practice of worshiping the saguna aspect of the Lord. Thus the path for the spiritual aspirant is indicated. Through worship of the Lord (with attributes), we reach the highest, formless Brahman.

What does Pranaprathista Mahotsav mean? Pran: Soul. Prathista: Installation. Mahotsav: (Maha+Utsav) Maha=Grand, Utsav=Celebration. What is most important in both these traditions is the Prathistapana of the main murtis – the establishment and energization of the statues in the sanctum sanctorum of the Temple.

... *Nandini Mouli*

### Income Statement January 1 to March 31, 2007 (Preliminary & Unaudited)

<b>Income:</b>	
Donations - Cash	\$ 82,893
Donations – Pledged	12,934
Fund Raising	101
Hall rental	1,840
Bal Vihar	389
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 98,157</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$50,790</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>\$47,367</b>
<b>Other Income/Expenses</b>	
Other Expenses – Depreciation	\$19,022
<b>Net Other Income/Expense</b>	<b>\$ 19,022</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 28,345</b>

### SHRIMAD BHAGAVAD GITA PATH

A Shrimad Bhagavad Gita Path was held at the Temple on Sunday, April 8 at 10 a.m. The event was a great success. Over 300 devotees from as far away as Illinois, California and Virginia attended the Path. Our sincere thanks to Hemant Mishra who sponsored and organized this very spiritually up lifting and auspicious event

### Balance Sheet As of March 31, 2007 (Preliminary & Unaudited)

<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Current Assets:</b> Bank Accounts/Petty Cash, etc.	<b>\$381,813</b>
<b>Fixed &amp; Other Assets</b>	
Building	1,942,282
Land	201,598
Other (Machinery, Furniture, etc.)	167,116
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(637,311)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$1,673,685</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,055,498</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ ( 226)</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Net Worth	\$1,004,215
Retained Earnings	\$ 1,051,509
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$ 2,055,724</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$2,055,498</b>

### 108 SUNDARAKHANDA PATH

108 Sundarakhanda Path was held at the Temple on June 2, 2007 and was conducted by our own Pundit Joshiji. The event was a great success. Over 150 devotees attended the path. Our sincere thanks to Harshad Patel and family who sponsored the Mahaprasad.

## CONGRATS GRADS !!!

*The Sixth Annual Graduation and Puja and celebrations were conducted in a grand manner on Sunday June 24 at GBT. High school and college graduates from the congregation participated in a wonderful Saraswati Puja along with family and friends conducted by Joshiji and Muraliji. This was followed by felicitations to the graduates by GBT Vice President Atul Patel. The keynote speaker was Nicholas Rathod, a civil rights lawyer and public servant who gave a wonderful speech. He urged the youngsters to work hard to achieve their dreams and to cherish their roots and culture. The program ended with a sumptuous lunch provided by India Palace restaurant. Nishi Parekh and Samir Rao were the MCs. Meeta Raikar, Deepti and Raj Razdan, Kali Mallik, Pundit Joshiji, Pundit Muraliji and Geetha Raja worked on the Graduation Puja committee to put the program together.*

*A great time was had by all!*

*. . . Geetha Raja*

### [A brief synopsis of Mr. Rathod's speech by Samir Rao](#)

Mr. Nicholas Rathod, a successful lawmaker and aspiring politician came to speak at the Greater Baltimore Temple's sixth annual graduation ceremony. His motivational speech was masterful. His simple yet eloquent speaking style caught everyone's attention and easily captivated the audience. The themes of following one's heart, accepting one's culture, and working hard were very applicable and relevant. He began with a short background of his early life in Nebraska. His solemn yet admiring description of the hard life his father, a local pastor, lived and the sacrifices he made to give Nicholas and his siblings the opportunity to succeed touched the crowd. Mr. Rathod's description of his early attempts to reject his culture and heritage in order to fit in with a taunting and merciless American youth mirrored the experiences of many of the graduates. Later he recounted his initial rejection of his own heart's desire to become a social lawyer for a more lucrative job in a law firm. This however resulted in failure and unhappiness and taught him to follow one's deepest desires. And yet, never in the speech did he try to lecture or teach. He simply told everyone accounts and anecdotes of his own life in the hope that his experiences could help the graduates. Nicholas Rathod's speech had an obvious impact on the audience and had a profound effect on this author's mindset. His life was the perfect illustration of any young Indian immigrant's. It was therefore easily applicable, completely relevant and much easier to believe and absorb.

