

Greater Baltimore Temple Newsletter



Jan to Apr 2026

VOL 37, ISSUE 1



Publisher - Atul Patel

President's Message

Namaste,

As we come to the close of this blessed year, we offer our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your unwavering support, devotion, and participation in the life of our temple. Through your prayers, service, and generosity, our temple has continued to thrive as a place of spiritual growth, cultural celebration, and community harmony. This year has been filled with many sacred moments—Hindu & Jain festivals celebrated with joy, rituals performed with devotion, and community service carried out with love. Together, we have strengthened the values of dharma, compassion, and unity that lie at the heart of our tradition.

With your support, we have accomplished our Navagraha Prāṇa Pratiṣṭhā, the HVAC replacement and undergoing roofing projects at our beloved temple. The Navagraha Prāṇa Pratiṣṭhā marks a spiritually significant milestone for our community. Through the combined dedication of our priests, volunteers, donors, and devotees, we have established sacred energies that will guide and bless generations to come. May the divine grace of the Navagrahas bring harmony, health, and prosperity to every home.

In parallel, the completion of the HVAC and roofing upgrades ensures that our temple remains a safe, comfortable, and welcoming space for all. These essential improvements were possible only through your unwavering support—both spiritual and material. Your contributions reflect a shared commitment to sustaining our temple as a vibrant center of culture, devotion, and service.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all volunteers, donors, priests, and community members who have contributed their time, skills, and resources. Your dedication ensures that our temple remains a guiding light for future generations.

As we welcome the New Year, may Bhagavan's blessings fill your homes with peace, prosperity, good health, and spiritual fulfillment. Let us continue to walk together on the path of devotion and service, supporting one another as one community. With gratitude and warm wishes for a blessed New Year,

Atul Patel, President

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Greater Baltimore Hindu-Jain Temple

2909 Bloom Road, P.O Box 690

Finksburg, MD21018

Phone: 410-861-8387

Membership Registration Form

Names:	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
Gotram: Archana date:(M/D) Deity: Nakshatram:	(Please note that we will use this information while performing free Archana/puja on your behalf)			
Address:	Street Address:			
	City:			
	Zip Code:		State:	
Contact Information:	Phone Number1: Phone Number2:		Email Address:	
Membership Categories	<p>Please check the applicable boxes:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Voting Member / Gold Member: \$ 10,001 or above Member who contributes \$10001 or more by April 30th of GBT board election year gets two (2) votes for family and voting rights for life plus eligibility to serve on GBT board.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member: \$10,000 or less Member who pays \$ 121 annual donation by December 31st, for two (2) consecutive years prior to GBT election year or payment of annual membership fee of \$121 by December 31st of the year prior to the election year and payment of annual membership fee of \$121 by April 30th of the election year gets voting rights and eligibility to serve on the GBT board.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Silver Member; \$ 5001 or more Member who contributes \$ 5001 or more by April 30th of the GBT election year. But to be eligible to vote and serve on the board, silver member must comply with the requirements listed under sustaining member.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Annual Member (Jan-Dec): \$ 121 <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal Member who pays annual membership fee of \$121 in a calendar year from January 1st to December 31st.</p>			
Member Benefits	<p>Member Recognition: Names of all Permanent voting members/ Gold members and Silver members will be displayed in the designated area of the prayer hall lobby.</p> <p>Benefits common to all the GBT Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discounts for GBT community hall rentals and at home pujas by GBT temple priests 2. Discounted membership for Balvihar students. 3. One free Archana/ Puja on your or your family member's name of the choice of your deity, on the day of your preference (Birthday, wedding day etc., At least two weeks prior notice is required 4. Puja on your name on one of the major festivals of your choice. 			
Membership Donation	<p>Any monetary donation equal to or greater than the selected membership donation for which you do not receive any services or goods in return also qualifies for these benefits. GBT accepts payments by cash, check Credit Card, Pay pal or stocks.</p>			
Payment Method	<p>You can fill this form and mail it with check (or) You can go to the website, fill the online form and pay through Paypal, credit/debit card (or) You can call temple or come in-person to pay</p>			
	<p>Please Note: GBT membership is <u>not</u> required to visit the temple and avail all the services. There is no discrimination between members and non-members to avail any services at the temple.</p>			
	<p>I/We are happy to contribute the amount selected above to sustain GBT to provide consistent and quality services to our community. I give permission to GBT to send only the information regarding temple events to my cell phone and to my E – mail.</p>			
Signature	Name:	Date:	Signature:	



