



# BTI - BCC Newsletter

## January 2024 to March 2024



# Bharatiya Temple

1612 County Line Road, Chalfont, PA 18914

Ph: 215-997-1181    [www.b-temple.org](http://www.b-temple.org)

# Temple & Aarti Timings

<b><u>Temple timings:</u></b> <b>Weekdays</b> 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM  <b>Weekends</b> 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM		<b><u>Aarti timings:</u></b> <b>Hindu Aarti</b> 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM daily  <b>Jain Aarti</b> 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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Upcoming Major Events	
Akhand Ramayan .....	Apr 20 & 21, 2024
Hanuman Jayanti .....	Apr 23, 2024
Vaishakha Masam Begins .....	May 8, 2024
Akshaya Tritiya .....	May 10, 2024
Mother's Day .....	May 12, 2024
Vrishabha Sankranti .....	May 14, 2024
Memorial Day .....	May 27, 2024
Varshik Brahmotsav (Patotsav) ...	May 29 to Jun 2, 2024
Vat Savitri Vrat .....	Jun 5, 2024
Jyeshtha Masam Begins .....	Jun 6, 2024
Jain Anniversary .....	Jun 8 & Jun 9, 2024
Mithuna Sankranti .....	Jun 14, 2024
Juneteenth .....	Jun 19, 2024
US Independence Day .....	Jul 4, 2024
Ashadha Masam Begins .....	Jul 5, 2024
Dakshinayanam Begins .....	Jul 15, 2024
Karka Sankranti .....	Jul 15, 2024
Gauri Vrat .....	Jul 17 to Jul 21, 2024
Jaya Parvati Vrat .....	Jul 19 to Jul 23, 2024
Guru Poornima .....	Jul 20, 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](http://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**

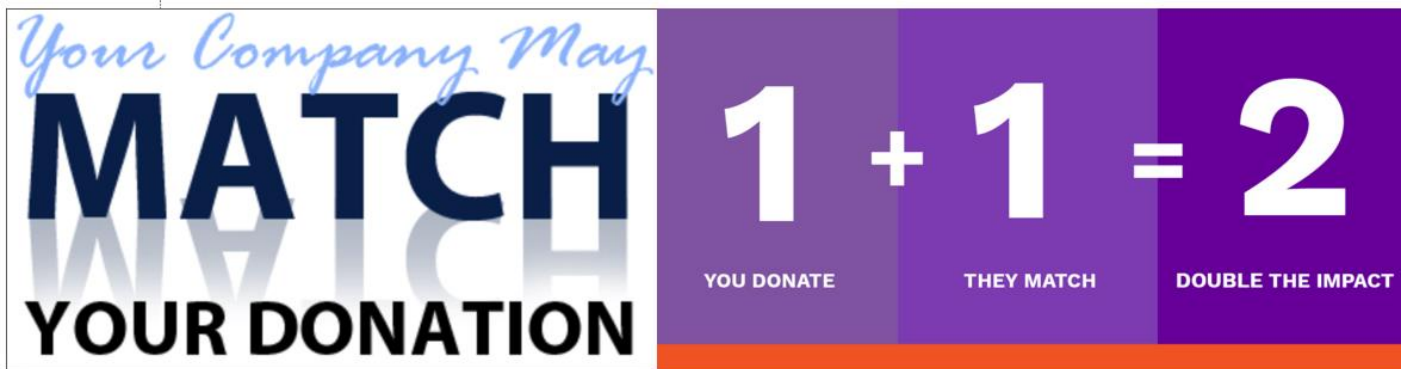
**\$50**

**\$100**

**Your Choice Amount**

*For questions and information  
please contact [donations@b-temple.org](mailto: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!!!**



Maximize your impact



with a matching gift!



# Religious Committee - Hindu

## January 2024

On the 1st of January, New Year's Day the temple was open all day long. In the morning Srinivas Kalyanam was celebrated with great pomp as is the New Year's day tradition after the recital of Thiruvempavai for Lord Shiva. Satyanarayan Puja was also performed in the evening for New Year's day followed by Shiva abhishekam..

On Saturday January 6th, due to inclement weather the Irumudi Kettu was done around 2 pm along with the mandala puja. On January 7. Sunderkand parayan was performed. Hanuman Jayanthi was celebrated on 10th Jan. Hanuman Chalisa was chanted 5 times with the grand Puja. Kudaravalli was celebrated on the morning of January 12th.

