



BTI - BCC Newsletter

October 2023 to December 2023



Bharatiya Temple

1612 County Line Road, Chalfont, PA 18914

Ph: 215-997-1181 www.b-temple.org

Temple & Aarti Timings

<u>Temple timings:</u>			<u>Aarti timings:</u>	
Weekdays 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM			Hindu Aarti 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM daily	
Weekends 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM			Jain Aarti 11:45 AM and 6:45 PM daily	
Mondays	Tuesdays	Fridays	Saturdays	Sundays
Shiva Abhishekam 7:15 PM	Hanuman Chalisa 7:15 PM	Lalitha Sahasranama 7:15 PM	Suprabhatam Venketeshwara Abhishekam Vishnu Sahasranama Stotram 9:00 AM	Lakshmi Narayan Abhishekam 10:00 AM

*** In the event of inclement weather, please check the website or call 215-997-1181 ***

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	Chaitra Masam Begins Apr 9, 2024

“Support Your Temple” Campaign



Bharatiya Temple & Bharatiya Cultural Center

1612 County Line Road, Chalfont, PA 18914
PHONE: 215-997-1181
www.b-temple.org (Tax ID # 23-2959416)



Please help your Temple by making recurring tax deductible donation of your choice by clicking the donate button below. These donations will help the Temple continue with daily pujas, programs and pay for monthly operating expenses. Your donation will also help Vidyalaya/Sunday school.

Monthly Recurring Donation of Your Choice

You will be directed to secure Payment Website



\$20

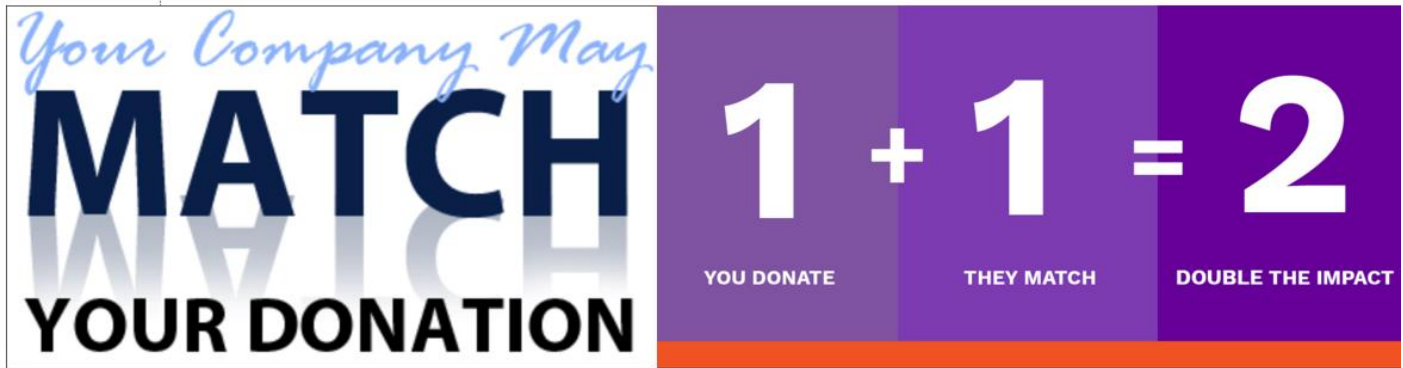
\$50

\$100

Your Choice Amount

*For questions and information
please contact donations@b-temple.org*

Taking Advantage of Corporate Matching



Each year, companies and businesses support nonprofits by distributing hundreds of millions of dollars in matching gift donations. Most companies match 1:1; some companies match 2:1 and even 3:1. Several of our supporters take advantage of this initiative and we are grateful for their support. Please check with your organization's HR department and follow their established procedures for matching funds.

The matching process can also be found on our website:

<https://b-temple.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/BCC-Corporate-Matching-Contribution-Process.pdf>

To view a List of Companies with Matching Gift Programs, you can visit:

<https://www.1800runaway.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/corporate-match-directory.pdf>

<https://doublethedonation.com/tips/matching-grant-resources/list-matching-gifts-companies/>

If your company matches, then please direct your donation to Bharatiya Cultural Center and follow up with your Company's HR department.

Thanking you in advance for your support!!!

**DOUBLE YOUR
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Maximize your impact



with a matching gift!



