

Greater Baltimore Temple

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

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

SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER 2024



Maha Kumbhabhishekam



October 4 – 6, 2024

INVITATION

Namaste,

With great pleasure, we extend an invitation to you, your family and friends at the Greater Baltimore Hindu-Jain Temple for the Maha Kumbhabhishekam on Friday, October 4, 2024, through Sunday, October 6, 2024. We are happy to inform you that several cultural, religious and spiritual events have been planned to make this a memorable and divine experience for all our devotees. This is the most auspicious opportunity for all of you to invoke, invite and revel in divine grace as a host of Homas and Rituals have been planned as part of the festivities.

We are excited to celebrate this important milestone with you, and your presence would make it even more valuable.

Warm Regards,
Board of Trustees & Board of Governors

Note: Please refer to **the attached flyer** for the schedule and details of the religious and cultural program.

DONATIONS APPEAL

Devotees have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate in religious pujas and other events linked to Kumbhabhishekam during this celebration. We have renovated the prayer hall and its other areas in anticipation of the Maha Kumbhabhishekam celebration. We appeal to you to generously support the Kumbabishekam both financially and in kind. Please mail or or the included QR code or visit the website at <https://baltimoretemple.app.neoncrm.com/forms/42> or email at info@baltimoretemple.org to make your pledge or donation.



Ganesh Idol Making 2023

Monday, September 2nd

10.30am – 1.00pm

For children 6 years to 14 years old, children 10 years and younger must be accompanied by a parent. Eco-friendly material to make the idol and decorate it will be supplied

Donation - \$5 per participant.

Sponsor: \$101

Cafeteria will be open for snack & lunch

Contact information - Ashwini Nagarkar 443-812-1548, Sanjeev Gholap 240-381-6122, Anish Patil 419-450-8596, Temple 410-861-8387.

Ganesh Chaturthi Celebration

Friday, September 6th

6.00pm – 8.00pm



6:00 pm - 6:30 pm - Ganesh Aagman, Atharvashirsha

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm - Abhishek, Archana, Bhajans

7:30 pm - 8:00 pm - Maha Aarti, Miraunuk (Procession) with Dhol-Tasha
Followed by Mahaprasad

Mahaprasad sponsor \$251/ each (Total \$1,500), **Puja Sponsor** \$101, **Abhishek** \$51, **Archana** \$21

Contact: Ashwini Nagarkar 443-812-1548, Sanjeev Gholap 240-381-6122, Atul Patel - 410-978-6472, Rita Ghodasara 410-807-2073, Temple 410-861-8387

Ganesh Chaturthi Cultural Program

Saturday, September 7th

3.00pm – 6.00 pm

Singing, dancing, instrumental performance items accepted, they should relate to Lord Ganesh.

Solo - 3 mins/ each, **Group** - 5 mins/ each

Sponsor: \$101

Contact information - Dhonika Patel 410-

926-5855, Sanjeev Gholap 240-381-6122, Temple 410-861-8387

Atharvashirsh Group

Chanting

Sunday, September 8th

8:30am to 10:00am

100 devotees to participate in chanting Ganapati Atharvashirsha 5 times to complete 501 paths.

Puja Sponsor: \$151

Contact: Rita Ghodasara 410-807-2073, Sanjeev Gholap 240-381-61122

Gauri Trithiya Vrat

Thursday, September 6th

6.00 pm

Puja sponsor: \$21

Devotees fast for five days and worship Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.

Gandhi Jayanti

Sunday, September 29th

3:00pm to 5:00pm



Celebrating the 155th Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.

Speech on the topic “Exploring Swaraj in the Age of AI: A Gandhian Perspective” by Mr. Jeff Jose, Director, Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram followed by prayers.

Light refreshments will be served.

Contact: Kali Mallik: 410-252-4865, Bhupendra Mehta 410-771-0251, Dhaivat Maharaja 410-526-8387

Sharad Navaratri celebrations

Thu, Oct 3rd - Fri, Oct 11th

6.30pm



Daily devi puja & Chanting at 6:30 pm

Shree Mahakali (Durga) puja - Sunday to Tuesday
Shree Mahalakshmi puja – Tuesday
Shree Saraswathi puja - Wednesday
Deepa Pooja - Lalitha Sahasranamam – Thursday
Puja sponsor: \$101, Archana: \$ 31

Mata Ki Chowki

Sunday, October 6th

5.00pm



Celebration starting at 5pm followed by Aarti & Mahaprasad

Please join us with your family and friends to seek blessings of Maa Durga. Singer: Vishwajeet and party.