On Saturday January 13, after the Balaji abhishekam, Thiruppaliezhuchi & Thiruppavai recital was done followed by Andal/Goda Kalyanam performed on the temple floor. The function was well attended by devotees. Bhogi/Lohri was also celebrated on January 13. In the morning around 7 AM the Bhogi fire and puja was done outside the temple. There was a huge turn out of Devotees around the Lohri bonfire in the temple compound.

On January 14th Makara Sankranti / Pongal was celebrated in the morning. In the evening Makarajothi Puja was done to mark the conclusion of Mandalam.

We had a huge turnout for Saamuhik Sri Ram Mandir Prana Prathista on 21st of January starting from 9 PM till the next morning. More than 1000 devotees came for this special event. The temple floors were decorated with lamps and Rama Flags. Special arrangements were made to telecast the live event of Ram Mandir celebrations in Ayodhya. We had special abhishek for Ramparivar and Puja. We had Ram bhajans from different groups at the event.

We had Thai Poosam on January 25th. It is believed that on this day, Goddess Parvathi presented a lance to Lord Muruga to kill the demon army of Tarakasura. Thai poosam is a celebration of the victory of good over evil. This event was well attended by devotees, they carried milk pots and kavadi around the temple in procession, followed by Lord Murugan abishek chanting the Kandar shasti kavacham (kavacham means to shield from all sufferings and agony). This month was filled with Special events and spiritual moments also.

# Religious Committee - Hindu

## February 2024

After all puja's & celebrations of the new year, the month of February was a relaxed month for the priests.

Other than monthly & weekly pujas not many festivals fell in this month.

As usual, the month began with the chants of "SUNDERKAND " the fifth chapter of the "Ramayana". The Devotees group, who gather on the first Sunday chanted the sunderkand on the beats of dholak & manjira spreading auspiciousness all around the temple. The Group that gathers to chant together is getting bigger hence leaving the temple hall with positive vibrations. Such is the power of chanting together.

During the second week of February, Vasanth Panchami which is also known as Basanth Panchami or Shree Panchami was celebrated. As per Hindu scriptures, it is believed that Goddess Saraswati was born on this auspicious day. So, this day is considered as the best day to perform all the religious activities and perform puja to the Goddess. Devotees gathered with their family to seek blessings of the Goddess. Special arrangements were made by the priests so each family could perform puja.

18th February, different Bhajan groups got together for a mesmerizing evening of Ram Lalla bhajans Accompanied by dhol / tabla / manjira. Ram devotees from Sruti group also sang Thyagaraja compositions.

Nitya & weekly Abhishekams & pujas took place regularly.

## March 2024

Maha Shiva Ratri was on Friday, March 8th this year. An elaborate program was planned as we do every year. At 6PM children sang sweet bhajans. At 7 PM the Maha Mrityunjay Abhishekam and Puja by sponsors commenced. It was very well attended and all the spots were packed with devotees. From 9:15PM to 10:15PM devotees sang bhajans to Lord Shiva. At 10:15PM the priests started the Rudrabhishekam of the Moola Murti. This was followed by Uttar Puja at 11:30PM and Archana. At midnight the Maha mangal aarti was sung by priests and devotees. Devotees were able to offer abhishekam to the Ustav Shivling from 5PM to 11:30PM. The function was very well attended by devotees, many of whom stayed back till the Mangal aarti was completed after midnight.

Chairperson: Nand Todi 215.205.5097 nandtodi@gmail.com

## Religious Committee - Hindu

Meenakshi Kalyanam was performed on Sunday, March 24 at 10AM. The Kalyanam was performed very well by the temple priests and devotees enjoyed the divine atmosphere.

Holi this year was on Sunday, March 24. Satyanarayan Puja was first conducted by the priests in the temple hall upstairs from 5:30PM to 7PM. From 7:30PM onwards Holika dahan was performed. About 300 devotees at least attended the Holika dahan, each one making small offerings to the sacred fire. Besides these all other regular temple functions were performed at the temple.



Chairperson: Nand Todi 215.205.5097 [nandtodi@gmail.com](mailto:nandtodi@gmail.com)

## Religious Committee - Jain

Jains had weekly puja of Adinath Bhagwan every Sunday in first quarter 2024. We also had monthly Bhavna on first Wednesday of each month and Santra puja on second Sunday of each month during the first quarter. There is daily aarti at noon and 7 pm every day for Mahavir Swami, Parshvanath Bhagwan and Adinath Bhagwan. We are looking forward to Mahavir Jayanti and 18 Abhishek program scheduled for Saturday, April 7.