Religious Committee - Hindu

October 2023

The month of October started with the Mahalaya Shradh parv. On Mahalaya Amavasya which is the last day of the parv a "Samuhik Shradh Puja" was conducted by the priests. Sharad Navaratri was celebrated in BTI from the 15th to the 23rd of October, followed by Dussera on the 24th. The temple was decorated beautifully by volunteers and devotees. Upstairs in the temple a beautiful mandap was made with Durga mata's utsav murti. A typical South India Golu display was also created on either side of the mandap. On the 15th to mark the start of Sharad Navaratri a Durgama Abhishekam was performed along with Ghata Sthapana. A procession was also held around the temple with Dhol Tasha and dancing. In the auditorium downstairs, another mandap was built on the stage around a beautiful Durga Mata utsav murti, with lots of decorations around it. Chandi path was chanted by devotees on all days of the navaratri. Also each day a Durga Vishesh puja was held that devotees could sponsor and perform. Vishwambari Stuti was chanted every evening. On Friday, 20th of October a Lalitha Trishati Pushpa Archana puja was conducted in the evening. On Saturday, the 21st Navaratri celebrations started with Sangeet Seva. In the afternoon a Maha Bhagavati Puja was performed after which a Mata Ki Chowki was conducted. Sunday, the 22nd was Durga Ashtami and a Durga Ashtami Havan was conducted by the temple priests with devotee participation. 23rd was Maha Navami, the last day of the Sharad Navaratri. The next day, October 24th was Vijaya Dasami or Dussera. A Mata Saraswati puja was performed in the evening ending with Durga mata and Sarva Devata aarti. The Dussera celebrations ended with Ravan dahan in the temple compound attended in large numbers.

October 27th, was Sharad Poornima day and a Satyanarayan Puja was performed in the temple that devotees also performed. Karwa Chauth was celebrated by the women devotees in the temple on Tuesday, October 31st.

November 2023 (Kartik Masam)

In Hindu Panchang, there are two solstices in a year, which are known as Uttarayan (summer solstice) and Dakshinayan (winter solstice). Both these periods span over six months each. Dakshinayana is for purification, while Uttarayana is for enlightenment.

Religious Committee - Hindu

Kartik Masam or Kartik month (November) is part of Dakshinayana and is considered the holiest among Hindus. During this month, Lord Vishnu, Lord Shiv, and other Devatas descend on the earth to visit sacred rivers. Devotees all over India visit temples during this month.

Bharatiya Temple is a platform where communities of Indian origin come together to celebrate all festivals.

Diwali Celebrations over 5 Days

On the auspicious occasion of Diwali (also known as Deepavali), the festival of lights, all deities in the Temple were decorated with new beautiful gold-plated silver mukuts (crowns). Devotees and decoration (Alankar) sponsors participated in the auspicious ceremony. Having the Darshan (viewing) of the decorated deities was a great feeling, which cannot be described in words.

On the occasion of Diwali, devotees had Mahotsava (grand celebration) over five days in Bharatiya Temple. The Temple was beautifully decorated during these five days. Joyous visitors were seen in the Temple, highlighting the effect of the effort volunteers put in for organizing and celebrating festivals in the Temple.

The four priests beautifully conducted pujas (prayers) starting from Dhanteras (the thirteenth day in honor of Lord Dhanvantri).

On Kali Chaudas, the fourteenth day of the lunar phase, a large number of devotees chanted Sunderkand in the Temple.

On the day of Diwali, devotees flocked to Bharatiya Temple to seek God's blessings. The day began with Shri Lakshmi Narayan Abhishekam followed by Asht Lakshmi Havan. The Asht Lakshmi Havan was performed for the first time in the Temple and was well attended by sponsors and other devotees. In the evening, the Temple organized fireworks and distributed food prasad to about 800 devotees who attended the celebration.

Nutan Varsha (new year) day, the day after Diwali, saw a large number of devotees visiting the Temple dressed in new clothes.

Diwali celebrations culminated with the Annakut (ground grains). This is one day when a very large variety of sweets and savories are offered to Lord Krishna. Continuous Bhajans by devotees on the rhythmic beats of dhol (drum)/manjira (percussion) created a

Religious Committee - Hindu

divine atmosphere in the Temple.

Chhath Parva

Chhath Parva, also known as Surya Shashti or the sixth day of the Kartik month, is celebrated during the third week of November. On this day, devotees perform puja of "Surya Dev" (the sun god). The festival is popularly celebrated in Bihar, Jharkhand, and eastern UP. As per the tradition, devotees originally from these regions gathered in Bharatiya Temple to pray to the Sun god when it was rising in the east in the early morning hours, braving the cold weather, and again when the sun was setting in the west. This is an example of how devotion prevails over any physical discomfort.

Tulasi Vivah

Tulasi Vivah is celebrated to mark the wedding of Tulasi ji with Lord Vishnu. Lord Vishnu blessed Tulasi ji to take the form of the Tulasi plant, the holy basil, who would be worshipped by devotees in all times to come. The wedding was observed in great style by our priests and was well attended by devotees.

