

Greater Baltimore Hindu-Jain Temple

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

Tel: (410) 861-8387, Web: www.Baltimoretemple.org. E-mail: gbt101@yahoo.com

Volume 2021 Number 1

Jan—Apr 2021



New Year 2021

Begin your year with divine blessings from

Lord Ganesh and Lord Hanuman

Friday, January 1, 2021



Sankranti

Pongal/Sankranti is the only festival on Hindu calendar that follows a solar calendar and is celebrated on the 14/15 of January every year.

Friday, January 14, 2021

Surya Puja 10 AM

Saturday January 16, 2021

Cultural Events streaming on You Tube

From 6:30 PM



Vasanth Panchami

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Saraswathi Puja 6:30 PM

SRI RAMANAVAMI CELEBRATION



Wednesday, April 21, 2021

MAHASHIVARATRI

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Sahasra-Lingarchana
Puja to 1116 Shivalingas

Pooja Sponsorship



A unique Vedic ritual to worship Lord Shiva in the form of "Parvati Parameshwara" will be performed with 1,116 sanctified clay Shivalingas. All lingas are arrayed in the form of Kailasa Prastaara, which is an abode of Shiva in Kailasam. Shiva Shakti is invoked into each Linga through Veda Mantras and worshipped to seek blessings of Lord Shiva and Parvati.

Contact numbers for Cultural events information :

Satyam Chary : 410-948-9908

Jyothi Mallampalli : 410-294-0652

Sridevi Madduri : 347-403-3505

HOLI CELEBRATION

Sunday, March 28, 2021

Sri Satyanarayana Puja 6:30 pm



UGAADI/ GUDI PADVA/ VAISHAKHI /VISHU & TAMIL NEW YEAR'S DAY

Monday, April 12, 2021



SRI HANUMAN JAYANTI

Saturday, April 26, 2021



The temple website will be updated closer to the event regarding the activities and events on the days.

Dear Devotees,

The Greater Baltimore Hindu Jain Temple wishes you all a happy 2021 and all the Hindu New Years that will be celebrated throughout the year.

The year 2020 is behind us but the memories are going to linger for a long time. Covid 19 started in early 2020 but it became a pandemic in a very short time. The world has lost more than two million people. The United States of America happens to be the worst-affected country. A few of the members of our congregation lost their lives and a few are suffering from the lingering effects of the grave illness. Our prayers are with them and their families. We offer prayers for people in the Greater Baltimore area and throughout the world.

The year 2021 promises to be better for all of us. With the advent of the vaccine and better understanding of the disease and its treatment, we hope that the world would take a control of the virus pretty soon.

The economic impact of the disease is overwhelming especially for smaller religious organizations like our temple. Please be generous in your support of our place of worship so that it would be an ideal place to come to for several decades. Several projects are in planning at this time with generous donations of Dr.Naganna, Dr.Kalaria ,Ram Javia and several members of the board and devotees.

Please continue to visit our temple frequently and offer your prayers. We wish all of you health, happiness and prosperity.

Thank you.

Greater Baltimore Temple Management

GREATER BALTIMORE TEMPLE DONATION FORM

YOUR NAME: _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

Please accept our contribution and/or pledge for the amount shown below in support of Greater Baltimore Temple:

\$51 \$ 101 \$ 501 \$1,001 Membership \$121 Other _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ **Amount Pledged \$** _____

Signature: _____ **Date** _____

Please make check payable to GBT. Mail the form & the check to Greater Baltimore Temple, P.O. Box 690, Finksburg, MD 21048

Please Cut and mail this Form with your donation

This Newsletter is published as a service to the devotees.

To offset the costs of this publication, we welcome donations and advertisements. The cost of the advertisements is as follows for the whole year:

Full Page \$1000, Half Page \$ 500, Quarter Page \$ 250, Business Card size \$125.

GBT Bal Vihar

The GBT Bal Vihar program has prospered since its inception 19 years ago. It provides an excellent platform to not only impart religious, cultural, spiritual and language education, but to also help the children develop self-confidence in their own identities.