Chairperson: Nand Todi 215.205.5097 [nandtodi@gmail.com](mailto:nandtodi@gmail.com)



# 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 24 Feb 2024. We had a total of 30 donations, potentially saving up to 90 lives. It was a successful drive and we exceeded our goal this time. A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers for recruiting donors and making this a very successful drive. Great team effort and thanks to BTI/BCC management and Board of Directors (BoD) for the continued support for these activities that has a huge community impact.

Would like to call out newest HHS volunteers Manisha Sonee, Ranjit Komati, and our Youth Lead for this drive, Shreyas Trivedi. Thank you, Ranjit, for your efforts in recruiting new donors and bringing them to Bharatiya Temple. Thanks to BTI/BCC management and BoD for the continued support for these activities. This is one of those noble causes the Temple has been supporting and has saved many lives over several years. Please see the numbers below and the impact:

- 43 BLOOD DRIVES So far
- 1086 UNITS COLLECTED
- POTENTIALLY SAVED >3250 LIVES
- BUCK'S COUNTY HEROES AWARD IN 2015
- CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FOR CONDUCTING BLOOD DRIVES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC 2023.

**Chairperson:** Babu Medi 979.204.3185 medibabu@yahoo.com

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

## Health & Human Services

The Temple hosts 4 drives annually and this brings donors from local community along with temple devotees. They get introduced to the Bharatiya Temple and they are encouraged to visit mandir upstairs. Then to return to the volunteers for any questions they have after visiting the sanctum. During the last blood drive, we took one of the donors upstairs and he felt so happy that he came to donate at the Temple and got to see Hindu Temple for the first time and prayed in front of Lord Sri Ganesha for his daughters. Again, HHS committee thanks to all the donors, volunteers and BTI/BCC management. for supporting these lifesaving missions.



Chairperson: Babu Medi 979.204.3185 [medibabu@yahoo.com](mailto:medibabu@yahoo.com)  
Co-Chair: Anjan Dave 610.737.0278 [anjancd@hotmail.com](mailto:anjancd@hotmail.com)

## Health & Human Services

The next blood drive is scheduled for 01 June 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>

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](mailto:medibabu@yahoo.com) or signup @ [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc\\_7DvdFvmbF-09L7XCixLz-LwGkl0McRs7tayxFLxXc\\_n8-g/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc_7DvdFvmbF-09L7XCixLz-LwGkl0McRs7tayxFLxXc_n8-g/viewform)

Chairperson: Babu Medi 979.204.3185 [medibabu@yahoo.com](mailto:medibabu@yahoo.com)  
Co-Chair: Anjan Dave 610.737.0278 [anjancd@hotmail.com](mailto:anjancd@hotmail.com)

# Education Committee

Spiritual Learning is an imperishable and precious wealth. All other possessions are considered as Less Golden. These days, education is not only considered a basic requirement but it also gives a perfect shape to Life. For people who face any sort of difficulties, you must read our scriptures. Especially SHREEMAD BHAGAVAD GITA, to help young people access the timeless classic in a dynamic, relevant, contemporary and accessible way.

## **What are the benefits of Study Group meetings?**

- ◇ SPIRITUAL GROWTH with STUDY GROUPS- KNOWLEDGE EMPOWERS YOU.
- ◇ READING MAKE YOU THINK POSITIVE – INCREASE YOUR INTELLECTS
- ◇ **Bhagavad Gita in “English” By Praveen Sharma : Bring your Questions—*Last Thursday of Every Month at 7:00 PM via zoom. Please follow the flyer on BTI website.***

Currently we are doing chapter #2 which explains that in one’s lifetime in itself, the body passes through various stages including childhood, youth, and old age, and thereafter into another body after death. The wise know it and are not deluded. Our modern science informs us that cells within the body undergo regeneration—old cells die away and new ones take their place. It is estimated that within seven years, practically all the cells of the body change. With every breath we inhale, oxygen molecules are absorbed into our cells via the metabolic processes, and molecules that were heretofore locked within the cells are released as carbon dioxide. Scientists estimate that in one year’s time, about ninety-eight percent of our bodily molecules change. And yet, despite the continual change of the body, we perceive that we are the same person. That is because we are not the material body, but the spiritual soul seated within.