Mandala Puja

The month of November sees the beginning of Mandala puja. As per the tradition, Lord Ayyappa devotees dressed in black attire visit the Temple. The Temple floor was beautifully decorated with lamps and resonated as devotees sing Bhajans.

Kartik Purnima

Kartik Purnima is a Hindu, Sikh, and Jain cultural festival that is celebrated on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Kartika. This year, Kartik Purnima falls on November 27th. The day is considered very auspicious to perform Satyanarayan Puja to seek blessings of Lord Narayan. On this day, as per the tradition, devotees lighted hundreds of Deepams (lamps) after sunset and placed them on the front steps of the Temple. The full moon in the sky and hundreds of Deepams on the front steps created a beautiful and serene atmosphere as if heavens and earth were in perfect sync for the celebration.

Religious Committee - Hindu

December 2023

On December 16th, Dhanur month started around 8:30 am with the recital of Sri Venkateshwara Suprabhatam, followed by recital of Tirupalliyehuchi and Tiruppavai. We repeated this on all Saturdays during the Dhanur month. Every Monday morning around 10:30 am, Tiruvempavai and Tirupalliyehuchi Parayan was conducted for Lord Shiva. Ayappa Mandala Puja was celebrated every Saturday at 6 PM. Vaikunta Ekadasi was celebrated on 22nd ,Priest did the Dwara puja early morning around 8:30. Doors were opened after the recital , in the evening Gita Jayanthi was celebrated which was well attended. Dec 30th Saturday we did the Vilakku Puja with 18 lamps for Lord Ayappa, with all the flowers , bhajans and a special Chenndai Melam presentation was the highlight of this program which was a tradition in Kerala. During New Year's eve, many kids participated in a bhajan program.. New year started with the recital of Suprabhatam, Tiruppavai and Tiruvempavai followed by Srinivasa Kalyaanam and Satyanarayan Puja in the evening. All the deities were adorned with special malas from India. The whole day the temple floor was filled with devotees. Hope this new year brings joy to everyone.



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Religious Committee - Jain

On Nov 14 Jains did New Year Manglik and puja followed by Swamivatsalya in the morning. About 100 devotees attended this event.

On Nov 18 we did Gyaan Pancham Aaradhna in the morning. This day is celebrated as a day to honor knowledge and holy books. Contributions of 150 dollars was given to Jain Pathshala for supporting their activities.

On Nov 23 (Thanksgiving) we did Navkaar Jaap to pray for all turkeys that were slaughtered on that day. Contribution of 200 dollars was donated to Animal Welfare Fund of JAINA Association. Jain Pathshala kids shared a few words about what they were thankful for on Thanksgiving Day.



On Nov 27 we did Kartiki Poonam Aaradhna. This day is also known as the "Jain Festival of Lights" by Jain adherents.

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Philadelphia Ganesh Festival 2023

20th Year of PGF in 2024



Philadelphia Ganesh Festival @ Bharatiya Temple will be celebrating its 20th Year in 2024. This is a major milestone achieved thru devotion of Devotees, support of Donors and blessings of Devine.

Grand Celebration 2024

Festival Core Team and volunteers will like to celebrate it in a grand way.

What do you feel as a community and Ganesh Devotees? Please write to us at PGFcoreteam@gmail.com and give us ideas on how to make this 20th year as a memorable Festival for all of us that will inspire us to aim for another successful 20 years..

New Initiative Ideas 2024

Few new initiatives have been suggested. We want to know community's thoughts on those. One of the initiative is to organize Young Hindu



Adult Matrimonial Meet on yearly basis providing opportunities for Hindu singles to find their ideal Hindu match.. What do you think? Ganesh Vivah can be an ideal occasion, right?

Another good idea suggested is to expand the Indiafest as an Business Conference where local Indian entrepreneurs can bring projects ideas to seek investments.



Entertainment 2024

Please send us your ideas on great artists that you will like Festival invite for Sangeet & Nritya



Sewa to Lord Ganesha. If you know any good folk groups we want to know

those. Also, we will like to learn solicit more corporate support as Program sponsors.

How did we do in 2023?

IndiaFest was pretty much ruined by constant rains this year. We lost a good amount of revenue due to it. However, with Divine support and hard work by volunteers like we



can see in this photo, we still did well. The festival was blessed by community with close to \$304K donations. We spent close to \$183K in organization, leaving a decent surplus of \$120K for year round community service programs at our temple. We are very sure that you will contribute enthusiastically in 20th year celebration to make it a memorable for all of us.

New Decoration Ideas PGF 2024 ?

Our decoration team made Chandrayam theme in 2023. This theme was liked by most devotees

keeping Vigyan and Dharma together. Do you have any ideas

on PGF 2024 decoration considering it is grand 20th year? Think over it and write back to us.



