

WELCOME FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We warmly welcome you to our Temple, no matter whether your interest is to observe, to learn, or to worship. Our website, <http://lansingtemple.org>, lists the many services offered by the Temple. We invite you to take full advantage of these services. If you wish to get actively engaged in Temple activities, please contact any member of the Board.

Since its grand opening in 1994, our Temple has been serving the mid-Michigan Hindu and Jain families very well. It has brought our community together, providing us a place to practice our religion and cherish our culture. It has fostered numerous religious, spiritual, and social programs; it has provided a platform to introduce Indian religion and culture to our children; and it has helped mobilize our community to acts of charity and compassion for others. Over the years, the needs of the community grew. To meet these needs, the Temple completed a major expansion in summer 2008.

Our Temple is run entirely on voluntary donations from members of the community. Your donations will allow to continue our day-to-day operations, increase the range of services offered by the newly completed Temple, and pay off our debt. We appeal to you for your generous financial support.

May God's blessings be with us all.



Ground-breaking on September 15, 2007 for the Temple completion project.

COMPLETED TEMPLE



The Temple expansion project, completed in summer 2008, added about 4300 sq. ft. of floor area on the first floor and 4300 sq. ft. of area in the basement. Natural lighting is used in the foyer and large windows to enhance the Temple's internal ambience. Steps have been taken to architecturally blend the additions with the existing structure.

The new structure has created a larger hall, which includes a yagnashala (fire pit) for Havans as well as weddings and other religious ceremonies. The picture above shows a Havan being performed in a portion of the newly completed area in November 2008; contrast this with the picture below of the makeshift Havan arrangement of the previous 14 years. Four new multi-purpose rooms provide space for children's classes, religious classes, yoga, nursery, green room for artists, etc. There are additional restrooms for men and women, both upstairs and downstairs. An elevator provides easy access to the basement. Finally, a fully functional kitchen and dining hall with seating for 250 in the basement serves to accommodate devotee needs to cook Prasad at the Temple as well as increase the attractiveness of the Temple as a rental facility for special events.



A makeshift arrangement for performing Havan, dating back to 1994, was in use till summer 2008.

IMPACT OF THE TEMPLE

For well over a decade, Bharatiya Temple of Lansing has had a significant impact on both the Hindu/Jain community and the larger community in mid-Michigan.

- **Religious Activities:** The Temple serves the diverse religious needs of both individual families and the temple community as a whole, with services offered both at the Temple and in individual homes.
- **Spiritual and Cultural Activities:** Each year the Temple hosts several spiritual talks. Cultural activities – music, dance, and secular festivals – are also sponsored.
- **Exposure of our children to Indian religious and cultural traditions** gives them a sense of belonging and builds the devotee base of the future.
- **Educational Activities:** Several free educational classes and discussion sessions are conducted, for both adults and children – e.g. Yoga, Gita, and Bala Vihar classes.
- **Socialization:** As the only public building belonging to the Indian community in the greater Lansing area, the Temple is a place for devotees to interact, form friendships, and welcome newcomers.
- **Cross-cultural exposure** for the general mid-Michigan community, e.g. visits from the general public, local schools and colleges, and churches and other faith-based groups.
- **Giving back to the community:** Monthly feeding at a local soup kitchen for homeless people; community blood drives; raising substantial funds each year for the Greater Lansing Food Bank.



Sunday Bala Vihar class at the Temple.

TEMPLE HISTORY

Bharatiya Temple of Lansing has been a functioning temple since March 12, 1994. One of about seven temples in Michigan, it serves the religious needs of the Hindu and Jain communities of mid-Michigan.

Besides the March 1994 inauguration, some other important dates in the Temple's history are:

- Consecration of Hindu deities in June 1998
- Consecration of Jain Tirthankaras in May 2000
- Consecration of Navagrahas in July 2006
- Ground-breaking ceremony (Bhoomi Pooja) for temple completion in September 2007



Priest Surendra Bhardwaj, who has been with us since May 2002, has been our sole priest since August 2009.

Goals of the Temple are to promote:

- Religious Activities: Puja, Bhajan, Satsang, and Havan
- Hindu and Jain religious identity and traditions for future generations
- Humanitarian service to the local and world community
- Harmonious relations among all the faiths



Murtis of Bhagavan Mahavir and Bhagavan Parsvanath in the Jain sanctum.

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

- ❖ **Grand Benefactor**
(Marble Plaque in Temple) **\$5,000**
 - Life Member – Pledge \$1,000 for 5 years
 - Member – Pledge \$3,000 Year 1, \$2,000 Year 2
- ❖ **Pledges** **\$500 & above**
 - Designate for Capital Improvements
 - Designate for Operations
- ❖ **Sponsor-A-Day** **\$400/Year**
 - Select a day of your choice in the year (Birthday, Anniversary etc.)
 - Puja to deity of your choice; prasad mailed home, if not present
- ❖ **Dollar-A-Day** **\$365/Year**
 - Pay at the start or end of year
 - Drop a dollar in your piggy bank and bring it every time you visit
- ❖ **Membership** **\$150/Year**
 - Everyone should be a member – It's your Temple!
- ❖ **Hundi (Cash Boxes)** **Every Visit**
 - Every time you visit, God blesses you
 - Every time you visit, donate cash in Hundi
- ❖ **Priest Services (Puja, Religious Ceremonies, Archana)**
 - At Temple
 - At home
- ❖ **Donate your time by volunteering to help with temple programs and temple administration.**



The Temple's Hindu deities, all having equal status, were installed in their present configuration in June 1998.

We warmly welcome you to our Temple, no matter whether your interest is to observe, to learn, or to worship.



BHARATIYA TEMPLE OF LANSING

Hindu Deities

Sri Ganesha, Sri Uma-Maheshvara, Sri Amba Mata, Sri Rama Parivar, Sri Radha-Krishna, Sri Venkatesvara, Sri Karttikeya, and Navagrahas

Jain Tirthankaras

Bhagavan Mahavir and
Bhagavan Parsvanath

Temple Darshan Hours

Mornings Daily M-F	9 AM to 1 PM
Mornings Weekends	9 AM to 2 PM
Evenings – All Days	5 PM to 9 PM

Bharatiya Temple of Lansing

955 Haslett Road, Haslett, MI 48840

Phone: 517-339-6337

www.lansingtemple.org