

Greater Baltimore Temple Newsletter



Sept to Dec 2026

VOL 37, ISSUE 3



President's Message

Publisher - Atul Patel

Namaste,

Our temple is more than a place of worship—it is a vibrant community built on faith, culture, and selfless service. I warmly invite each of you and your family to actively participate in our religious celebrations, cultural programs, Balvihar, kitchen seva, and the many volunteer opportunities that keep our temple thriving.

Every prayer offered, every hour of service, and every helping hand strengthens our community and preserves our rich Hindu-Jain traditions for future generations. Whether you can contribute your time, talents, or resources, your participation makes a meaningful difference.

Together, let us create a welcoming, spiritually enriching, and culturally vibrant temple for everyone. I look forward to seeing you and your family at our upcoming events and serving alongside you.

With warm regards,

Atul Patel, President

Contents

- 1 Presidents Message
- 2 Upcoming Events
- 6 Recurring Events
- 7 Event Updates

Shravan Somvaar

Aug 17, 24, 31, and Sept 7, 2026

6:30 PM Abhishek & Puja

Every Monday, Shivling is decorated with special Shringar

SPONSORSHIP:

\$51 - Sponsor per Somvar

\$251 - Sponsor for all 4 somvar

Sur Sadhaya and Evening of Gujarati Melodies by Shri Vinod Patel

Saturday, August 29th

Dinner at 6 pm, Program at 7 pm

Please visit the temple website for ticket purchase. Also posted in the WhatsApp group & email.

SPONSORSHIP: \$500 & \$125

General admission \$25 per person

Upcoming Events



Krishna Janmasthami

Friday September 4, 2026

5:30PM Shrinathji Abhishek
7:30 PM Cultural Program & Bhajans (Several artists)
9:30 PM Dances
10:50 PM Pravanchan & Raas Garba
12:00 AM Janmotasvam / Aarti
Maha Prasad will be served

SPONSORSHIP:

\$501 - Mukhya Manorathi
\$251 - Mahaprasad Sponsor
\$151 - Puja Sponsor
\$51 - Abhishek
\$21 - Archana



Ganesh Chaturthi Cultural Program

Saturday September 26, 2026
3:00PM

Singing, dancing, instrumental performance items related to gods or goddesses accepted. Classical, semi-classical or Bollywood. Solo - 3 mins, Group - 5 mins. **Participation fee \$10**

Contact information:

Donika Patel: 410-926-5855
Sanjeev Gholap: 240-381-6122
Temple: 410-861-8387
Submission Deadline: 10 PM on September 5th, 2026



Gandhi Jayanti Festival

Sunday September 27th
10:00 AM

Please join us to celebrate 157th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.

This year's program will be celebrated with our Balvihar Children's Group

Program details will be provided in the event flyer.



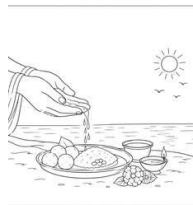
Ganesh Chaturthi Celebrations

Sunday, September 13, 2026

3:30PM - Ganesh Agaman, Pratishapana & Abhishek
4:30PM - Atharvashirsha
5:00PM - Cultural Program, Aarti and Miravnuk.
7:30PM - Mahaprasad

Sponsorship

\$501 - Maha Yajman
\$251 - Mahaprasad Sponsor
\$101 - Puja Sponsor
\$51 - Abhishekam
\$21 - Archana



Sharaddha Paksha

Sat Sept 26th - Fri Oct 9th
Temple will be open all night

Temple is offering the following Vidhis and Archana at the Temple. Please stop by during temple hours for Archana. Call temple to arrange for Vidhi.

Moksha Archana for Forefathers. \$31 Pitru / Pitru Tarpanam Vidhi (Hiranya Shraddham).....\$ 101 Sapinda / Parvana Shraddha Vidhi. \$ 201



Childrens Navratri Raas Garba

Sunday October 4th 2026
3:00PM - 7:30PM

Join us for a fun-filled evening of Raas Garba for Children of 3 years to 14 years, accompanied by their parent or guardian.

\$10/child to participate
No charge for adults/parents
Includes food for childrens

Contact: For Registration:

Shweta Patel - 443-801-8286
Donika Patel - 410-926-5855

Upcoming Events



Karva Chauth

Wednesday October 28th 2026
5:00PM Onwards

Puja starts at 6:00pm

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.



Navratri & Sharad Purnima Raas Garba

Navratri:
Friday Oct 9 & 16th at 8:30 pm
Sharad Purnima:
Saturday Oct 24^h at 8:00 pm

Join us to celebrate the spirit of Navratri & Sharad Purnima with music and dance. Live Music day information will be provided in the flyer.

Raas Garba Fee: \$10 per person.

Please bring in dry fruit, prasad and snack items to share with attendees.
Follow temple website to register.



Durga Ashtami Puja & Mata Ki Chowki

Sunday October 18th
Durga Ashtami Puja at 4:00 PM
Mata Ki Chowki at 5:00 PM

With the divine blessings of Maa Durga, we invite you and your family to join us for a blissful evening of Mata Ki Chowki, filled with devotion, bhajans, and blessings, followed by Aarti & Mahaprasad.