Early Kick Off Meeting PGF 2024

In order to integrate/invite area associations, well in to PGF, plan better, we will be kick-starting the PGF in Middle of March rather than waiting for April end. Please get charged and be ready with great ideas on all aspects of PGF including decoration, procession, IndiaFest, religious programs, new programs etc. Invitation for Kick-off meeting will be sent out by Mid Feb. **Ganapati Bappa Moraya ! Mangal Murty Moraya !!**

Navratri Mahotsav 2023

Navratri festival is one of the largest festivals in terms of devotees and activities in the temple for 10 days. Over the years Ashthami havan and Ravan Dahan are getting bigger and bigger. The Navaratri team along with all the volunteers organized and coordinated a grand event at the temple. Temple hall and cultural hall was decorated with vibrant colors and lights to create a festive ambiance. The committee members successfully organized Garba and Dandiya nights for 10 days. Various other committees such as senior citizen group, special needs groups joined the celebration. It was a divine atmosphere during our special theme nights for the Bengali group and South Indian Group. Devotees enjoyed the Mata Ki Chowki. Competition Night was a huge success with the help of the Cultural Committee. The Navratri celebration was a huge success as it attracted a large number of people from the community who came to celebrate and seek the blessings.



Navratri Mahotsav 2023



Diwali Mahotsav 2023

Diwali, the festival of lights, was celebrated with great pomp and show at Bharatiya Temple this year.

Diwali festival that commemorates the victorious return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya after defeating the evil Ravana. This day is also of great significance in Jain religion as Lord Mahavir attained Moksha on this day.

We kicked off the festivities with a sold out Diwali Dinner and Bollywood show on Nov 5th that was very well liked by all who attended.

Following this, Diwali was a 10 day affair with lots of festivities starting on Nov 10th to Nov 19th that included Dhanteras, Kali Chaudas, Nutan Varsha, Bhai Dooj, Skand Shasthi, Gyan Panchami and Annakoot. This was all followed by Chhath Parv on Nov 19th a festival that holds puja of Surya Dev concluding this festival.

The Temple was decorated outside, and both the Temple floors were lit with Diyas and Rangoli that made the premises look beautiful and festive. This year also marked the first year that free Prasad was served on majority of the days.

Our fireworks on November 12th was very well attended with around 600 people who stopped by to enjoy and participate in fireworks and also enjoyed Mahaprasad.

This year Diwali was extra special as new ornamental Gold plated Mukuts also called Alaskaras were placed on all the deities in an elaborate ceremony by all our priests. Diwali core committee and scores of volunteers wish to thank all the sponsors who's help made this festival successful.



Diwali Mahotsav 2023



Health & Human Services

Chair: Babu Medi, B.Pharm, Ph.D;

Co-Chair: Anjan Dave, MS, MBA

Advisor: Dr. Akkaraju Sarma MD, FAAFP

BTI Board Liason: Atul Sangal, MSPT

BCC HHS Mission

To provide health related services to the community

- Create, maintain, and communicate health related information to educate the community
- Identify, plan, and implement professional medical seminars
- Organize health seminars/fairs, American Red Cross blood drives and Vaccine clinics
- Arrange training sessions on first aid, CPR, AARP driving courses

Blood Drive:

BCC HHS team organized a Blood Drive at Bharatiya Temple on 25 Nov 2023. We had a total of 18 donations, potentially saving up to 54 lives. The final numbers are slightly lower than expected, but still great considering Thanksgiving break. Thanks to all the volunteers and youth lead Sneha Indrakanti for recruiting donors and making this a successful drive. Great team effort and thanks to BTI/BCC management and BoD for the continued support for these activities.

HHS team organizes 4 Blood Drives throughout the year at Bharatiya Temple. This activity has been ongoing for >10 years and brings local community donors to the Temple. Each pint of blood donated can potentially save 3 lives and in total this donation could save 66 lives. Every day, blood donors help patients of all ages. Blood transfusions are given to patients in a wide range of circumstances, including serious injuries (such as in a car crash), burns, surgeries, childbirth, anemia, blood disorders, cancer treatments, and many others. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. **The next blood drive is scheduled for 24 Feb 2024 (Saturday) from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Please register using the following link:**

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=bharatiya>

A very big THANK YOU to all the donors, Volunteers and BTI management for supporting this life saving mission.