Program sponsor: \$1,001, Mahaprasad sponsor: \$501, Sponsor: \$251, Donor: Any amount

Contact: Pankaj Grover 410-419-0336, Atul Patel 410-978-6472

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 to discuss with priest or email at info@baltimoretemple.org

Navratri/ Sharad Purnima

Raas Garba

Fri, Oct 4th, Fri Oct 11th & Fri Oct 18th



Navratri Raas Garba - 8:30 pm to 11:30 pm

Friday, October 18th, Sharad Purnima

Raas Garba: 8:30 pm to 11:30 pm

Raas Garba fee: \$10 per person

Shree Durga Ashtami Puja

Thursday, October 10th



Shree Durga Puja: 6:30 pm

Devi Group Chanting 6:15pm to 7:30pm to be followed by Aarti and Mahaprasad

Puja Sponsor: \$ 101

Archana: \$31

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 on GBT – WhatsApp group

Community Hall – Facility Rental

Promotional Rates for Community Hall Rental - Promotional Rates are valid only till December 31, 2024, if booked by October 15, 2024. Visit the temple website or temple office for additional information.

**Maha Navami puja &
Vijayadasami / Dussehra**

Saturday, October 12th

6.30pm – 8.00pm



Chandi Homan: 11:00am

Homan Sponsor: \$101/ couple

Contact: Temple 410-861-8387

Vijayadashami Puja & Aarti: 6:30 pm

Dussehra Utsav & Ravan Dahan: 7:30pm

Temple Cafeteria will be open for Dinner.

We will celebrate Dusshera utsav by burning the effigy of Ravan to symbolize the destruction of evil. Please bring your children and enjoy the event.

Karva Chauth

Sunday, October 20th

5.30pm – 7.30pm



Karva Chauth is observed by married women for ensuring wedded bliss and for wishing long life for their husbands and children. Married women, who observe the Karva Chauth Vrat, acquire saubhagya, progeny and lasting prosperity.

Group Puja starting at 5:30 pm and every half hour until 7:30 pm

Sponsor \$21 per person. Temple cafeteria will be open for dinner.

Diwali Cultural Program

Saturday, October 26th

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Singing, dancing, instrumental performance items accepted, they should relate to Diwali Celebration.

Solo - 3 mins/ each, Group - 5 mins/ each
Sponsor: \$101

To participate, contact: Sanjeev Gholap
240-381-6122, Temple 410-861-8387

Diwali Celebrations



Tuesday, October 29th: Dhanteras (Dhan trayodasi)

Wednesday, October 30th :
Narakachaturdasi (Kali Chaudas)

Thursday, October 31st, Deepavali

Maha Lakshmi Puja at 6:30pm

Group puja: \$51/ couple followed by Aarti & Mahaprasad

Govardhan Puja and Annakut

Friday, November 1st



Please deliver Samagri by 4:00 pm
SriNathji Abhishekam 6:00 pm followed by Bhajans

Aarti & Mahaprasad 7:30 pm

Grand Program Sponsor: \$1001

Mukhya Manorathi: \$151

Saha Manorathi: \$101

Sevak: \$51

For Annakut prasad, feel free to bring in any kind of food items for prasad. However, it is preferred that you contact for information and list of prasad items, Priti Parikh (410-419-3393), Anuradha Patel (410-833-1375), or Rita Patel (410-807-2073), Bhanuben Patel (410-833-1330),

**Navsmaran - Jain New Year's
Day Celebration**

Saturday November 2nd

11:00am - 2:00pm



The Greater Baltimore Hindu Jain Temple will celebrate the Jain New Year. The Jain New Year begins on the day after Shri Mahavirswami's Nirvana in the lunar month of Ashwin on Amavasya Day (New Moon Day).

We will chant Navsmaran, 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).

**Haripravodhini Ekadasi/
Dwadashi/ Tulasi Vivah**

Tuesday, November 12th



Vivah Puja starts at 6 pm followed by Mahaprasad.

Shri Tulsi & Shri Krishna vivah sponsor \$501/ each

Fruits & Flower sponsor \$ 151

Kanyadaan \$101

Mahaprasad sponsor \$251/ each.

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.

**Lord Ayyappa Puja
*Saturday, December 21st***



Lord Ayyappa is the son of Lord Siva and Lord Vishnu (in the form of Mohini). The first day of the Hindu Solar month of Vrushika marks the beginning of Ayyappa Mandala celebration. Puja starts at 11:30 am followed by Mahaprasad.