Multiple sponsors needed.

Grand sponsor: \$1,001

Mahaprasad sponsors: \$251

Sponsor: \$101;

Donor: Any amount

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

Dussehra / Vijaya Dashami

Tuesday October 20th
6:00PM Onwards

Dussehra Utsav & Ravan Dahan: 7:00pm

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

Dussehra Sponsor: \$51

Temple cafeteria will be open for a light dinner



Navratri Utsav

Sunday October 11th to
Monday October 19th
Daily Puja at 6.00 PM followed by Aarti & Garba

Daily Puja & Chanting schedule will be provided in the flyer.

Oct 11 - 11am Devi/Durga Chanting
Chanting by Raganidhi School of Music

Oct 17 - 4 pm - Navratri Musical Program by Indian Classical Music School of Columbia

Oct 18th - Chandi Homam at 11 am

Oct 19th - Maha Navmi Puja

Puja sponsor: \$ 51 daily

: \$201 for 9 day

Archana : \$ 21



Diwali Cultural Program/ Festival of Lights

Saturday November 7th 2026
2:00PM Onwards

Singing, dancing, instrumental performance items accepted, they should relate to Diwali Celebration. Solo - 3 mins/ each, Group - 5 mins/ each

Registration link will be provided on the flyer.

Fee free participation.

Sponsor: Any amount

To participate, contact:
Bhavesh & Donika Patel
@ 410-926-5855

Upcoming Events



Deepawali Celebrations / Festival of Lights

Friday Nov 6th - Dhanteras

Saturday Nov 7th -
Narakchaturdhashi
Cultural Program

Sunday Nov 8th - Diwali
Lakshmi Puja/ Sharda Puja
(Chopda Puja) @ 5:30 PM

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



Govardhan Puja / Annakut

Monday Nov 9th 2026
6:00PM Onwards

Please deliver Samagri by 4:00
pm, SriNathji Abhishekam 6:00
pm followed by Bhajans, Aarti &
Mahaprasad

Sponsorships:
Grand Sponsor/
Maha Yajman: \$501
Mukhya Manorathi: \$151
Saha Manorathi: \$101
Sevak: \$51



Navsaran / Jain New Year

Monday Nov 9th 2026
11:00AM Onwards

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 Navsaran, Aarati
and then Swamivatsalya.

Sponsorship:
Bhupen Mehta (410-241-0673)
Kanan Shah (443-676-6611).



Tulsi Vivah / Kalyanam

Saturday, Dec 5th 2026
10:30 AM Onwards

Please join us to celebrate
the vivah of the Tulsi Devi to
Lord Vishnu or his avatar
Lord Krishna.

Vivah Puja starts at 10:30 am
followed by Aarti and
Mahaprasad.

Sponsorship:
\$501 - Vivah sponsor each
\$ 151 - Fruits & Flower
\$101 - Kanyadaan
\$251 - Mahaprasad sponsor



Annual Fundraiser Dinner

Saturday, December 5,
2025

5.00PM onwards

**An Evening of Annual
Fundraising Dinner,
Music & Giving
Saturday, December 5,
2026 5:00 pm**

Join us for a **special
fundraising evening** in
support of our temple.

Highlights of the Evening:

- Delicious catered dinner
- Live musical performances
- Stories of impact from our community
- Opportunity to make a difference through donations & pledges

Details will follow in the
flyer & an invitation.
Your presence will help
us continue our work
and touch more lives.

Upcoming Events



Lord Ayappa Puja

Sunday, December 6, 2026
10:30AM Onwards

Please join us with your family & friends to participate in the auspicious Ayyappa Puja ceremony.

Grand sponsor: \$501
Mahaprasadam sponsor: \$251
Puja sponsor: \$ 101
Archana: \$21
Donor: Any amount



Dattatreya Jayanti

Saturday, December 19, 2026
Gajanan Maharaj Aradhana

3:00 PM program by Gajanan Maharaj Group to include Upasan, Abhishekam, Shri Dattatreya Janma, Aarti & Mahaprasad

Program details will be provided in the Flyer

Sponsorship:
Mahaprasad: \$251
Abhishekam \$51
Group Archana \$21



Vaikuntha Ekadashi

Sunday, December 20, 2026

Morning
9:00 AM Shri Venkateshwara (Balaji) Abhishekam

5:00 pm Vishnusahaasranama, bhajans, Archana & Aarti followed by Mahaprasad

Sponsorship:
Grand Sponsor \$501
Mahaprasad Sponsors \$251 each
Puja Sponsor \$101
Abhishekam \$51
Group Archana \$31



Hanuman Jayanti

Tuesday, December 22, 2026

5:30 PM Abhishekam
Group Chanting of Hanuman Chalisa
Parayana/Path and Shree Rama Taraka
Mantra Chanting and Sankeertanam followed by Aarti & prasad

Sponsorship:

Abhishekam \$51
Group Archana \$21

Bal Vihar Corner

The 2026–2027 Balvihar session continues with strong participation and growing enthusiasm from our families and community. This year, we have introduced an updated, progressive curriculum designed to support children's learning from Pre-K through High School. The curriculum focuses on developing knowledge, character, cultural identity, spiritual understanding, and leadership at every stage.