Chairperson: Babu Medi 979.204.3185 medibabu@yahoo.com

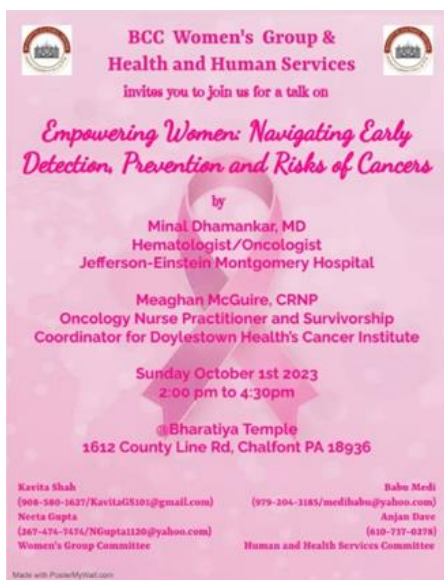
Co-Chair: Anjan Dave 610.737.0278 anjancd@hotmail.com

Health & Human Services



Women's Cancer Awareness Program with BCC Women's Group:

BCC Women's group and HHS group conducted a unique program for Women on cancer awareness on Oct 01, 2023. Dr. Minal Dhamankar, MD Oncologist from Thomas Jefferson-Einstein Montgomery Hospital and Meaghan McGuire, CRNP Oncology Nurse Practitioner and survivorship coordinator from Doylestown Health presented and participated in panel discussion. This was well attended with good discussion. Thanks to Women's Health lead Kavita Shah for initiating and working with HHS team to bring this successful event.



Chairperson: Babu Medi 979.204.3185 medibabu@yahoo.com
Co-Chair: Anjan Dave 610.737.0278 anjancd@hotmail.com

Health & Human Services

Vaccination Clinic COVID-19 Vaccine:

HHS team conducted a vaccine clinic to offer 2023-2024 COVID-19 booster and Flu vaccines to protect the community. COVID infections are still around and people who are older, are immunocompromised, have certain disabilities, or have certain underlying health conditions continue to be at higher risk for serious illness. Vaccines are safe and effective and the best way to protect you and those around you from serious illnesses. BCC HHS will conduct COVID-19 and FLU Vaccine clinics. Please do watch out for the dates in the weekly e-mails from the Bharatiya Temple.



Volunteers Needed:

We have a great volunteer team at the Temple, but need more volunteers to help with HHS and other temple activities. Please reach out at medibabu@yahoo.com or sign up at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc_7DvdFvmbF-09L7XC1xLz-LwGkl0McRs7tayxFLxXc_n8-g/viewform

Chairperson: Babu Medi 979.204.3185 medibabu@yahoo.com
Co-Chair: Anjan Dave 610.737.0278 anjancd@hotmail.com

Cultural Committee

The Cultural committee had an active and eventful quarter as they participated in various festival celebrations at the temple. One of the major festivals they were involved in was Navratri.

During Navratri, the committee organized and coordinated the Competition night which was a great success, bringing the community together to celebrate the festival and spreading joy and happiness.

In preparation for the Navratri festival, the Cultural committee organized garba classes that were warmly received by the community. These classes were open to all and attracted a large number of attendees.

The garba classes were conducted by experienced instructor who guided the attendees through the various steps and movements involved in garba. The classes were designed to cater to all skill levels, from beginners to those with prior experience.



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Co-chair: Preeti Tailor 215.868.4831 preeti.tailor@gmail.com
Co-chair: Manisha Chauhan 267.663.9250 man_22vc@yahoo.com

