

Greater Baltimore Temple

NEWSLETTER

2909 Bloom Road, P.O. Box 690, Finksburg, MD 21048

Tel: (410) 861-8387, Web: [www. Baltimoreemple.org](http://www.Baltimoreemple.org), E-mail: info@baltimoretemple.org

JANUARY to APRIL 2024

New Year's Day

Monday, January 1, 2024



Temple will be open 9am to 8:30pm on the New Year's Day.

Archana will be performed all day.

11:30 am Shiva Abhisheka

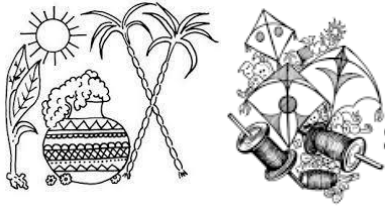
6:00 pm Ganesh Abhisheka

Abhisheka donation \$31

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.

Pongal/ Makar Sankranti

Sunday, January 14, 2024



Cultural Program

10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Singing, Dancing and Instrumental Performances related to Pongal celebration.

(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: Sanjeev Gholap 240-381-6122, Ashwini Nagarkar 443-812-1548 and Donika Patel 410-926-5855

Temple cafeteria will be open for food and beverages.

Religious Celebration

11:30 am - Suryanarayana Puja
Puja Sponsor \$51

Ram Madir Ayodhya

Inauguration Celebration

Sunday, January 28, 2024



5:00 pm - Shri Rama Puja/ Pravachan/ Bhajan & Kirtan

7:00 pm - Aarti & Mahaprasad

Details of the celebration will be announced in the program flyer.

Vasant Panchami

Sri Saraswati Puja

Tuesday, February 13, 2024



5:30 pm - Shri Sarasvati Puja

7:00 pm - Aarti & Prasad

Disclaimer

We reserve the right to change dates and details of any program. Please review the latest updates on the Temple Website and Facebooks page.

Remote Archana or Abhishek Request

We are providing remote Archana and Abhishek.

Please email your request to info@baltimoretemple.org or call temple at 410-861-8387

Maha Shivaratri
Friday, March 8, 2024
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
Sunday March 24 2024



5:00 pm – Bhajan Kirtan
6:30 pm – Aarti
7:00 pm – Holika Dahan
Temple will provide Puja thali with coconut, colors and Dhani.

Volunteers

If you would like to join our volunteers group, please send your name, cell phone number and email address to

info@baltimoretemple.org

or text Pankaj Grover at 410-419-0336

Ugadi/ Gudi Padwa
Tuesday April 9th



5:30 pm – Ugadi/ Gudi Padwa Puja
7:00 pm - Aarti & Prasad

Ugadi/ Holi/ Vaishakhi
and a New Year
Cultural Program
Sunday, April 14, 2024



10:00 am to 12:30 pm

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

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

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

Contact: Janaki Sivraman 410-736-8720, Sanjeev Gholap 240-381-6122, Ashwini Nagarkar 443-812-1548 and Donika Patel 410-926-5855

For Donation, Scan the
following QR code from your
cellphone photo app



Sri Rama Navami

Tuesday, April 16, 2024



10:30 am - Shri Rama Parivar Abhishek
5:30 pm - Sundarkanda Parayana
7:30 pm - Aarti & Mahaprasad

Grand Sponsor: \$1,001

Mahaprasad Sponsor: \$251/ each

Puja sponsor \$151

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

Abhishek \$51

Archana \$31

Contact: Rita Ghodasara 410-807-2073, Asha Goel 443-838-0885, Sanjeev Gholap 240-381-6122, Atul Patel - 410-978-6472 and Temple 410-861-8387

Saturday, April 20, 2024

11:30 am - Shri SitaRama Kalyanam

Interfaith Meeting

Saturday, April 20, 2024

3:00 pm to 5:00 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.

Mahavir Jayanti

Sunday, April 21, 2024

11:00 am



We will chant Navsman, Aarati and then Swamivatsalya.

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

Hanuman Jayanti

Tuesday, April 23, 2024



5:30 pm – Hanuman Puja & Chalisa Chanting

7:00 pm - Aarti & Prasad

We like to have 100 devotees to participate and recite Hanuman Chalisa 11 times to make a grand total of 1008 times. If you would like to participate then please call or text Rita Ghodasara at 410-807-2073 or send an email at info@baltimoretemple.org

RECURRING MONTHLY EVENTS

1. Hanuman Chalisa – 1st Saturday of the month – Jan 6th, Feb 3rd, March 2nd and Apr 6th
2. Sri Lalitha Sahasranama Archana - 1st Friday of the month – Jan 5th, Feb 2nd, March 1st and Apr 5th
3. Murugan Abhishekam Krittika Nakshatram – Jan 20th, Feb 16th, Mar 14th and Apr 11th
3. Jain Bhavana – Jan 13th, Feb 11th, March 24th and Apr 14th
4. Sri Satyanarayana Puja - Purnima – Jan 25th, Feb 24th, March 25th and Apr 23rd
5. Sri Ganesh Abhishekam - Sankasthi Chaturthi – Jan 29th, Feb 27th, Mar 28th and Apr 26th

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 Services and fill in the form to request a service. Also, call temple at 410-861-8387 or Pandit Joshiji at 443-791-1727 or Pandit Muraliji at 443-762-6128 to discuss with priest.