## **Upcoming programs:**

**“HASYA KAVISAMMELAN” on Thursday MAY 9 2024 at 5:30 PM**

**“POWER OF THOUGHTS” - Five days Satsang with Swami Mukundananda from June 24<sup>th</sup>, to 27<sup>th</sup>. (Dinner will served in both program follow the flyer on BTI website).**

**YOGA and Meditation – EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:10 AM ON TEMPLE FLOOR**

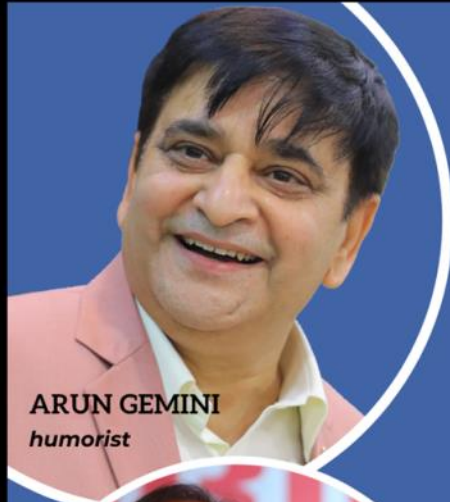
Gita tell us about duty, action, and renunciation. The **Gita** has three major themes: knowledge, action, and love. Yoga is equanimity of mind in success and failures.

- Yoga is the remover of misery and destroyer of pain. Yoga is the supreme secret of life.
- Yoga is serenity.

Chairperson: Rita Sheth 484.374.0825 mynapa83@gmail.com

# Education Committee

## HASYA KAVISAMMELAN



ARUN GEMINI  
humorist



SHAMBHU SHIKHAR  
satirist



MUMTAZ NASEEM  
lyricist

## Bharatiya Cultural Center

Educational Committee  
presents

हास्य के रंग  
गीत-गज़ल के संग

RIP-ROARING HUMOR  
NON-STOP LAUGHTER  
HEART-WARMING RECITALS

Thursday • May 9 • 5:30 pm

**Bharatiya Temple**

1612 Country Line Rd, Montgomeryville, PA 18936

Bharatiya Temple  
Inc  
@btibcc1612



venmo

Donation for Hasya Kavisammelan with Dinner:

\$25, \$35, \$45 (advance)

\$30, \$40, \$50 (at the door)

Light Dinner will be Served 5:30 to 6:15pm  
(must RSVP or advance purchase)

<https://b-temple.org/online-donations/> SELECT 'Cultural Ctr Donations'  
Or, make check payable to: BTI/BCC and drop it at Temple Gift Shop

Contact:

Rita Sheth (610) 275-7472 or [mynapa@aol.com](mailto:mynapa@aol.com)

Umesh Tambi 215.275.1527, Viresh Singh 484.425.7734, Sonal Makwana 302.743.1964

Neeta Sharma 732.543.4892, Sanjeevan Sony 215.540.0979, Usha Arya 484.802.7861, Kavita Shah 908.580.1627



अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हिन्दी समिति की विशेष प्रस्तुति