The program is divided into three major areas of learning and education:

1. General knowledge of Hindu religion

- Shlokas and prayers,
- Introduction to Gods and Goddesses,
- Meaning of Hindu symbols,
- History of India through stories of saints and leaders,
- Epics Ramayana and Mahabharata
- Vedic values, principles, and practices of Hindu religion.

2. Religious Festivals and Pujas

- Children also learn and enjoy performing pujas and celebrating festivals such as Diwali, Holi, Vasant Panchami and many others. The annual day program is a joy for Bal Vihar families to showcase what students have learned through songs, dramas, and dance, and is a must see for our entire community.

3. Indian Languages and Community Service

- Currently Hindi, Gujarati, Telugu and Kannada are offered, with a goal to teach Marathi and Tamil.
- The program also fosters a sense of community and service. Children contribute to their community with food drives during Gandhi Jayanti and Annadata programs.

The most recognizable attribute of this program's success is the parents, who devote their time and effort in nurturing our children with so many facets of volunteering.

We will be accepting enrollment forms for next year (2021-22 Bal Vihar year) beginning in March 2021. Students from the ages of 4 to 14 are eligible for enrollment.

For questions please reach out to the Bal Vihar Coordinators at gbtbalvihar@gmail.com

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Sri Rama Navami

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Sri Sita Rama Kalyanam

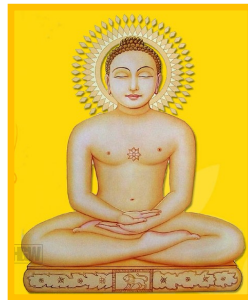
Saturday, April 24, 2021

Please check Temple website for further details.

Jain Bhavna

11:30 am to 1:00 pm

The dates will be announced each month on the website.



SRI SATYANARAYANA POOJA

6:30 pm

Thursday, January 28

Friday, February 26

Sunday, March 28

Monday, April 26



Kritthika/Shri Murugan Abhishekam

6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Friday, January 22

Friday, February 19

Thursday, March 18

Wednesday, April 14



Sankashti Chathurthi/ Sri Ganesh Abhishekam

6:30 pm

Sunday, January 31

Tuesday, March 2

Wednesday, March 31

Thursday, April 29



GBT Calendar Events are subject to change (cancellation/postponement). Please check website (www.baltimoretemple.org) or contact program director/Temple at 410 861 8387 prior to attending.



Editor's Note

It has been a pleasure editing the newsletter for the Greater Baltimore Hindu and Jain Temple for the last two years. I thank Dr. Satyam Chary for appointing me as the editor. Please pardon me for any mistakes and delays in publishing this important newsletter. I will be watching remotely all the exciting improvements of our temple. Thank you all very much. Sincerely, Apparao Vanguri

Swami Vivekananda
January 12, 1863 - July 4, 1902



Original speech of Swami Vivekananda in the parliament of religions, Chicago 1893



Few Famous Quotations of Swami Vivekananda:

"Never say NO, never say, 'I cannot', for you are INFINITE. All the power is WITHIN you. You can do anything." ~ Swami Vivekananda

"When I Asked God for Strength He Gave Me Difficult Situations to Face. When I Asked God for Brain & Brawn He Gave Me Puzzles in Life to Solve. When I Asked God for Happiness He Showed Me Some Unhappy People. When I Asked God for Wealth He Showed Me How to Work Hard. When I Asked God for Favors He Showed Me Opportunities to Work Hard. When I Asked God for Peace He Showed Me How to Help Others. God Gave Me Nothing I Wanted. He Gave Me Everything I Needed." ~ Swami Vivekananda

All Indians should be proud and consider themselves fortunate to take birth in a land which gave the world, one of the greatest Upanishads, “Bhagavad Gita” to guide mankind how to live effectively in a world of Challenge and change. Ancient great Rishis, Seers, yogis and Intellectuals, through their divine knowledge and wisdom, helped the progress of the mankind by their immense contributions to all disciplines of modern science. Albert Einstein had said “We owe a lot to Indians, who taught us how to count in decimal system, without which no worthwhile scientific discoveries could have been made”. Without India’s richest contribution of “Purnam” or number “0”, the whole mathematical knowledge becomes zero.