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## 2007 GRADS LIST & PHOTOGRAPH!



1 Souvonik Adhya  
2 Chirag Arora  
3 Anisha Arwindekar  
4 Dilip Bhattacharya  
5 Arup Chakrabarti  
6 Anuja Dane  
7 Kriti Gandhi  
8 Reenee Gangopadhyay  
9 Akash Garg  
10 Kaushalendra Joshi  
11 Nikhita Kaul

12 Barnali Kundu  
13 Piali Kundu  
14 Puja Mathur  
15 Anisha Mehta  
16 Sreya Mitra  
17 Advait Nagarkar  
18 Neelam Parikh  
19 Shalin Parikh  
20 Ankur Patel  
21 Nirav Patel  
22 Rupa Patel

23 Viraj Raiker  
24 Krishna Rami  
25 Dhara Rami  
26 Neeraja Razdan  
27 Nidhi Ruparelia  
28 Sounok Sen

## BAL VIHAR NEWS

### BAL VIHAR REGISTRATION (2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR)

The ninth year of the Bal Vihar program will start on Sunday, August 26, 2007. *Applications for admission to the program are due Friday, August 10, 2007.* The minimum enrollment age is 4 years. *Students are enrolled on a first come first serve basis.* If you are interested in enrolling your child, please submit your application as soon as possible as demand for the program is increasing and we have limited seats. If you are interested, please contact the Temple (410-861-8387) for an application. *For further information, please call Jitesh Parikh (410-876-0365) or Hari Razdan (410-833-4290).*

### BAL VIHAR OPEN HOUSE

*Sunday, August 26, 2007 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.*

The Greater Baltimore Temple Bal Vihar will host an Open House and Orientation in the Community Center on Sunday, August 26, 2007 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. All parents who have submitted applications for their children to attend the 2007-08 Bal Vihar session are requested to attend the Open House along with their children. They will get to meet all the Bal Vihar teachers and volunteers and will have the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarifications. *For further information regarding the Bal Vihar program or the Education Fund (see below), please contact Jitesh Parikh (410-876-0365) or Hari Razdan (410-833-4290).*

### BAL VIHAR DAY

The eighth year of the Bal Vihar program ended on June 10, 2007 with the Bal Vihar Day Ceremonies. Over 200 parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, family friends and well-wishers attended the Ceremonies and spent a delightful evening watching the Bal Vihar children perform a lively program and demonstrate what they had learned during the year and proudly sing the national anthems.

In the last eight years, the Bal Vihar program has made significant progress. The Preschool, Hindi and Gujarati curriculums were documented this year. The curriculum for the Elementary group is now being documented. Classes in Telugu and Jainism were added to the Bal Vihar program during the 2006-07 school year. Considerable progress has been made since the start of the program and continues to be made every year.

We are happy to report that the involvement of our youth has increased in the program. Several former Bal Vihar students, who have been through the program, are now actively involved in teaching Bal Vihar classes. To us this is a testament of our success. Our children who have been through the program are now giving back to the community.

As a result of parents' and volunteers' hard work, the Bal Vihar program is increasing in demand. In 2006-07, registration in the program reached record levels – 128 students. The program has now outgrown the space available in the Temple to conduct classes. To address this problem, a proposal was presented to the Board of Trustees last year to fund the addition of portable class rooms. This would address our immediate space needs. The Board unanimously approved this request and established an **Education Fund** to fund this project. With the help of the Board of Trustees and generous donations from devotees, a total of \$20,000 has been raised to date for the portable class rooms. Although, the Fund is still short of the total funding needs for portable class rooms by \$10,000 to \$15,000, the Board agreed to move forward with the project. The goal is to have the classrooms ready by the end of this calendar year. If you are interested in contributing to the **Education Fund**, please make your check payable to The Greater Baltimore Temple and write "Education Fund" in the memo line.