Ganesh Puja (recitation of Ganapathy adharvaseersham)
Ayyappa Abhishekam (Recitation of Rudram, Chamakam, Purusha Sooktham)
Alankaram/ Bhajan
Ashtothara Archana
Seeveli with thaalappoli
Namaskara stotram, Padi pattu, Mangalam
Mangala Aarti, Prasadam
Devotees are encouraged to bring flowers, fruits, neivedyam
Puja Sponsorship: \$51
Annadanam (prasad) Sponsorship: \$151
Sponsorship for all events for the day: \$151

Please participate in the Puja and get Blessings of Lord Ayyappa. For additional information, contact: Geetha & Ram Ramaratnam 443 255 5946, Nandini and Ram Mouli 443-691-7664 & Janaki Sivaraman 410 736 8720

New Year Day

Sunday, January 1, 2025



Temple will be open on New Year Day.

Vaikunta Ekadashi

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Additional Details will be included in the next newsletter

President's Message

Namaste,

I want to express my gratitude to the priests, volunteers, devotees, board, and committee members for their unwavering support over the last year.

Being our temple's president is a privilege for which I am extremely grateful. We have been able to enhance religious festivals, attendance, and donations thanks to the constant dedication of our priests, committee members, board members, manager, volunteers, donors, and devotees.

Over the course of the previous year, we have focused on revitalizing our temple by promoting volunteerism, religious engagement, improved communication, and the introduction of a program that combines religious celebration with cultural music and dance, all of which have enhanced the devotee experience. We observed numerous festivals, with attendance ranging from 100 to 500 per event, including Bhagwat Katha, Ram Mandir Inauguration, Shivaratri, Ram Navami, Sita-Rama Kalyanam, Mahavir Swamy Bhagwan 25th anniversary, Adi Krithigai celebration for Lord Murugan, Shri Balaji Kalyanam, Shri Krishna Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Navratri, Durga Ashtami, Dussehra, Diwali, Srinathji patotsav & Govardhan puja, Navsmaran, Tulsi Vivah, Lord Ayappa puja, Pongal, Homan, Graduation puja and monthly Jain Bhavna, Hanuman Chalisa and Sri Satyanarayan puja.

In addition, there is a significant increase in community hall rentals that we have seen this year. We are investigating methods to increase rental revenue.

We're also investigating ways to recognize and permanently thank devoted long-term volunteers who have given a significant amount of their time and effort. Our goal is to bring the community together and expand the temple in the future by fostering better communication, openness, and organizational policies that benefit the younger generation.

We initiated the renovations of the prayer hall and other places earlier this year in anticipation of Maha Kumbhabhishekam celebration in October.

New projects:

1. Navagraha Room: We are in the process of converting our current library room into a Navagraha room and expecting to schedule Prathishtha during the spring of 2025.

2 Deity chamber and prayer hall entrance improvement: We are looking into improving the deity chamber, prayer hall lobby and front entrance improvement to add temple architecture.

We need to create new religious and cultural programs such as Kirtana Sandhaya, musical night, youth get-together, Senior group etc. We are requesting suggestions/ ideas from the temple members. Also, let us know if you are interested in volunteering for our temple.

Atul Patel, President

25th Anniversary of Mahavir Swami Bhagvan's Pran Prathistha

Jai Jinendra,

On May 11th our Temple celebrated the 25th Anniversary of Mahavir Swami Bhagvan's Pran Prathistha. On May 9th 1999 in the graceful presence & guidance of Muni Shri Chtrabhanuji Pran Prathistha was conducted with joy & jubilation. On the 25th anniversary celebration, we remembered many of our founding supporters who nurtured the idea of a common place of worship for Hindus & Jains of the Greater Baltimore Area. Late Shri Rajanibhai Doshi, Jawaharbhair Mehta, Sanatbhair Mehta, Manubhai Shah, Bhupendrabhai Shah, Kanubhai Shah and many others tirelessly devoted their time in supporting & guiding us. Annasaheb Anuje our former Board President & current Board of Governor member & Bhupendra Mehta a former Board of trustee have served the temple continuously for 30+ years. Event was graced by the leaders & Devotees of Washington Jain Derasar.