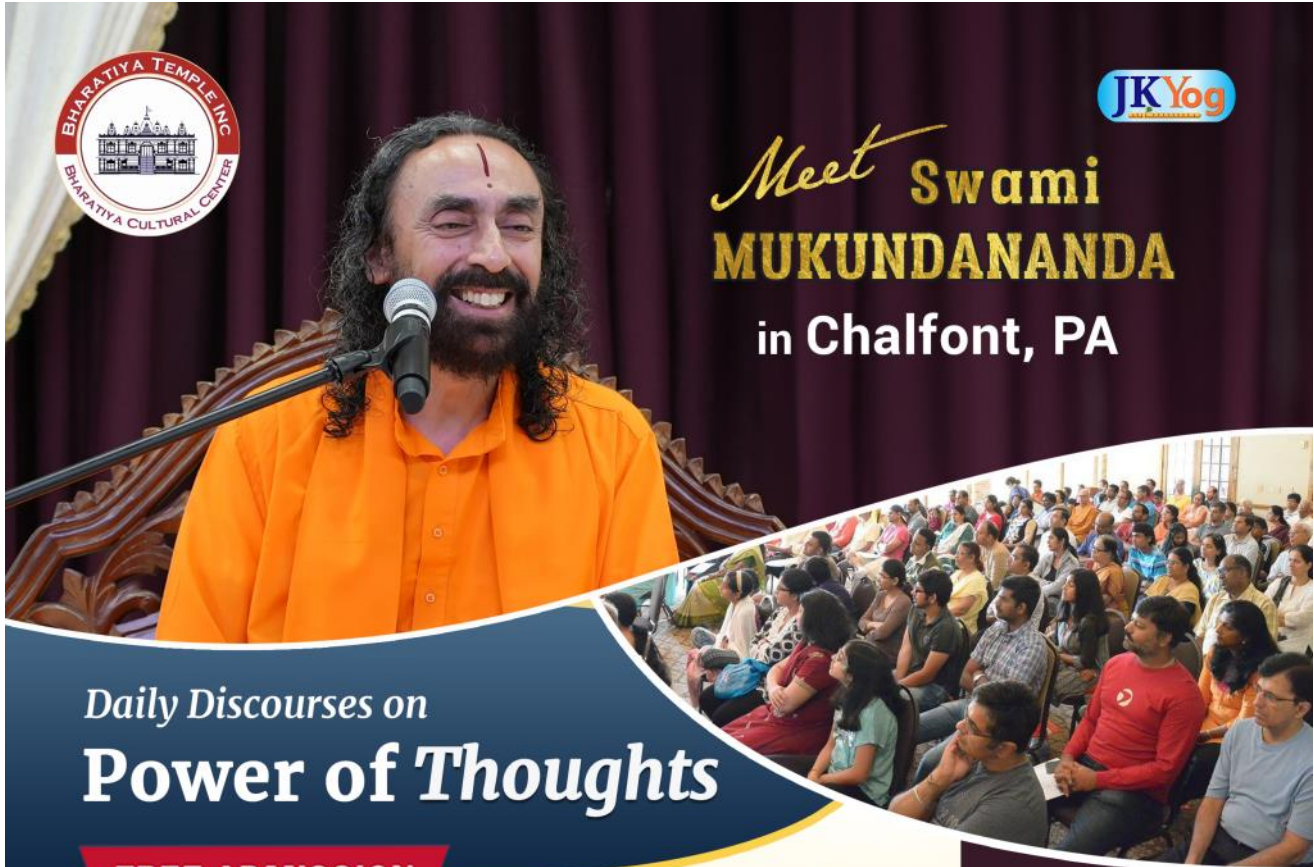
[www.b-temple.org](http://www.b-temple.org) • <http://bcceducation.blogspot.com>

Chairperson: Rita Sheth 484.374.0825 [mynapa83@gmail.com](mailto:mynapa83@gmail.com)

# Education Committee



Meet **Swami**  
**MUKUNDANANDA**  
in Chalfont, PA



Daily Discourses on  
**Power of Thoughts**

**FREE ADMISSION**

**JUNE 24 – 27 (Mon to Thurs)**

**VENUE: Bharatiya Cultural Center**  
1612 County Line Rd, Chalfont, PA 18914

**Daily: 6:45 pm to 9 pm**

**Meet and Greet Swamiji: 6:45 pm to 7:15 pm**

**Discourse: 7:15 pm to 9 pm**

**Dinner Prasad Served Daily**

### **About Swami Mukundananda**

- ✓ Senior Disciple of Jagadguru Shri Kripaluji Maharaj
- ✓ Global Spiritual Leader
- ✓ IIT/IIM Alumnus & Best selling Author
- ✓ Authority on Mind Management
- ✓ Vedic Scholar and Bhakti Saint
- ✓ Founder of JKYog



**Contacts:**

484-620-4345

610-275-7472

267-303-3213

267-884-4005



**Free Sign Up**

**[JKYog.org/PA](http://JKYog.org/PA)**

Chairperson: Rita Sheth 484.374.0825 mynapa83@gmail.com

## Cultural Committee

The Cultural Committee is excited to showcase the vibrant tapestry of events that defined our dynamic first quarter! Our commitment to nurturing a vibrant and inclusive community has been at the forefront of our endeavors, and we are thrilled to share the following highlights:

- **Embracing Traditions:** Our committee members actively engaged in Bharatiya temple events, such as Lohri and Ram Mandir Patotsav celebrations. These enriching experiences not only deepened our understanding of cultural roots but also strengthened the bonds within our community.

- **A Night of Song and Fun:**

One of our standout events was the inaugural Bollywood karaoke potluck night. This gathering was an overwhelming success, with enchanting voices filling the room and creating an atmosphere brimming with joy and camaraderie.