(Scan the QR code)

Upcoming Events



New Year's Day

Thursday, January 1, 2026

Archana will be performed all day, (except during bhajan program).

3.30pm Ganesh Abhishekam
4:30PM Bhajan - Kirtan by Ajay Bhide & group followed by Aarti and Mahaprasad.

Sponsorship:
Mahaprasad \$251(2)
Group Abhishekam \$31
Individual Abhishekam \$51



Vasant Panchami / Saraswati Puja

Saturday January 24, 2026
4:00PM

4:00 pm - Shri Saraswati Puja
5:00 pm - Bhajan, Aarti & Prasad
Group puja with children. Sri Saraswati photo with puja thali will be provided.

Sponsorships:
Grand Sponsor: \$501;
Mahaprasad Sponsor: \$251 each(2)
Puja Sponsor: Family \$51; Individual \$11



Holi Celebration / Festival of Colors

Sunday March 1, 2026
6.00PM to 8:00PM

6:30 pm – Aarti
7:00 pm – Holika Dahan
Temple will provide Puja thali with coconut, colors and Dhani will be provided for \$11. Temple cafeteria will be open for dinner.

Puja Sponsor: \$101
Archana: \$21



Pongal / Makar Sankranti Cultural Program

Saturday, January 17, 2026
11:00AM Cultural Program

Singing, Dancing and Instrumental Performances related to Pongal celebration. (Fee: \$10 per performer & \$101 for Sponsor). Contact: Bhavesh 410-409-3686, and Donika 410-926-5855



REGISTRATION



SPONSORSHIP



Mahashivratri

Sunday February 15, 2026
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
3:00pm - MusicProgram
8:00pm - Cultural Program

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



Ugadi / Gudi Padva

Thursday March 19, 2026

5:30 pm – Ugadi/ Gudi Padwa Celebration followed by Aarti & Mahaprasad
Sponsorship
Puja: \$51; **Archana:** \$21

Upcoming Events



Ram Navmi

Thursday, March 26, 2026
5.00PM to 8.00PM

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

Grand Sponsor: \$1,001

Mahaprasad Sponsor: \$251/ each
Total \$1,001

Puja sponsor \$101

Sponsors will have an opportunity
to participate in a Puja and Aarti

Abhishek \$51; Archana \$31



Hanuman Jayanti

Saturday April 4, 2026

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



Mahavir Janma Kalyanak

Tuesday, March 31, 2026
11:00AM to 1:00PM

24th Jain tirthankar Mahavir
Swami was born on Chaitra Sudi
Teras. Jain Sangh will celebrate
Mahavir JanmKalyanak followed
by Arati. Mangal Divo and
Swamivatsalya Bhojan.

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

Bal Vihar Corner

The 2025–2026 Balvihar session has begun with great enthusiasm, active participation, and a strong sense of community. This year's focus was mainly on familiarity with Hindu religion and its values. All Students along with family members participated in Lord Ganesha and Goddess Saraswati puja to start the program on an auspicious note. The Balvihar leadership team has already planned various events to ensure overall development of students, reflecting growing interest from families in nurturing cultural values and spiritual learning among children. The BalVihar is run smoothly by a four parent volunteer team, who tirelessly ensure that all execution and teaching is done in the best interest of the students. As this is a fully volunteer run initiative, most of the parents/volunteers support the teaching and mentoring of the young minds. The spring semester will restart in January 2026 culminating into an annual day celebration in May – June 2026.