The program started with an Invocation by Panditji and a few introductory remarks. Smt. Savita Jain composed & directed a 'Nritya Natika' enacting Tirthankar Mahavir Swami's 'Panchkalaynak' (Five most auspicious events of his life).. Two of Local 'Nritya Shala' students performed a short segment of an authentic Bharatanatyam piece. Guru Janaki Sivraman specially choreographed this dance for the anniversary celebration. The entire cultural program was a testament to Bandwidth & depth of local talent. Dhaivat Maharaja, our resident percussionist once again showed his mastery of Tabla. He accompanied artists for singing & chanting Jain Stavans. The audience of 200+ remained spell bound & truly appreciated Savitaji, Janakiji & many other members of local Jain Sangh who worked hard to put together such a rich cultural experience for all of us. Our own

Saurabh Dalal gave a short lecture on basic tenets of Jainism. Once again an enlightening experience for one and all.

On behalf of GBT Board of Governors & Board of Directors we thank Baltimore Jain Sangh for collecting a large sum of \$ 26,000 during this festive celebration. We Thank Sunila & Deepak Merchant for sponsoring Swami Vatsalya Bhojan. We are equally Thankful to Washington Jain Sangh for Celebrating the anniversary with us & their generous contribution of 2500\$. Special thanks to our beloved leaders Kokilaben & Bhupendrabhai Mehta who with the support of small but strong Sangh have steadfastly served the Temple as well as Baltimore Jain Community for more than 25 years.

May we all continue to live in such wonderful harmony.

Thank You All.

Nikhil Sheth & Sadhana Shavadia

Recurring Monthly Events

- **Hanuman Chalisa** – 1st Saturday of the month - Sept 7th, Oct 5th, Nov 2nd, Dec 7th
- **Sri Lalitha Sahasranama Archana** - 1st Friday of the month – Sept 1st, Oct 6th, Nov 3rd, Dec 1st
- **Murugan Abhishekam Krittika Nakshatram** – Sept 16th, Oct 2nd, Oct 30th, Nov 26th, Dec 23rd
- **Jain Bhavana** – Sept 15th(Yatra), Oct 20th, Nov 17th, Dec 15th
- **Sri Satyanarayana Puja** - Purnima – Sept 17th, Oct 16th, Nov 15th, Dec 14th
- **Sri Ganesh Abhishekam - Sankasthi Chaturthi** – Sept 3rd, Oct 2nd, Oct 31st, Nov 30th, Dec 30th

Balvihar Classes - 2024-25

In-person Bal Vihar classes will resume on 8th September 2024. The classes start at 10:00 am every alternate Sunday at the temple. The most recognizable attribute of this program success is the parents, who devote their time & effort in nurturing our children with so many facets of volunteering. Please share the information with your family and friends to register for Bal Vihar Program at our temple. Visit the temple website for information about the program and for enrollment form. For questions, please reach out to the Bal Vihar Coordinators (Manu Agrawal and Pravin Gautam) at gbtbalvihar@baltimoretemple.org.

Outreach and Interfaith Committee Spring -Fall Activities 2024

The committee has been busy with Outreach/Interfaith work and community educational activities through the Docent and speaker services.

In April GBT hosted the **Annual Interfaith Dialogue at GBT** which was well attended. Six speakers from different religions spoke on the relevance of nonviolence in the 21st century.

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** at the Westminster United Methodist Church in downtown Westminster in Carroll County. The vegetarian meal was enjoyed by the guests.

In July -participated in the **Back to School Project** providing school supplies for needy children in Carroll County. 50 backpacks filled the essential school supplies were handed over to the members of Shepard's Staff organization for distribution.

Projects for the rest of 2024

Alzheimer's Walkathon- Saturday October 26
Annual Diwali Food and Clothing Drive -Oct /Nov
Soup kitchen service - August and November

All these Outreach and Interfaith activities are possible only with the continued support of GBT Board of Trustees and the support of fellow devotees.

PRIEST SERVICES

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Donation

If you would like to contribute, please mail your donation or visit the temple website at www.baltimoretemple.org or scan the following QR code from your cell phone **photo app**.



The Greater Baltimore Temple
2909 Bloom Road
PO Box 690
Finksburg, MD 21048

Please Deliver Immediately
Time Sensitive Material
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Permit Number 2036

Sunday Bhajan - Kirtan & Mahaprasad

Appeal to Bhajan Singers: The Greater Baltimore Temple invites and encourages talented singers and musicians to actively participate in the bhajans held every Sunday evening 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. Interested individuals and families can reach out to the Bhajan coordinators Pundit Joshiji or Pundit Muraliji by calling temple - 410-861-8387

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 – Please contact the following representatives.

Pankaj Grover 410-419-0336

Publisher: Greater Baltimore Temple, Contact: Atul Patel at 410-978-6472 or Sachin Hebbbar at 410-336-3615
Please send your suggestions & comments to info@baltimoretemple.org