This year 128 children completed the program including 25 in the Preschool (4 to 5 years), 42 in the Elementary (6 to 7 years), 61 in the Junior and Senior (8 to 14 years) Bal Vihar.

Our congratulations to the following students for successfully completing the 2006-2007 school year at the Bal Vihar:

**Preschool Bal Vihar (4 to 5 years):** Rushil Byatnal, Megha Chaudhari, Pal Chokshi, Krupali Daya, Urja Desai, Alekhya Errapothu, Esha Gupta, Yash Goswami, Surya Khatri, Ansh Khurana, Kabeer Khurana, Vivek Laljani, Varun Maheshwari, Vaidehi Daya, Kunal Parikh, Niki Parikh, Sakshi Golap, Sonia Saini, Ajay Sarma, Shubhi Saxena, Ishani Shah, Rushil Shah, Arya Subramanian, Kavya Subramanian and Aprameya Vijayaraghavan.

**Elementary Bal Vihar (6 to 7 years):** Esha Aneja, Gabrielle Bair, Dhairya Chokshi, Raghav Choudhary, Jay Dani, Akil Errapothu, Omkar Ghanekar, Radhika Gholap, Anjali Gulati, Rhea Gupta, Abhinav Khushalani, Melina Kshepakaran, Rani Kshepakaran, Rohan Laljani, Sushanth Neerumalla, Roshni Patel, Shivani Patel, Sohali Patel, Sonia Punjabi, Mohit Puvvala, Nisha Rao, Sanil Saini, Anshul Sankaran, Malika Shah, Nishay Shah, Raj Shah, Ravi Shah, Rohan Shah, Yash Shah, Neha Sharda, Dhvani Sharma, Saumya Shukla, Sonum Siddalingaiah, Varun Singhai, Ayush Sogani, Priya Soodan, Tanuj Soodan, Adarsh Subramanian, Milan Sulibhavi, Ananya Uniyal, Ashish Rao Varrey and Asis Rao Varrey.

**Junior and Senior Bal Vihar (8 to 14 years):** Sabrina Bair, Rishi Bedi, Amol Bhatia, Kushal Byatnal, Anjali Daya, Arti Daya, Pooja Daya, Ruthuk Gali, Daksh Garg, Divij Garg, Tarun Garg, Reena Goswami, Rohan Goswami, Amrita Gulati, Anish Gupta, Shrey Gupta, Indira Jetton, Rianna Jawa, Sohumi Kaushal, Tushaar Khurana, Milan Gopal Khushal, Shivani Khushal, Nikul Khushal, Abhishek Kumar, Akash Magoon, Aman Magoon, Aman Mathur, Sanjana Neerumalla, Sumanth Neerumalla, Nina Parekh, Kajal Parikh, Zill Parikh, Kisha Patel, Monica Patel, Parin Patel, Priyanka Khushal, Rajan Patel, Ruchir Patel, Sahil Patel, Sashiv Patel, Sheena Patel, Sounak Patel, Arjun Punjabi, Nidhi Rao, Roshan Rao, Vishnu Razdan, Arnav Sankaran, Neal Sastry, Neha Sastry, Kaviksha Saxena, Sonya Shah, Anjali Sharma, Krsna Shukla, Saksham Shukla, Tulsi Shukla, Amit Singh, Vikram Singh, Varun Singhai, Srisankar Srinivasa, Pranav Kumar Varrey and Alisha Zaveri.

(We tried to ensure that the above list is all inclusive. Please accept our apology if we inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name).

This year of the Bal Vihar program was a success due to the dedication and hard work of many parents and volunteers who worked tirelessly throughout the year.