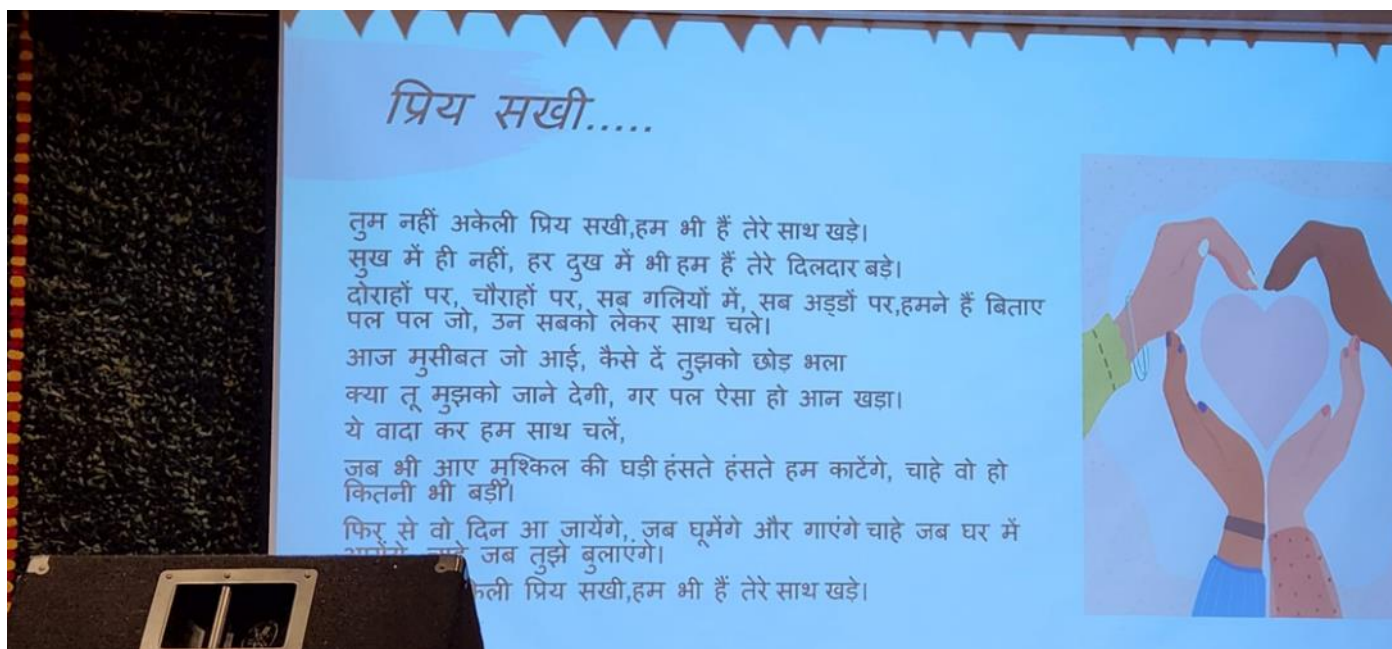
Women's Group

On Oct 1st, the BCC Women's Group, in collaboration with Health and Human Services group, kick-started the Breast Cancer Awareness month with talks on "Empowering Women: Navigating Early Detection, Prevention and Risks of Cancers" by Dr. Minal Dhamankar a hematologist/oncologist at Jefferson-Einstein Montgomery Hospital and Meaghan McGuire an oncology nurse Practitioner and survivorship coordinator for Doylestown Health's Cancer Institute. The excellent talks were very informative on the topics of different types of women's cancers and how these relate to our diaspora specifically were followed by a very interactive question/answer session. The genetics of cancers was the topic that generated the most discussion. Dr. Dhamankar also recited a lovely poem on women's friendship.



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Co-chair: Neeta Gupta 267.474.7474 ngupta1120@yahoo.com

Women's Group



The BCC Women's Group hosted a Mehendi for Karva Chauth event on October 29th accompanied by music, dance, and snacks. The volunteer mehendi artist, Shilpa Goyal, Shreya Salian, Divya Patel, Naina Ingle, and Meenu Sharma along with the women who volunteered to apply mehendi at the event (Sonal Jain, Rimjhim Devgan, and Pooja Jain) did an amazing job. The event was a rocking success with so many 'Mehendi Wale Haath' during the festival season.



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Women's Group



The Women's Group has two book clubs that meet regularly. The Daytime Book Club discussed *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano on 19th October over a potluck lunch at the Temple and on 7th December, members went out for a Holiday lunch and discussed *The Good Sister* by Sally Hepworth.



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Women's Group

The Women's Group Evening Book Club led by Poonam Gidwani is generating a lot of interest and during their second meeting held on November 7th Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano was discussed. The Evening Book Club will continue to meet during weekday evenings on alternate months.



The Women's Group is planning several events in 2024, the first of which will be **International Women's Day on 9th March 2024**. In addition, we are planning to hold educational talks on women-focused health-related issues and financial management for women. We are also exploring opportunities where our group can volunteer.

To continue receiving updates about our upcoming events, please like us on our BCC Women's Group Facebook page or be part of the BCC Women's Group WhatsApp group, or sign up for the Temple emails.

We have a very talented and enthusiastic group of women in the Women's Group Committee who are wholehearted committed to the success of the mission of this group.

Chairperson: Kavita Shah 908.580.1627 kavitags101@gmail.com
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Bharatiya Vidyalaya

197 students have registered at the time of this writing for 2023-24 Bharatiya Vidyalaya program (August 27th, 2023 thru May 19th, 2024), the 19th year of successful operation of Bharatiya Vidyalaya. The number of students this year is about the same (97%) as pre-COVID.

A Typical Bharatiya Vidyalaya Sunday

Students start their Sundays at 9:30 AM with Yoga led by experienced volunteers. This is followed by prayers and Bhagavad Geeta chanting. Parents are encouraged to join the morning assembly along with students. Occasionally, a student makes a 5-10 minutes presentation in the morning assembly on a Religion or Culture subject.

At 10 AM, students attend Hindu Religion classes for their respective age group. Jain students attend Jain Religion classes.