PAST EVENTS AT THE TEMPLE

Special Appreciation Message

Priests: We would like to express our heartfelt respect and gratitude to Pandit Padmanabha Joshi and Pandit Singanallur Murali for their many exceptional services to our temple. They continue to perform various pujas and special religious ceremonies with utmost care and devotion. Being well versed in our scriptures they explain it in an understandable and relatable manner to the devotees and guide them in their spiritual journey. Special thanks to Pandit Joshiji who has developed a remarkable bond with countless devotees over the years and his special bond with Young Devotees has guided them very well from Childhood to Adulthood.

Bhajan Group: We express our deep appreciation for Gita Maharaja, Kalyani Shastri, Dhaivat Maharaja, Anita Shastri and many other singers for leading the Sunday's bhajan kirtan and participating in many religious celebrations. Their guidance and suggestions for improvement have been valuable.

Volunteers: Our utmost appreciation goes to the countless selfless and tireless volunteers. Without these dedicated sevaks conducting and managing the many temple functions and services would not be possible. They organize temple events, help in the cafeteria, ensure that the Balavihar students learn and have a good time, make prasad, assist at the front desk, keep our temple and the surroundings clean and the list goes on.

Devotees/ Donors: Our devotees/donors are the foundation of our temple. Our members are the strength of our community. Our temple is our community's home away from home fulfilling our spiritual, cultural, social, and educational needs. We sincerely thank you for your continued support as we work hard to provide improved services through projects such as renovations to our prayer hall and upcoming Kumbabishekam in 2024.

GBT OUTREACH AND INTERFAITH COMMITTEE **FALL ACTIVITIES**

The Outreach and Interfaith Committee once again conducted the **Annual Diwali Food and Clothing Drive** successfully again this year. We thank all GBT patrons whose kindness and generosity made this possible. The collected canned food and new winter clothing will be distributed to the needy in Carroll County through our partner organization Shepard's Staff, Westminster. The gently used clothing will be distributed to the homeless in Baltimore County through Beans and Bread organization. With your support we hope to continue this tradition of giving during Diwali.

Team GBT walked along many other organizations and individuals in the rescheduled **Alzheimer's Walkathon** on Sunday Nov. 19 to increase awareness in the community.

New In 2024

We will be participating in providing hot meal to the Homeless in Carroll County. Another potential project is tutoring adults through the Literacy Council of Carroll County. If anyone is interested in participating in these projects or other community outreach work that we do, please contact Geetha Raja sraja12345@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support,

Geetha Raja

Shri Balaji (Srinivas) Kalyanam

August 19, 2023

The main purpose of performing Sri Balaji Kalyana Utsavam is to receive the blessings of the Lord for certain desires (yoga) to be fulfilled and also to preserve and protect (kshema) the good health and wealth that one already possesses.

Performing the Kalyana Utsavam also brings happiness to the family by way of good health, long life, gaining knowledge, improvement in the peace and harmony in the family and elevation in spiritual awareness.

We started Srinivasa Kalyana Utsavam at GBT in July 8th, 2006. It is performed once a year

now on the third Saturday in August. This years event was attended by over 150 devotees.

Geetha Ramrathnam

Shri Krishana Janmashtami **September 6, 2023**

The Krishna Janmashtami celebration started with Abhishek, Vastra Alankar and Darshan. Devotees brought in a variety of prasad which was displayed and offered to Sri Krishna as a mark of gratitude. This year's celebration included two performances, first by Usha Bhargave , who sang very melodious Krishna Bhajans. Second performance was by Kathak Dancer Nandini Kanhere. Bhajans were sung by our bhajan group which included Gita Maharaja, Kalyani Shastri and Dhaivat Maharaja. Also devotees participated in garba. The celebration concluded with a mid-night Krishna Janmotsav and aarti.

About 250 devotees attended and enjoyed the celebration, including Mahaprasad prepared by devotees.

Atul Patel

Ganesh Chaturthi **September 19, 2023**

Our Temple celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi in grand fashion. Program started with Ganesh agaman with Ganesh puja by our priests. This was followed by the group Ganapati atharvashisham.