**GREATER BALTIMORE TEMPLE**  
**JULY – SEPTEMBER 2007 CALENDAR (Preliminary)**

**JULY**

03 Tue/04 Wed Sankashti Chaturthi  
 04 Wed Independence Day (Holiday)  
 10 Tue/11Wed Yogini Ekadashi  
 12 Thu Pradosha Vrata  
 14 Sat Amavasya  
**14 Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat.Satsang – Talk by Priya Sashidaran and Deepa Ganachari**  
**15 Sun Bhagvan Mahavir Pooja & Bhavna**  
 16 Mon Ratha Yatra  
 20 Fri Shukla Shashti  
 27 Fri Pradosha Vrata  
 30 Mon Ashadi Poornima/Guru Poornima  
 Sri Satyanarayana Pooja  
 31 Tue Shravana Masa begins in North India

**AUGUST**

02 Thu Sankashti Chaturthi  
 06 Mon Krittika  
 09 Thu Kamada Ekadashi  
 10 Fri Pradosha Vrata  
**10 Fri Bal Vihar Applications due**  
**11 Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Satsang – Dance by Natya Kala Mandir students**  
 12 Sun Amavasya  
**13 Mon) To ) Srimad Bhagawat Katha**  
**19 Sun )**  
 15 Wed India's Independence Day  
 16 Thu Vinayaka Chaturthi  
 18 Sat Shukla Shashti  
**19 Sun Bhagwan Mahavir Pooja & Bhavna**  
 24 Fri Putrada Ekadashi/Varalakshmi Vrata  
 26 Sun Pradosha Vrata  
**26 Sun Health Fair at the Finksburg Plaza**  
**26 Sun Bal Vihar Orientation & Open House**  
 27 Mon Shravani Poornima -

**27 Mon/28 Tue Sri Satyanarayana Pooja Raksha Bandan**  
 28 Tue Upakarma (Yajur)  
 Total Lunar Eclipse 4:15am-8:24am  
 31 Fri Sankashti Chaturthi

**SEPTEMBER**

02 Sun Krittika  
**04 Tue Sri Krishna Janmashtami**  
**05 Wed Yoga Classes start**  
 07 Fri Jaya Ekadashi  
 08 Sat Pradosha Vrata  
**08 Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. Satsang –Devotional music by students of Hamid Hossain**  
 08Sat-15Sat Paryushana Parva  
**09 Sun Bal Vihar Classes Begin**  
 11 Tue Amavasya  
 13 Thu Upakarma (Samavedeeya)  
 14 Fri Haritalika Teeja (Gouri Vrata)  
**15 Sat Sri Siddhivinayaki Ganesh Chaturthi**  
 16 Sun Rishi Panchami  
**16 Sun Bhagwan Mahavir Pooja & Bhavna**  
 16 Sun Bal Vihar Classes  
 17 Mon Shukla Shashti  
 22Sat/23Sun Padma Ekadashi  
 26 Fri/ 27 Sat Vaishakha Amavasya  
 24 Mon Pradosha Vrata  
 25 Tue Ananth Chaturdashi  
 26 Wed Bhadrapada Poornima/Sri Satyanarayana Pooja  
 27 Thu Pratipada (Prathama) Shradha  
 Paksha begins  
 29 Sat Sankashti Chaturthi  
 30 Sun Bal Vihar Classes  
**30 Sun Gandhi Jayanti**

(The above dates and timings are preliminary and subject to change without notice)

*Please cut and mail with your donation.*

**GREATER BALTIMORE TEMPLE**  
**Donation Form**

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Please accept our contribution and/or pledge for the amount shown below in support of the Greater Baltimore Temple, Inc.:

1. General Donation:     \$51     Membership \$ 121     \$ 501     \$1,001     \$ 5,001  
 2. Kalash                     \$ 5,001program     \$1,001Program     Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. Education Fund             \$ 1,001program     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Pledged \$ \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Date)

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to the Greater Baltimore Temple Inc. Mail forms and checks to the Greater Baltimore Temple Inc., P. O. Box 690, Finksburg, MD 21048*

### DIRECTIONS TO THE TEMPLE

From I-695 take exit 19 to I-795 north. Go to exit 9B and take Rte. 140 west towards Westminster. Go about 3.8 miles and take Rte. 91 south (Gamber Road). Turn right on Bloom Road, the first road on the right. The Temple will be on your left.