Swami Vivekananda, belongs to the above elite and enlightened group of intellectual yogis/Sanyasis and is often compared to Adi Shankara, for spiritual awakening of the Indian masses and spread of “Vedanta”, the essence of our “Sanathana dharma” to the western world.

Biography

Swami Vivekananda was born Narendra Nath Datta on 12th January 1863 in Calcutta, Bengal, India, to Vishwanath Datta and Bhuvaneshwari Devi. Professionally, his father was an attorney while his mother was deeply religious. He received a Western education at the Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar’s Metropolitan Institution. He became well versed in Western and Eastern philosophy. His teachers remarked he had a prodigious memory and tremendous intellectual. Shaped by his father’s rationality, Narendra joined the Brahma Samaj, which rejected idol worship. In 1881, Narendra went to Dakshineswar to meet Sri Ramakrishna – who was widely considered a great saint and spiritual Master. His spiritual experiences in the presence of Sri Ramakrishna caused him to wholeheartedly accept Ramakrishna as his Guru, and he gave up the Brahma Samaj. In 1886, Sri Ramakrishna passed away – just five years after meeting Narendra.

Ramakrishna had chosen Narendra to be the leader of the monastic disciples. Vivekananda decided to found a math (monastery) in Belur. Swami Vivekananda then threw himself into intense spiritual practice. He would spend many hours in meditation and japa. In 1888, he left the monastery to become a wandering sannyasin, visiting various holy places around India. Vivekananda lived from day to day, begging for food, being immersed in his own spiritual quest.

In 1893, he accepted an invitation to speak at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago. He set sail to America with little money and few contacts. With the help from Professor John Wright of Harvard University and others, Vivekananda arrived in Chicago as a representative of the Hindu religion. Vivekananda began with the greeting "Sisters and Brothers of America!" – which caused the crowd of seven thousand to stand in ovation for two minutes before he continued his speech. A dominant theme of Vivekananda's speeches was the universality and harmony of the world religions. He was an influential figure in the Indian Renaissance of the late Nineteenth Century. Later Indian leaders, like Netaji, Gandhi ji, and Bala Gangadhar Tilak, would all pay tribute to the inspiration of Swami Vivekananda.

In 1899, Swami Vivekananda returned for another visit to America to continue spreading Vedanta societies. Vivekananda then returned to India and, after failing health, passed away on 4 July 1902.

Achievements

He "cleansed" Hinduism by challenging the hierarchical caste system, a prevention of women from getting education, and superstition. He also revealed that there were commandments telling the Brahmins and other higher caste people to respect all other castes, including the Shudra caste. He taught the concept of rationalism, and encouraged youth to be physically fit.

He said, "The sacred texts say, treat your parents as God. But I say, first treat the poor and illiterate as God. Serve them, look after their needs". He established Sri Ramakrishna Mission, to serve the poor and the needy.

He also was responsible for the rise of Advaita, the non-dual system of beliefs and practices started by Adi Shankara Charya in the 7th or 8th century AD. The Belur Math, Swamiji's legacy, still follows Advaita. Most of their lectures and videos are not about religion, but about how to be good, how to concentrate and about philosophy. Advaita is so rational, many of its most advanced practitioners today are retired (and sometimes practicing) quantum physicists and particle physicists who claim that they have never had to choose between science and Advaita. They went together.

Because of his teachings and emphasis on the wellbeing of the youth, his birthday on January 12, is celebrated in India as National Youth Day. September 11, 1893, the day he mesmerized the world with his knowledge, intellect and eloquence in the parliament of religions, Chicago, USA, is celebrated as World Fraternity Day.

Let us remember the birth of this great soul on January 12, every year and try to follow and practice his teachings for a happy life and self-realization.

Compiled by
Satyam Chary (M D)