During the Fall semester, besides the classroom teaching, Balvihar successfully organized the following meaningful cultural events including Gandhi Jayanti, where students learned about Mahatma Gandhi's life, values, and message of peace, and a vibrant Diwali Celebration that brought families together to celebrate Indian culture through prayers, performances, and joy. The Balvihar classes held every other Sunday continue to focus on value-based learning, encouraging children to understand, practice, and showcase one value at a time through discussions and activities. In addition, students are learning and chanting five shlokas, helping build spiritual discipline, confidence, and connection to our rich heritage. Together, these efforts are shaping a joyful and enriching Balvihar journey for children and families alike. Balvihar provides an opportunity to students/parents to learn Yoga as well as various knowledge sharing sessions organized in temple. Balvihar families greatly appreciate the temple's kitchen program, which serves Maha-prasad to all Balvihar families after the classes.

Glimpses from Navagraha Pranaprathishapana Celebrations



On behalf of the temple board members, we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who made the Navagraha Pranaprathishtha and the accompanying cultural program a grand and spiritually uplifting success. Our priests dedicated efforts, precise rituals, and unwavering commitment brought divine energy and sanctity to the Navagraha Pranaprathishtha. This celebration would not have been possible without their spiritual leadership, and we are truly thankful for their presence and guidance. Critical support, both financial and moral, made it possible to organize the event. Their faith in the cause and contributions are deeply appreciated. It is because of their kindness that we were able to make Navagraha Prathishtha into reality. Tireless and selfless service, behind-the-scenes work, and cheerful spirit of our volunteers were the lifeblood of this event. From logistics to hospitality, from decor to devotees management – their efforts ensured everything ran smoothly. Our volunteers truly embodied the spirit of seva. We also thank cultural performers, teachers and coordinators for adding joy, vibrancy, and hindu tradition to our celebration. Their talents brought our community together and made the occasion even more memorable. This event was not just a milestone for our temple, but a beautiful example of community unity, devotion, and service. May the blessings of the Navgrahas guide and protect us all.

Sunday Bhajan Sandhya

Every Sunday 5:00PM followed by Arti and Mahaprasad

Singing bhajans as a group can help to quieten the mind so that the heart can open to the divine, . 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. 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 coordinator Pandit Joshiji by calling temple - 410-861-8387

For Mahaprasad Sponsorship, contact Pandit Prashanthji 410-907-1209

Recurring Events

Sri Venkateshwara Abhishekam

10:30AM – Every Saturday

Sri Shiva Abhishekam

6:00PM - Every Monday

Murugan Abhishekam

6:00PM - Jan 27th ,Feb 23rd , Mar 23rd ,Apr 19th

Navagraha Abhishekam

11:00AM - Jan 4th ,Feb 1st ,Mar 1st ,Apr 5th

Sri Satyanarayana Puja -

6:00PM - Jan 2nd , Feb 1st ,Mar 2nd ,Apr 1st

Sri Ganesh Abhishekam -

6:00PM - Jan 6th ,Feb 4th ,Mar 6th ,Apr 5th

Sri Lalitha Sahasranama Archana -

6:00PM – Jan 2nd , Feb 6th , Mar 6th , Apr 3rd

Hanuman Chalisa –

3:00PM– Jan 3rd , Feb 7th , Mar 7th , Apr 4th

Jain Bhavana

11:30AM – Jan 17th , Feb 21st , Mar 31st , Apr 18th

Senior Citizens Program

10:00AM – Jan 10th , Feb 7th , Mar 7th , Apr 4th

Weekly Geeta Discourse and Discussion

4:15PM - Every Sunday

Community Hall - Facility Rental

Community hall is available for private functions. Visit the temple website or stop by temple office and temple manager Magan Sureja will provide additional information.

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

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.

