# Greater Baltimore Temple
## Newsletter

Sept to Dec 2026

[redacted]



## President's Message

[redacted]

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

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### Shravan Somvaar

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

**6:30 PM Abhishek & Puja**

Every Monday, Shivling is decorated with special Shringar

**SPONSORHIP:**
**$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.
**SPONSORHIP: $500 & $125**
**General admission $25 per person**

# Upcoming Events



## Krishna Janmasthami

***Friday September 4, 2026***

**6:00PM** 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

**SPONSORHIP:**
**$501 -** Mukhya Manorathi
**$251 -** Mahaprasad Sponsor
**$151 -** Puja Sponsor
**$51 -** Abhishek
**$21 -** Archana



## 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



## 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



## 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



## 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.



## 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 24h 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



## Navsmaran / 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 Navsmaran, Aarati and then Swamivatsalya.

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




## Tulsi Vivah / Kalyanam

*Saturday, Nov 22nd 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***

**9:00 AM** Shri Venkateshwara (Balaji) Abhishekam & Opening of Vaikuntha Dwara

**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 Jayanthi

Tuesday, December 22, 2026

**11:00 AM** Abhishekam

**5:30 PM** Sundarkanth Path 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 10th , Dec 12th

**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 Couty 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)

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