### BHAJANS & KIRTAN

#### EVERY SUNDAY 4:30 P.M. TO 6:30 P.M.

Bhajans are followed by aarti and prasad. A vegetarian dinner is served when the bhajans and prasad are sponsored by individual devotees. We would welcome more members to come forward and sponsor the "prasad" following the bhajans on Sundays. The prasad is essentially a simple meal consisting of rice, chapattis, puris or nans, a dry vegetable, dal or channas and a vegetable with gravy. Yogurt or raita and a desert are also welcome. There are generally about 25 to 30 devotees present in the Temple for bhajans on Sundays. For this small number, food can be cooked either at home by one or more families jointly or arranged through a caterer at a nominal price. If you wish to sponsor prasad or need further information, please contact Sushma Sidh (410-876-2912).

### SRI VENKATESWARA ABHISHEKAM

#### EVERY SATURDAY FROM 9 A.M. TO 12 NOON

9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. - Sri Venkateswara Suprabhatam  
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. - Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam

If you wish to sponsor the lunch following Abhishek for Balaji, please contact Vimala Naganna (410-876-7071) or Geetha Raja (410-825-6414) in advance to schedule the date. The donation for sponsorship is \$31.

### SRI SATYANARAYANA PUJA & KATHA

#### EVERY MONTH DURING PURNIMA AT 6:30 P.M.

Sri Satyanarayana Puja & Katha will be performed monthly during Purnima at 6:30 p.m. On days when there are other festivals being celebrated at the Temple at this time, Sri Satyanarayana Puja will be performed at 7:30 p.m. or later. On these days, please call the Temple at 410-861-8387 before coming for the puja to confirm the timings

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Please forward your e-mail address to the Temple at [gbt101@yahoo.com](mailto:gbt101@yahoo.com). This will enable us to keep you informed of major events at the Temple. We can also send you the Temple newsletter by e-mail. This will not only save paper, but also the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. Therefore, please send us your e-mail address as soon as possible. Also please inform us

of any changes in your telephone number or mailing address so that we can ensure that the Temple mail is sent to you at the correct address. Thanks.

### SRI GANESH CHATURTHI PUJA

#### EVERY MONTH DURING SANKASHTI AT 6:30 P.M.

Every month on Sankashti, Ganesh Abhishek will be performed in the Temple at 6:30 p.m.

### TEMPLE HOURS

#### Monday to Friday:

9 a.m. to 12 noon. and 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

#### Saturday, Sundays & Holidays:

9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The above timings are subject to change without notice and on **special occasions**. If you need priest services at the Temple, please call the Temple before coming to check the availability of the priest.

### TEMPLE PUJAS

#### Weekday Pujas

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Monday to Friday Sarva Devata Archana

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Monday Rudrabhishekam

Tuesday Hanuman Chalisa

Thursday Gopala Sahasranama Parayanam

1<sup>st</sup> Friday of Month Sri Durga Puja

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of Month Sri Lakshmi Puja

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of Month Sri Padmavathi Aradhana

4<sup>th</sup> Friday of Month Sri Saraswati Puja

#### Saturday Pujas

9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Sri Venkateswara Suprabhatam

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam

#### Sunday Pujas

9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Every Sunday Sarva Deva Aradhana

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Month Sri Mahavir Swami Puja

4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Every Sunday Bhajans & Kirtan followed

By Aarti & Prasad

*On special occasions and festivals the above pujas will be superseded by special pujas.*

**The Greater Baltimore Temple**  
2909 Bloom Road  
P.O. Box 690  
Finksburg, MD 21048

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