

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. 2

May to Aug 2025

Srinathji Patotsav **Sunday, May 4th 2025**



4:30 PM to 6:30 PM – Bhajan and Darshan
6:30 PM – Aarti followed by Mahaprasad
Please deliver samagri before 4:00 PM

Sponsorship
Grand Sponsor: \$501
Mukhya Manorathi: \$151
Sevak Manorathi: \$101
Manorathi: \$51
Contact: Temple 410-861-8387

Sunderkand Path **Tuesday, May 13th 2025** **Guruj Shri Ashwinkumar Pathak**



Sundarkand is the fifth chapter of the Hindu holy book called 'Ramayan'

6:00 PM onwards
Mahaprasad at 6:30 PM
Sunderkand Path starting at 7:30 PM

Sponsorship
Grand Sponsor: \$501
Event Sponsor: \$251
General Sponsorship: \$51

Contact: Rita Ghodasara 410-807-2073;
Jayesh Jani 410-215-2427; Temple 410-261-8387

PUBLIC TALK & MEDITATION

Karmon Ka Vidhaan

"Laws of Karma"

With Gaurav Singh
of Science of Spirituality
Sunday, May 18th 2025

11:30AM Onwards

Meditation sittings will be part of the talk
followed by Aarti & Mahaprasad

24th Annual Graduation Puja **Saturday May 31st 2025**

Celebration starts at 11:00AM



All 2025 High School, College & Postgraduates are invited to celebrate their graduation with their family & friends at the Greater Baltimore Temple. There is no charge to attend the graduation puja. Please visit the temple website to register. Temple Cafeteria will be open for the Lunch.

Sunday's Langar / Mahaprasad

As part of Greater Baltimore Hindu and Jain Temple's continued commitment of service towards our community, we have started our Mahaprasadam/ Langar service. Please join us with your family and friends for prayer & aarti at 11:30am, followed by Aarti and then Mahaprasadam/ Langar in the temple cafeteria. We also serve Mahaprasad during major religious celebration.

Furthermore, to sustain our efforts and continue serving our community, **we are seeking sponsors to support us in providing food and resources.** 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.

Please feel free to contact Pankaj Grover at 410-419-0336 or email at infor@baltimoretemple.org

GBT 27th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday June 15th 2025



10:00 am Sarva Deva Pooja
11:00 Sarva Deva Homam & Mahamrityunjaya Homam
Followed by aarti & Mahaprasad
Cultural Program TBD

We will celebrate the 27th Anniversary of the Pranapratishta. Please join us with your family and friends.

Grand Sponsor: \$ 1,001
Mahaprasad sponsor: \$ 501
Puja & Havan sponsor: \$ 151
Havan Sponsor : \$ 101
Donor: Any amount

GBT Bollywood Karaoke

Spectacular

Saturday, June 28th 2025

Starting @ 5:30 PM



Step into the limelight and unleash your inner Bollywood superstar! Whether you're serenading solo or dazzling in a duet, GBT's first-ever *Bollywood

Karaoke Spectacular Event* promises a thrilling, music-filled afternoon of glam and groove.

- **Solo spotlight*: \$10 entry
- **Duet magic*: \$15 entry

- Please Keep your performance to 3-5 minutes of pure brilliance. From soulful melodies to dance-floor anthems, this is your chance to shine, share, and sway to the rhythm of Bollywood. Don't miss the opportunity to make memories and magic with every note.

Register: Scan the following QR code or email at



info@baltimoretemple.org

Temple cafeteria will be open for snack & dinner.
Contact: Dhaivat Maharaja: 443-650-8287, Smt. Gitaben Maharaja: 410-526-8387

Guru Purnima

Thursday, July 10th 2025



6:00 pm Guru Purnima Puja
7:00 pm Bhajan by Sai Bhajan Group

Sponsorship

Puja Sponsor: \$ 51
Archana: \$ 21

Contact: Temple 410-861-8387

Grand Murugan Krithigai

Abhishekam

Sunday, July 20th 2025



10:30AM—Abhishekam and Alankaram
11:30 AM—Devotional singing & Cultural Program
12:30 PM—Archana, Aarti & Mahaprasad

Sponsorship

Grand Sponsor: \$501
Maha Prasad Sponsor: \$251
Sponsor: \$151
Abhishekam & Archana: \$51

Contact: Temple 410-861-8387

Raksha Bandhan Celebration

Friday, August 8th, 2025



Archana will be performed during temple hours
Sisters & Brothers are invited to meet at the temple to celebrate Raksha Bandhan.