At 11 AM, students attend one of the seven language classes as per their preference of language. Gujarati, Hindi, Sanskrit, Tamil and Telugu language classes are further split into 2 or 3 sections based on proficiency of students. Kannada and Marathi have one section each. Bharatiya Vidyalaya is open to start another Indian language provided 6 or more students register.

On a few Sundays, Culture classes are scheduled instead at 10 AM and 11 AM. The schedule for the year is finalized in advance.

At noon, students attend Aarati upstairs. After the Aarati, over 30 students attend the music (group singing) class. About the same number of students participate in Geeta chanting classes at the same time.

Students enthusiastically participate in the program conducted by hardworking volunteers. Students and parents find the Bharatiya Vidyalaya program engaging and beneficial.

From 10 AM to 12 PM, about 10 parents join the Bhagavad Geeta discussion group. Dedicated volunteers knowledgeable on the subject moderate the group. The group is currently studying Bhagavad Geeta chapter 2. Chapter two is often deemed as a summary to the entire Geeta. In this chapter, Arjuna accepts the position as a disciple of Lord Krishna

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Co-chair:	Rita Sheth	610.275.7472	mynapa@aol.com
Co-chair:	Vijay Chakravarthi	610.389.0465	vijaync.bv@gmail.com

Bharatiya Vidyalaya

and requests the Lord to instruct him in how to dispel his lamentation and grief. Verse 13 in the chapter explains the concept of rebirth.

देहिनोऽस्मिन्यथा देहे कौमारं यौवनं जरा ।
तथा देहान्तरप्राप्तिर्धीरस्तत्र न मुह्यति ॥ 13॥

Lord Krishna explains that just as the embodied soul continuously passes from childhood to youth to old age, similarly, at the time of death, the soul passes into another body. The wise are not deluded by this.

Simultaneously at 10 AM, up to 20 parents attend a meditation session for parents.

Volunteers

Bharatiya Vidyalaya program for 2023 is run by about 50 teaching volunteers and 10 non-teaching volunteers. All volunteers actively maintain their required compliance as per the law for volunteering in Pennsylvania. During Q4, the focus was acquainting students with the basics of religion, culture and language as per their level of understanding.

New volunteers in their first one or two years are paired up with experienced volunteers for orientation.

Senior Students

As part of the *Senior Student* program, 9th grade and above students are provided an opportunity to learn how to teach a class by pairing them up with adult volunteers. This year, 11 students have been assigned the role of *Senior Students*. A *Senior Student* helps with teaching one subject (for example, Religion) and attends classes for the other two subjects as a student (in this example, Culture and Language).

Library

Bharatiya Vidyalaya library was shut down for two years during the COVID period. A dedicated group of volunteers reactivated the library a year ago. Parents borrow books from the library for their family.

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Co-chair:	Vijay Chakravarthi	610.389.0465	vijaync.bv@gmail.com

Bharatiya Vidyalaya

Expenses

Bharatiya Vidyalaya volunteers are extremely conservative with expenses. The only significant expense is the cost of text books and bag, which is less than 10% of the fee parents pay. Hindi, Sanskrit and Tamil are relatively more expensive books. These more expensive books are paid for by parents. Additionally, volunteers and parents donate generously to cover most, if not all expenses for occasional food sponsoring, web site hosting and other expenses required for running the Vidyalaya activities.

Special Programs during Q4-2023

October 15th 2023: Navaratri Garba by Students and Parents



Students, Parents and Volunteers after participating in Navaratri Celebration on October 15th 2023

Chairperson:	Praveen Sharma	215.361.0145	pravsharma@hotmail.com
Co-chair:	Raju Kalidindi	610.331.4757	raju.email@gmail.com
Co-chair:	Rita Sheth	610.275.7472	mynapa@aol.com
Co-chair:	Vijay Chakravarthi	610.389.0465	vijaync.bv@gmail.com

Bharatiya Vidyalaya

Presentations Students made in Morning Assembly

November 19th

“Lord Vishnu” by Pranav Mangala

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1bzt2Lq35V8ptZAurDaHGewdZzrFFuKly/edit#slide=id.p1>

“Tulasi Ji” by Anshul Shah

https://docs.google.com/presentation/u/2/d/1bo_x2l0_twLcPxDcwFkxEwrvGDTH_0Lt/edit?usp=sharing&oid=116670452280180606533&rtpof=true&sd=true

December 3rd

“The 3 Yogas” by Ronak Demagu

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1cL5oLR-t5ZNVbQKXVfwnvk-kY_czGbpFV/edit?usp=sharing&oid=116670452280180606533&rtpof=true&sd=true