Younger students explore Hindu stories, festivals, values, and traditions through age-appropriate learning. Older students progress into Dharma, Hindu heritage, Bhagavad Gita, Hindu identity, Seva, and leadership. A renewed focus on language learning will help children develop practical communication skills and strengthen their connection with their heritage. Interactive activities, storytelling, arts, yoga, discussions, and community experiences will make learning engaging and meaningful.

The program continues to be supported by a dedicated parent volunteer team, whose commitment helps ensure the program operates in the best interest of our children. As a volunteer-led initiative, Balvihar welcomes parents and community members who can contribute their time, knowledge, and skills. We encourage families to actively participate not only in classes, but also in community events, Seva opportunities, and student activities. Together, we can provide our children with a strong foundation in their heritage while developing confidence, character, and leadership. We warmly invite more families and volunteers to join us and contribute to this shared mission.

Let us work together to nurture a generation that learns its roots, lives its values, and leads its future. 🙏 "

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 Sachin Hebbar at 410-336-3615

Recurring Events

Sri Venkateshwara Abhishekam

10:30AM – Every Saturday

Sri Shiva Abhishekam

6:00PM - Every Monday

Murugan Abhishekam

6:00PM - Sept 2nd, Sept 30th, Oct 27th, Nov 24th, Dec 21st

Navagraha Abhishekam

11:00AM - Every first Sunday of the month

Sri Satyanarayana Puja -

6:00PM - Sept 25th, Oct 25th, Nov 23rd, Dec 23rd

Sri Ganesh Abhishekam -

6:00PM - Sept 29th, Oct 28th, Nov 27th, Dec 26th

Sri Lalitha Sahasranama Archana -

6:00PM –

Hanuman Chalisa –

3:00PM– Every 1st Saturday of the month

Jain Bhavana

11:30AM – Sept 20th, Oct 11th, Nov 9th, Dec 19th

Senior Citizens Program

Will be announced as they are organized

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.

The Outreach and Interfaith committee have been busy doing charitable work in the local community on behalf of our temple.

Soup Kitchen Service: The Committee participates in a soup kitchen in Carroll County periodically throughout the year. Along with other faith-based organizations in Carroll County we provide a hot midday meal on Fridays for the needy. Approximately 60 to 75 meals are served at Westminster United Methodist Church in downtown Carroll County. Our group participates about four to five times a year. In May and July 2026, members planned, cooked and served hot healthy vegetarian meals.

Westminster Rescue Mission Food Program - The Committee has started a new outreach service at Westminster Rescue Mission in Westminster. Once a month members go there to help in sorting and packing leftover donated packaged food from grocery stores which is then redistributed to 27 food pantries in Carroll County. These food pantries are accessible to those who experience food insecurity.

Back to School Backpack Program – On Aug 2, fifty backpacks filled with new school supplies for elementary school children was assembled by committee members in our Community Hall. These will be donated to the indigent children in Carroll County through the Shepherd's Staff organization in downtown Westminster. This organization collects donated backpacks and school supplies from several faith groups and the public and provides them to more than 2000 children in Carroll County at the beginning of each school year. GBT has been participating in this wonderful program for the past several years.

Carroll County Alliance for Racial Justice – Some members attend their monthly meetings and participate in their discussions. Recently members joined in the Annual Summer Picnic and interacted with other faith-based groups that work for racial justice.

Docent (education) services - Members of the committee gave temple tours and provided information about Hinduism to school and college students on request.

Upcoming Charity Events for 2026

1. Alzheimer's Walkathon at Centennial Park in Howard County on **Saturday September 26** Team GBT will walk to raise awareness of this devastating illness. All are welcome to register, donate and join the scenic walk for a worthy cause.

2. Annual GBT Diwali Food and Clothing Drive - October 1 through October 30, 2026. This will be at our temple. Please donate generously from your heart to the less fortunate during our giving season. The food and clothing collected are donated to organizations in Carroll and Baltimore counties that distribute them to those in need.

The committee is very appreciative of the ongoing support of the Board of Trustees and the many devotees who have donated to carry out temple's philanthropic work.

Do you wish to donate funds for GBT's charitable work? This may be done online on our website and mark it for Outreach and Interfaith Committee.

With gratitude for your kindness and generosity to our fellow human beings,

Sincerely,

Geetha Raja
(for the GBT Outreach and Interfaith Committee)

Buy and Sell with Confidence
with

PANKAJ GROVER

REALTOR

Your Trusted Neighborhood Realtor
Serving Maryland for 8 Years



WE PLEDGE TO DONATE A PORTION OF
EVERY SALE PROCEED TO GREATER
BALTIMORE TEMPLE.

DIRECT: 410-419-0336
OFFICE: 1-800-913-4326
GROVERREALTOR@GMAIL.COM

THE GREATER BALTIMORE TEMPLE
2909 BLOOM ROAD
PO BOX 578
FINKSBURG, MD 21048

PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FREDERICK, MD
PERMIT NUMBER 2036