Sponsorship

Archana: \$21

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

Shiva Maha Purana Katha**Saturday, August 9th 2025****To****Sunday, August 17th 2025****By Acharya Padmanabha Joshi (Pathik)**

Saturday & Sunday, 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm
 Monday to Friday, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm
 Daily Mahaprasad will be served after Aarti

Sponsorship

(Multiple sponsors are encouraged)
 Grand Sponsorship: \$ 1,001
 Daily Mahaprasad Sponsor: \$ 501
 One day sponsor: \$ 151
 Sponsor: 101
 Donor: Any amount

For sponsorship, please contact temple at 410-861-8387 or email at info@baltimoretemple.org

Shri Krishna Janmashtami**Saturday, August 16th 2025**

Temple will be open 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM
 & 5:00 PM to 12:30 AM

10:30 AM – Shri Radha-Krishna & SriNathaji Abhishek

5:30 PM – Shiva Purana Katha (see previous program)

8:00 PM – Pravachan, Bhajans & Kirtans

10:00 PM - Raas Garba

12:00 mid-night Sri Krishna Janmotsavam

Mahaprasad will be served

Sponsorship

Mukhya Manorathi \$1,001

(Will have an honor to be a Vasudeva
 to carry Bal-Krishna)

Mahaprasad Sponsor: \$251 (Total \$2,500)

Puja sponsor: \$151,

Abhishek \$31 & Archana \$21

Contact: Temple 410-861-8387**Sri Srinivasa (Balaji) Kalyanam****Grand Celebration****Saturday, August 23rd 2025**

9:30 AM – Sri Venkateswara Abhishekam,
 Archana & Aarti

10:15 AM – Swastivachanam, Vishvalseva pooja, Sri
 Vasudeva Punyahavachranam, Kalyanotsavam, Cultural
 Program, Aarti, Shathumorey & Mahaprasad

Sponsorship

Grand Sponsor: \$1,001

Maha Prasad Sponsor: \$251 (Total \$1,001)

Sponsor: \$101

Abhishekam & Archana: \$51

Contact: Temple 410-861-8387**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.

**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,
 Pandit Muraliji at 443-762-6128, Pandit Prashanthji 410-
 907-1209 to discuss.

**Vaikuntha Ekadashi Celebration**

Ganesh Chaturthi Celebration

Tuesday, August 26th 2025

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, Miravruk (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 Idol Making 2025

Sunday, August 24th 2025

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 Cultural Program

Saturday, September 6th 2025

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

Visit temple website to register or scan the following QR code from your cellphone photo app.



Atharwashirsha Group Chanting

Saturday, September 6th 2025

Starting at 11:00pm

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

Chanting Sponsor: \$11

Archana: \$21

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

Navagraha Pranaprathistha

Mahotsav (Celebration)

September or October 2025 (Dates TBD)



We are delighted to celebrate this significant milestone with our temple devotees by organizing Navagraha Pranaprathistha for the upcoming late summer/fall season. If you would like to contribute to the Silver Kavach for the Navagraha Deities, please contact Atul Patel at 410-978-6472 or Rita Ghodasara at 410-807-2072 or email at info@baltimoretemple.org for the donation/ pledge. While donations of \$5,000 or more will be honored on a Navagraha deity donor's plaque, any amount is welcome.

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sunday, June 15th 2025

1.30 pm

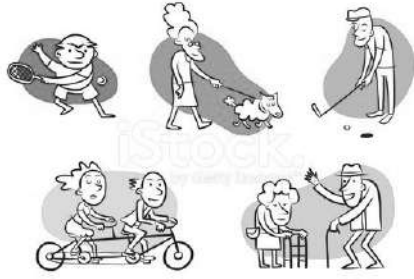
The Annual Meeting of the voting membership of the Greater Baltimore Temple and Elections to the Board of trustees will be held on Sunday, June 15, 2025 at

Greater Baltimore Temple

2909 Bloom Road, Finksburg. MD 21048

Please visit the temple website for additional information or email at infor@baltimoretemple.org

Senior Citizen Program



12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Sunday May 11th, June 6th, July 6th and August 3rd

Details regarding the event will be released on the temple website. We may organize a field trip to a temple(s) or a place of interest in neighboring state in July or August depending on interest.