December 10th

“Vedas” by Shaivi Patel

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1cLeI6cdFr7uQRBjpF1q1hOWbn135wY_K/edit?usp=sharing&oid=116670452280180606533&rtpof=true&sd=true

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Bharatiya Vidyalaya



Divya Patel, a grade 7 student presenting on Bhagavan Ram to Bharatiya Vidyalaya morning assembly on January 7th 2024

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Co-chair: Rita Sheth 610.275.7472 mynapa@aol.com
Co-chair: Vijay Chakravarthi 610.389.0465 vijaync.bv@gmail.com

Becoming a Member of BTI / BCC

— BECOME A —
MEMBER

JOIN US

Membership Categories	
Annual Membership	\$100
Life Member	\$1,200
Patron	\$5,000
Grand Patron	\$10,000
Senior Trustee	\$25,000

Benefits of becoming a Trustee, Patron or Life Member

- All mailings including Brochures, newsletters and calendar.
- Complementary Pujas performed at the temple for you and your family member on birthdays.
- Discounted or complimentary admission to selected events.
- One time per calendar year, receive a 20% discounted fee for Hall rental (Max discount of \$100)
- Eligible for Board of Director's position.

**All donations to Bharatiya Temple and Bharatiya Cultural Center
are tax deductible!**

Bharatiya Temple Tax ID: 23-2959416

Bharatiya Cultural Center Tax ID: 76-0706802

For additional information regarding membership and to download application forms, please visit the Temple website.

Puja Request

To schedule a Puja or inquiries pertaining to this, please contact:



Ramana Kanumalla
267-396-PUJA (7852)
priest@b-temple.org

If you are requesting specific priests for your puja, this will only be confirmed by Ramana Kanumalla and not by the priests themselves.



Please keep in mind that:

- All services (except Archana, Abhishekam & Vehicle Puja) must be scheduled in advance.
- All private puja services are charged on an individual puja basis.
- Mileage charges will apply for all outside pujas.

For a complete list of Pujas and prices, please visit the temple website.

Volunteers Needed

The Temple is always in need of help and volunteers! If there is a committee that interests you, please reach out to the respective chairperson. If there is an event that you would like to help out in, please refer to the respective flyer and get in touch with the contact person(s) listed. If you can only volunteer for a day or even a few hours, it will be greatly appreciated! Please reach out to the contact person for the event based on your availability.



Bharatiya Temple Hall Rental Information

For Hall Rentals or inquiries pertaining to this, please contact:



Dixal Patel
610-291-7493
hall@b-temple.org



Hall Rental	\$600 for 4 hours + \$100/additional hour (Fridays evenings, Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays) <u>OR</u> \$400 for 4 hours + \$75/additional hour (weekdays)
Education Room Rental	\$100 for 2 hours + \$50/additional hour (Friday evenings, Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays) <u>OR</u> \$50 for 2 hours + \$25/additional hour (weekdays)
Kitchen Rental	\$75 for warming food. Food cooking is not permitted.
Audio Equipment Rental	<u>Basic Package</u> —\$75 (includes 1 wireless and 2 wired mics, connection for laptop or phone) <u>Enhanced Package</u> —\$250 (includes 1 technician and use of all audio facilities for 4 hours., \$50/hour extra thereafter)
Wedding	\$1,300 for all day—includes access to kitchen and Basic Package for audio equipment rental
Cleaning	\$100—this includes sweeping and mopping only; you still have to pick up trash
Discounts (once/year)	20% or maximum \$100 for Life Members of BTI/BCC (once/year) 20% or maximum \$100 for nonprofit organizations (once/year) 10% or maximum \$100 for annual members of BTI/BCC (once/year)

For additional information or to download the rental agreement, please visit the Temple website.

About BTI / BCC

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 463
Montgomeryville, PA 18936

Physical Address

1612 County Line Road
Chalfont, PA 18914

Phone: 215-997-1181

Email: info@b-temple.org

Priest services:

Ramana Kanumalla
267-396-7852
priest@b-temple.org

Hall Rental

Dixal Patel
610-291-7493
hall@b-temple.org

Temple Priests



**Sri. Vishnuji
Parshad Vassyal**



**Sri. Seshasai
Rompicharla**



**Sri. Umamaheshwara
Shivam**



**Sri. Nikul
Prasad Joshi**

Connect with the Community and the Temple

Bharatiya Temple App

You can download this **FREE** app by simply scanning the barcode or by searching "Bharatiya Temple" in iTunes (Apple) or Play Store (Android).

With this app you can easily view upcoming events, view monthly calendar, request hall rental, request priest services, listen to bhajans, post pictures, send a message, etc.

If you choose to receive notification, you will receive real-time information about parking situation at the temple, temple closings due to inclement weather and reminders about special events at the temple.



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