Chairperson: Sonal Makwana 302.743.1964 [bcc.culture@gmail.com](mailto:bcc.culture@gmail.com) or [makwans@gmail.com](mailto:makwans@gmail.com)  
Co-chair: Preeti Tailor 215.868.4831 [preeti.tailor@gmail.com](mailto:preeti.tailor@gmail.com)  
Co-chair: Manisha Chauhan 267.663.9250 [man\\_22vc@yahoo.com](mailto:man_22vc@yahoo.com)

## Cultural Committee

- **Holi Festivities:** Collaborating with the Youth Group, we organized an unforgettable Holi festival. The event witnessed a remarkable turnout of enthusiastic participants, coming together to revel in the vibrant colors and exuberant spirit of this traditional celebration, fostering a sense of togetherness and unity.



Chairperson: Sonal Makwana 302.743.1964 [bcc.culture@gmail.com](mailto:bcc.culture@gmail.com) or [makwans@gmail.com](mailto:makwans@gmail.com)  
Co-chair: Preeti Tailor 215.868.4831 [preeti.tailor@gmail.com](mailto:preeti.tailor@gmail.com)  
Co-chair: Manisha Chauhan 267.663.9250 [man\\_22vc@yahoo.com](mailto:man_22vc@yahoo.com)



## Cultural Committee

- **Learning Through Movement:** Our ongoing Bhangra classes, led by the immensely talented Jatinderji and Gursharanji, have become a cornerstone of our cultural exploration initiatives. These classes not only provide a platform for artistic expression but also serve as a conduit for deepening our connection to the rich heritage of dance and movement within our community.



Through these diverse and engaging activities, the Cultural Committee continues to inspire and uplift our community, celebrating our shared heritage while embracing the beauty of diversity. We look forward to many more enriching experiences in the months to come, as we continue our journey of cultural exploration and celebration.

Chairperson: Sonal Makwana 302.743.1964 [bcc.culture@gmail.com](mailto:bcc.culture@gmail.com) or [makwans@gmail.com](mailto:makwans@gmail.com)  
Co-chair: Preeti Tailor 215.868.4831 [preeti.tailor@gmail.com](mailto:preeti.tailor@gmail.com)  
Co-chair: Manisha Chauhan 267.663.9250 [man\\_22vc@yahoo.com](mailto:man_22vc@yahoo.com)

# Cultural Committee

The Cultural Committee is thrilled to announce the upcoming Spring Mela, a celebration of art, culture, and community! This vibrant event promises to be a highlight of the season, bringing together people from all backgrounds to revel in a day of festivities and fun. Save the date and join us for a day filled with laughter, culture, and togetherness at the Spring Mela.



**Spring Mela**  
Organized by  
**Bharatiya Cultural Committee**

on  
**SAT MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
**11:00am – 6:00 pm**  
at  
**1612 County Line Road,  
Chalfont, PA**

Save the date to  
enjoy **Indian Street  
Food,**  
**Ethnic clothes and  
jewelry vendors**

**Live Orchestra  
Cultural  
Programs**

For more Information, please contact  
**Sonal Makwana : 302-743-1964, Preeti Tailor : 215-868-4831**  
**Manisha Chauhan : 267-663-9250**  
**Neeta Sharma :215-361-0145, Amita Patel: 484-347-1332**

Chairperson: Sonal Makwana 302.743.1964 [bcc.culture@gmail.com](mailto:bcc.culture@gmail.com) or [makwans@gmail.com](mailto:makwans@gmail.com)  
Co-chair: Preeti Tailor 215.868.4831 [preeti.tailor@gmail.com](mailto:preeti.tailor@gmail.com)  
Co-chair: Manisha Chauhan 267.663.9250 [man\\_22vc@yahoo.com](mailto:man_22vc@yahoo.com)

## Women's Group

The BCC Women's Group celebrated International Women's Day on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Bharatiya Temple. The event was a grand success with approximately 100 women joining the celebration that included a Fashion Show to showcase Ethnic wear from different regions of India, awe-inspiring answers to questions, a fun musical group game, and a delicious lunch. Sanjiwan Soni, founder, benefactor, and extraordinary temple devotee was recognized for her dedicated service to the Temple and the Women's Group.



Chairperson: Kavita Shah 908.580.1627 kavitagsg101@gmail.com

## Women's Group



Chairperson: Kavita Shah 908.580.1627 kavitag101@gmail.com  
Co-chair: Neeta Gupta 267.474.7474 ngupta1120@yahoo.com

## Women's Group



The Women's Group has two book clubs that meet regularly. The Evening Book Club discussed *Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah on January 9<sup>th</sup> and *Looking for Jane* by Heather Marshall on March 5<sup>th</sup>. The Daytime Book Club discussed *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver on 15<sup>th</sup> February over a potluck lunch at the Temple.