If interested please text Sachin Hebbar at 410-336-3615, Atul Patel at 410-978-6472 or email at info@baltimoretemple.org.

RECURRING MONTHLY EVENTS

Hanuman Chalisa – 1st Saturday of the month
(TIMINGS) – May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th, August 2nd

Sri Lalitha Sahasranama Archana - 1st Friday of the month – May 2nd, June 6th, July 4th and August 1st

Murugan Abhishekam Kritika Nakshatram – May 26th, June 23rd, July 20th and August 16th

Jain Bhavana – Sunday, May 11th, Sunday June 15th, Sunday July 20th, Sunday August 10

Sri Satyanarayana Puja - May 11th, June 10th, July 10th and August 8th

Sri Ganesh Abhishekam - Sankashti Chaturthi – May 15th, June 14th, July 14th and August 12th

Community Hall Facility Rental

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

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

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

2025 Advertising sponsorship rates:

¼ page \$250, ½ page \$350 & Full page \$500

President's Message

Namaskar,

As spring arrived, we celebrated the Bharteeya New Year and Holi, a festival of color. I wish that the New Year brings happiness and prosperity to the members of our Hindu and Jain communities.

Vaikuntha Ekadashi, Pongal, Makar Sankranti, Ram Mandir Anniversary, Vasant Panchami, Maha Shivratri, Holi, Ugadi, Sri Rama Navami, Hanuman Jayati, Sita-Rama Kalyanam, and Mahavir Janma Kalyanak were among the holidays we celebrated throughout the last four months. Devotees of all ages attended these sessions in large numbers.

Additionally, over 100 individuals participated in the Pongal/Makar Sankranti and Ugadi/Holidei/Vaishakhi cultural programs, exhibiting their skills in singing, dancing, and playing a variety of musical instruments. Additionally, children and their parents enjoyed our Bal-Vihar's celebration of Holi, a festival of color.

This year, we started a Sunday Langar/Mahaprasad program under Pankaj Grover's leadership, and the community has responded favorably in terms of sponsorship.

We have started a Senior program under Sachin Hebbar's leadership. Kindly share your thoughts on the interesting items.

The leaders of tomorrow will be our community's youth. Share your thoughts about the initiatives and programs that will motivate them to take part in our temple events.

Ongoing/ Future Projects:

Navagraha Pranaprathistha. (Expected date: September/October 2025)

Landscaping Improvement.

Improve main deity chamber.

Improve temple lobby and entrance to add temple architecture.

Addition to the prayer hall.

Infrastructure Projects: (Long Term Maintenance/ replacement)

Roofing replacement.

HVAC Replacement.

Driveway/ Parking pavement.

I would like to ask you to become a vital component of our temple by volunteering your time and providing sponsorship for a range of initiatives across the temple, including the kitchen, outreach, religious and cultural events, Senior Citizen program and the Balvihar.

Thanks.

Atul Patel, President

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 and tranquility to the individuals and their family. Please consider joining with your family and children. Children will 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. On Sunday, when we do not have any Mahaprasad sponsor, we are encouraging a Preeti Bhojan, where several devotees bring in 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 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
- ◇ Enjoy & Learn festivals, customs and tradition
- ◇ Foundation of Hindu religion and spiritual beliefs
- ◇ 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.

Our curriculum runs academic calendar, same as Maryland State School Board. Bal Vihar classes start at 10 AM and end at 12:30 PM. Our course curriculum is divided based on age group.


- ◆ 4 – 6 Kindergarten
- ◆ 7—10 Elementary
- ◆ 10—14 Middle

Fill out the form to register for Bal Vihar Program using the QR Code below.



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FUNERAL HOME

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410-239-8163

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/ Silver Kavacham (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 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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