DONATE TO THE TEMPLE



Zelle

info@baltimoretemple.org



Outreach and Interfaith Activities Aug- Dec 2025.

The GBT Outreach and Interfaith Committee continued its busy work throughout the latter half of 2025.

July/ August. 50 backpacks filled with several school supplies needed for the students were donated to the underprivileged children in Carroll County through the **Shepherd's Staff** organization in downtown Westminster. GBT has been participating in this very meaningful project for the past few years. Members Kakali Sarkar and Ankur Patel spearheaded the project for GBT.

On **September 21** – Eleven members from our congregation joined Team GBT and participated in the **Alzheimer's Walkathon** at Centennial Park in Howard County to raise awareness of this devastating illness. Team GBT raised over \$2000 for Alzheimer's disease research and support. Ram Sankar was GBT's liaison for the event.

In **September** Members Kali Mallik, Geetha Raja and Vimala Naganna attended the groundbreaking ceremony for Shepard's Staff's new building in Westminster.

In **October** – Members Indrani Chakrabarti and Kali Mallik attended the Annual Dinner sponsored by the Interfaith Alliance for Racial Justice of Carroll County. It was well attended by several faith-based groups in Carroll County. GBT is a member of the Alliance.

In October- Members Kunal Gangopadhyay and Ram Sanka were invited guests in an online study group of First and Franklin Presbyterian Church in downtown Baltimore. The members were studying Hinduism. Kunal and Ram gave a power point presentation on Hinduism which was much appreciated by the group. The Church members were invited to visit our temple.

October/November. The Annual Diwali Food and Clothing Drive.

- GBT donated thirteen boxes of food and fourteen boxes of clothing for distribution to the needy in Carroll County and Baltimore County. The committee thanks each and everyone who opened their hearts to help those in need during Diwali.

On **October 31**- Six members participated in the last soup kitchen service for 2025 in downtown Westminster. Member Geetha Kumar planned and led the cooking of the nutritious hot meal.

As the year 2025 ends the committee thanks the GBT community for the support and the generosity shown for their fellow human beings who are less fortunate. It gives us continued enthusiasm and vigor to carry on the outreach work on behalf of our temple.

Geetha Raja

(on behalf of the GBT Outreach and Interfaith Committee)

Cultural Program Roundup

The past few months at the temple have seen a range of cultural events, aimed at celebrating momentous occasions and fostering a spirit of seva. In August, we observed Ganesh Chaturthi, which was marked by Ganesh puja, bhajans, and offerings. In September, the new year of the Bal Vihar program, and the Srimad Bhagavad Gita study group began, encouraging discourse and deeper understanding of our history, and of sacred texts. The temple also held events to celebrate the festival of Navratri, with many vibrant evenings of raas garba that were filled with music, dancing, and joy. Later events included Mata ki Chowki and Kanya Puja, enriching the atmosphere of devotion. In October, the temple was blessed with the opportunity to hold Navagraha Pranpratishtha (October 3-5), inaugurating idols of the nine celestial bodies. The celebrations included pujas and devotional performances. Furthermore, on October 20, a grand Diwali celebration was held, which included Mahalakshmi Puja, Aarti, and Mahaprasad, followed by Annakut the next day. In November, devotees gathered for Tulsi Vivah, celebrating the divine union of Lord Vishnu and Devi Tulsi. Between these events, recurring opportunities for bhajans and daily temple activities flourished.

In addition to these celebrations, the temple presented many occasions for seva. The temple hosted initiatives such as the annual Diwali Food and Clothing drive, a school supply drive on Gandhi Jayanti, senior citizen programs on financial planning and fraud prevention, a walkathon to end Alzheimer's, and a health fair offering free health screenings, wellness resources, and health education. In early September, the temple established its first vegetable garden, supporting a youth project. The temple also held its annual fundraising dinner and musical evening, garnering support for temple activities and initiatives for the coming year. We thank all devotees and volunteers for their continued support of temple programs.

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