The Women's Group is planning several events for this year, the first of which is **Meet the Author -Alka Joshi on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2024**. Also, we are arranging talks on **Understanding Family Finances for Women by Anita Devan** and **Self-Coaching Happiness by Neelam Samanth on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024**.

Chairperson: Kavita Shah 908.580.1627 kavitag101@gmail.com  
Co-chair: Neeta Gupta 267.474.7474 ngupta1120@yahoo.com

# Women's Group



BCC WOMEN'S GROUP PRESENTS

## MEET THE AUTHOR

### ALKA JOSHI

#### BOOK- THE HENNA ARTIST

INTERNATIONAL BEST SELLING  
AUTHOR OF THE JAIPUR TRILOGY  
AND SOON TO BE NETFLIX SERIES

## MAY 16, 2024

7:00 PM- 8:00 PM

ONLINE ZOOM MEETING



DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION? FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US AT-  
VAIBHAVI HARIDAS+I (215) 896-2798 | KAVITA SHAH +I (908) 580-1627 |  
POONAM GIDWANI (215) 859-8626

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 kavitag101@gmail.com  
Co-chair: Neeta Gupta 267.474.7474 ngupta1120@yahoo.com

# Bharatiya Vidyalaya

196 students registered for 2023-24 Bharatiya Vidyalaya program (August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 thru May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024), the 19<sup>th</sup> 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, Culture or Language topic.

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 attend 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 2 is deemed as a summary to the entire Geeta by some philosophers. In verse 48 of the chapter, Bhagavan Krishna defines Yoga.

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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

योगस्थः कुरु कर्माणि सङ्गं त्यक्त्वा धनञ्जय ।  
सिद्ध्यसिद्ध्योः समो भूत्वा समत्वं योग उच्यते ॥ २-४८ ॥

Lord Krishna tells Arjuna to perform action abandoning attachment, being steadfast in Yoga, and balanced in success and failure. Evenness of mind is called Yoga.

Simultaneously at 10 AM, over 15 parents attend a meditation session for parents.

## Volunteers

Bharatiya Vidyalaya program for 2023-4 has been run by over 50 teaching volunteers and 10 non-teaching volunteers. All volunteers actively maintain their required compliance as per the law for volunteering for children in Pennsylvania. During Q1, the focus was training students for Culture Day (March 17<sup>th</sup>), Religion Day (April 21<sup>st</sup>) and Language Day (May 19<sup>th</sup>).

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

## Senior Students

As part of the *Senior Student* program, 9<sup>th</sup> 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

A dedicated group of volunteers manage Bharatiya Vidyalaya library. Parents borrow books from the library for their children and themselves.

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# Bharatiya Vidyalaya

## Expenses

Bharatiya Vidyalaya volunteers are extremely conservative with expenses. The only significant expense is the cost of text books and school-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 in full 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 Q1-2024

### January 28<sup>th</sup>: Parents-Volunteers meeting

Over 75 parents attended the meeting. Teaching and non-teaching volunteers introduced themselves to the attendees. Volunteers and parents discussed how they can work together for children's benefit. Parents expressed their appreciation for volunteers' efforts.

### March 8<sup>th</sup>: Maha Sivaratri Mohotsav

Bharatiya Vidyalaya students sang bhajans on the temple floor.

### Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>: [Culture Day](#): (hyperlink) Guidelines for Students

All students were given the opportunity to perform on the stage. Volunteers worked with students in advance to prepare them for the stage performance.

- ⇒ The youngest students (Ganga and Kaveri class) spoke about various tourist places in India.
- ⇒ Narmada class (grade 2) acted as famous people from India.
- ⇒ Yamuna (grade 3) discussed Indian constitution and the US constitution.
- ⇒ Saraswati students (grade 4) talked about "important inventions and cultural discoveries" in India.

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- ⇒ Krishna students (grade 5 and 6) presented “India-US Now and Time Traveled to 2030”.
- ⇒ Godavari class (grade 7+) presented on various topics associated with Indian culture.