This year's Ganesh festival was marked by two major performances, first by Usha Bhargave, who sang very melodious Ganesh Vandana and Bhajans. Second performance was by Kathak Dancer Nandini Kanhere. She performed two beautiful Kathak performances on Ganesh Janma and Ganesh Stuti.

Both programs were very well acknowledged by devotees, followed by Maha Arti which includes 5 sets of artis for Lord Ganesha, Lord Shiva, Devi, Shri Vithall and St. Dnyaneshwara. After Arti there was grand procession done by devotees which was supported by local Dhol-Tasha group "Avartan" , which reminded devotees of traditional Ganesh

Festival celebrated by in Maharashtrian style. Shout-out to Vipul and Harita Thakar for wonderful Ganesh decoration as well as palkhi decoration. Busy day for the Kitchen team as they made mahaprasad for over 350 plus devotees.

Sanjeev Gholap

Ganesh Chaturthi Cultural Program **September 24, 2023**

Ganesh Chaturthi cultural program was celebrated with over 35 participants showcasing their talents in singing, dance and various musical instruments. This program was well attended by over 200 attendees. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the music teachers, parents as well as participants for their wonderful performances.

Special thanks to Prachi Patel for coordinating the program as well as doing Emcee for the program and a Guest Kathak Dancer Nandini Kanhere.

Sanjeev Gholap

Sharad Navratri/ Dussehra **Celebration** **October 15 to 23, 2023**

Sharad Navratri was celebrated over nine days including daily puja, garba in the temple hall and the community center, Mata ki Chowki, Shree Durga Ashtami puja, Vijayadashami puja and Ravan Dahan. The celebration was attended by over 250 devotees.

Atul Patel

Email Subscription for the Events

Please scan the following QR code from your cellphone's photo app to add your email address to the list.



Annual Fundraising Dinner

November 4, 2023

We celebrated our **33rd** Annual Fundraising Dinner. Our first one in the newly renovated Naganna Family Hall. The ambience, lighting & improved audiovisuals of the Hall were appreciated by one & all.

Our artists of the Musical Evening, Swati Kanitkar & her orchestra, poured their hearts out in singing. Besides Hindi, they sang Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Punjabi, Tamil & Telugu songs. Bansari Gujar, as our Master of Ceremony, helped us collect a sizable donation without being intrusive to the artists of 'Musikala' Group.

Temple Board is grateful to our devotees for their magnanimous support. We collected **\$100,000** of donations & pledges. Details of the total under each subcategory will soon be posted on the website. Thank you for such wonderful & heart warming support. Your sense of ownership in our temple is sincerely appreciated by not only the Board but also by our priests and many volunteers.

We assure all of you that these Board Members will diligently work for planning better services, renovations & restoration of the Prayer Hall followed by memorable Kumbhabhishekam celebration, for 2024. We would also like to thank our caterer, Mint Room restaurant of Ellicott City for a sumptuous meal.

With Warm Regards & Seasons Greetings,
Nikhil Sheth

Diwali Cultural Program

November 5, 2023

Diwali cultural program was celebrated with over 135 participants in the events showcasing their talents in singing, dance and various musical instruments. This program was well attended by over 400 attendees. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the music teachers, parents as well as participants for their wonderful performances.

Special thanks to Donika Patel for coordinating the program as well as being Emcee for the program. Our cultural committee will continue to

provide a platform for young performers in coming months.

Look out for our two upcoming events
1. Pongal Cultural Program (Jan 14th 2024)
2. Ugadi Cultural Program (April 14th 2024)

We also have various opportunities to perform at the temple during the temple's upcoming events like Ayyapa Puja, Shivaratri , Krishna Janmastami , Ganesh Chaturthi, Shrinivasa Kalyanam. So please contact us @ info@baltimoretemple.org, if you would like to perform.

For vendor Booth during future events, please contact us @ info@baltimoretemple.org.

Sanjeev Gholap

Goverdhan Puja & Annakut

November 13, 2023

The Goverdhan Puja and Annakut celebration started with Bhajan, Abhishek, Vastra Alankar and Darshan. Devotees brought in a variety of items for Annakut, which was displayed and offered to Sri Krishna/ SriNathji as a mark of gratitude. About 300 devotees attended and enjoyed the celebration, which was concluded with a variety of Annakut items and Mahaprasad prepared by devotees. We would like to thank devotees in helping with organizing and helping with preparation, Annakut display, Deepotsav, front desk, food distribution and cleaning.

Atul Patel

Tulsi Vivah Celebration

November 25, 2023

The Tulsi Vivah celebration started with Gruha Puja on Friday and Vivah ceremony on Saturday. Vivah ceremony was performed by Pundit Padmanabha Joshi and about 70 devotees attended and enjoyed the celebration with vivah sangeet, which was concluded with a home cooked Mahaprasad prepared by Sukeshiben Hirpara and Urvashiben Patel. Shira and burfi were provided by Asha Goel and several devotees provided other sweets and fruits. We would like to thank devotees in helping with mandap preparation, food distribution and cleaning.