## March 30<sup>th</sup>: Holi

Students and parents enthusiastically celebrated Holi, the Festival of Colors in Bharatiya Temple

## Presentations Students made in Morning Assembly

- ⇒ **January 7<sup>th</sup>**: Divya Patel, Grade 7 presented on [Lord Ram](#) (hyperlink)
- ⇒ **January 28<sup>th</sup>**:
  - Shlok Amrutkar, Grade 4 presented on [Meters \(Chhandas\)](#) (hyperlink) in Sanskrit
  - Sahil Kambli, Grade 7 presented on the 24 Gurus of [Lord Dattatreya](#) (hyperlink)
- ⇒ **March 31<sup>st</sup>**: Nalini Trehan, Grade 2 presented “[Prayer to Sri Ram in Sanskrit](#)” (hyperlink) as a lesson on Sanskrit grammar for the audience.



*Kindergarten and grade 1 Students of Bharatiya Vidyalaya present about Indian festivals as part of Culture Day Performances on March 17<sup>th</sup>*

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*Bharatiya Vidyalaya Students, Parents and Volunteers assemble for a picture after Culture Day Performances on March 17<sup>th</sup>*

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# Bharatiya Vidyalaya



## Bharatiya Vidyalaya

### Bharatiya Cultural Center

1612 County Line Road, Chalfont, PA 18914 Phone: (215) 997-1181

[www.b-temple.org](http://www.b-temple.org) Click on the link: Bharatiya Vidyalaya



Summer Program for 1<sup>st</sup> graders\* -12<sup>th</sup> graders: In-Person only

Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

(Extended Hours: 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM)



### Program Contents (Tentative)

Yoga, Meditation, Shlokas and Prayers
Storytelling/Cartoons (for younger students)
Arts & Craft (Rangoli, Origami: Art of paper folding, Garland making)
Indian Cooking (Snacks, Breakfast)
Introduction to Indian Music (Harmonium/Keyboard, Tabla)
Learning Dance Steps (Garba, Kathak)
Sports: Volleyball, Frisbee, Cricket

- ❖ Registration is on for summer program
  - ❖ Registration Fees  
**For 5 Days: \$190 per child (+ \$50 for extended hours: 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM)**
  - ❖ Registration and Payment must be done online: [www.b-temple.org](http://www.b-temple.org), click Bharatiya Vidyalaya on the top left, and then "Summer Program" on the top right
  - ❖ **Limited Seats Available: First Come First Served Basis**
  - ❖ For questions, please contact Ritaben Sheth [mynapa@aol.com](mailto:mynapa@aol.com) and [bccvidya@gmail.com](mailto:bccvidya@gmail.com) or call 484-374-0825
  - ❖ Please follow CDC guidelines for COVID
- \* Child should be a 1<sup>st</sup> grader or above as on September 1, 2023

Version dated 3/16/24

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# Bharatiya Vidyalaya



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1612 County Line Road, Chalfont, PA 18914 Phone: (215) 997-1181  
[www.b-temple.org](http://www.b-temple.org) Click on the link: Bharatiya Vidyalaya



### Summer Sanskrit Program (Wednesday Evenings on ZOOM)



#### Program Contents (Tentative)

Sanskrit Alphabet – Reading, Writing, Pronunciation
Basic Sanskrit Grammar
Sanskrit Shlokas and Subhaashitas
Select Bhagavad Geeta Verses
Conversational Sanskrit

- ❖ Registration is on for the Online Summer Sanskrit Program
- ❖ Open to children as well as adults
- ❖ 8 ZOOM Classes of 90 minutes each
- ❖ 6 pm – 7:30 pm on Wednesdays: June 5, 12, 19, 26, July 24, 31, Aug 7, 14
- ❖ Registration Fees  
**First child/adult from a family: \$75**  
**Second child/adult from the family: \$65**  
**Additional students from the same family: FREE**
- ❖ Registration and Payment must be done online: [www.b-temple.org](http://www.b-temple.org), click Bharatiya Vidyalaya on the top left, and then "Summer Sanskrit Application" in the links on the right
- ❖ **Limited Seats Available: First Come First Served Basis**
- ❖ For questions, please contact Rita Sheth [mynapa@aol.com](mailto:mynapa@aol.com) and [bccvidya@gmail.com](mailto:bccvidya@gmail.com) or call 732-595-6801
- ❖ Child should be a 1<sup>st</sup> grader or above as of September 1, 2023

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# Becoming a Member of BTI / BCC



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**



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

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](mailto:info@b-temple.org)

### Priest services:

Ramana Kanumalla  
267-396-7852  
[priest@b-temple.org](mailto:priest@b-temple.org)

### Hall Rental

Dixal Patel  
610-291-7493  
[hall@b-temple.org](mailto: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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