Atul Patel

Presidential Message

Namaste,

Greetings from GBT. It is a distinct Pleasure & Privilege to send all of you a Year end Message. Main Highlights of the Year were February Mahashivratri Celebration to April Opening of newly renovated Naganna Family Community Hall to June 25th Anniversary of Pran Pratishtha of many Hindu Deities to July Temple Board Election to June Shrimad Bhagwat Katha.

Under Ravi Adipudi's leadership February Mahashivrathri celebration was attended by 350+ Devotees & about 60 were present during the entire night. The Temple celebrated the opening of the Newly Renovated Community Hall in April 2023. Many Thanks to the Naganna Family. Their Largess has given us a new hall with beautiful decor & greatly improved Audiovisual Facility. The July Board of trustee Election brought in 5 new Board of Trustee members for 4 retiring ones and a previous vacancy. My vivid personal memory is that of sitting at the Temple lobby with only a few other volunteers, waiting for rental delivery trucks to arrive on a Thursday afternoon. That was 25 year ago, just a few days before the Pran Pratishtha: June 1998!!

In the second half of the Year we celebrated Shrimad Bhagwat Katha attended by 100+ Devotees every afternoon to 250+ Devotees on the weekends. Well attended Katha lasting 9 days was very well organized by Atulbhai & a group of dedicated volunteers. Lessons learned have already been applied to subsequent functions. On October 1st we celebrated one year mark for our Kitchen. Delighted to report to you that we are about to file a R-1 application for a Young, dedicated Priest/Cook from Bangalore India. By early 2024 this will be a boost to improve Kitchen & catering Services at the Temple as well as at the devotees home. The Board of Governors complimenting the time & energy Board of Trustees have put in this endeavour has greatly facilitated the entire Process.

From Ganesh Chaturthi to FRD to Govardhan Puja & Annakut we have seen steady increase in Devotree participation at just about all the

Temple sponsored Religious & Cultural Programs. As Office Holders of your Temple we all find it most gratifying. Please continue to exercise your 'Ownership Rights' with the same enthusiasm & vigour in 2024 and beyond. A Better Building Facility alone does not make a 'Temple'. Community participation and your improving presence is what gives us all a Living Breathing Place of Worship, enriching Cultural experiences & a sense of Pride in our Community.

Nutan Varshabhinandan & Heartfelt Thanks from all of us at the Temple Board.

Nikhil Sheth

Community Hall – Facility Rental

Promotional rates are valid through March 31, 2024, if booked by January 31, 2024. Visit the temple website or temple office for additional information or email to info@baltimoretemple.org

YEAR END Donation Appeal

Refer to the attached letter for Year-End donation opportunity. If you would like to contribute, please mail in your donation or visit the temple website at www.baltimoretemple.org or scan the following QR code from your cell phone **photo app**.



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.



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

Please Deliver Immediately
Time Sensitive Material
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Mt. Airy, MD
Permit No. 36

Sunday Bhajan - Kirtan & Mahaprasad

Appeal of Bhajan Singers: The Greater Baltimore Temple would like to invite and encourage talented singers and musicians to actively participate in the bhajans held on all Sunday evenings from 5:00 pm to 6:15 pm, followed by dhun and Aarti at 6:30 pm. Singing bhajans as a group can help to quieten the mind so that the heart can open to the divine, allowing us to taste the blissful reality. It is a participatory spiritual practice in which everyone is encouraged to sing and express their inner joy. Attending Bhajan is also a form of meditation, brings peace tranquility in Individual and family. Please consider joining with your family and children. Children keep this memory in years to come! Groups or individuals interested in singing for a Specific Deity or an assortment of deities can feel free to come up with their own list of bhajans to sing. Families and friends interested in organizing bhajans in memory of their beloved ones can also think of organizing special pujas followed by singing bhajans during this time slot.

Mahaprasad: Sponsor a Sunday's or religious festival's mahaprasad to celebrate a birthday, an anniversary or religious festival with the family, friends & devotees. If you would like to sponsor Mahaprasad. On Sunday, when we do not have any Mahaprasad sponsor, we are encouraging a Preeti Bhojan, where several devotees bring in a various food items and everyone enjoys the Preeti Bhojan. Interested individuals and families can reach out to the Bhajan & Mahaprasad coordinators Gita Maharaja 410-967-1860, Pankaj Grover 410-419-0336, Kanan Shah 443-676-6611 or Pandit Joshiji or Pandit Muraliji by calling temple - 410-861-8387 or email to info@baltimoretemple.org

Publisher: Atul Patel, Please send your suggestions & comments to
info@baltimoretemple.org

