



BHARATIYA TEMPLE OF LANSING, INC.

955 Haslett Road, Haslett, MI 48840
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Phone: (517) 339-6337



Tax Exempt ID: 38-2399465

Board of Trustees – 2008

Rajiv Das, Chair
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517.349-5134

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Executive Board Members

Ashim Aggarwal
347.528.5351

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517.347.2930

Sunit Patke
517.349.5576

Jai Tripathi
517.347.4257

Dear Devotee:

We request you to join the Bharatiya Temple of Lansing as a member. Initially established as a place of worship for the Hindu community of mid-Michigan, the Temple now provides an environment for Hindus and Jains to practice their religion, promote their culture and values and preserve their identity (religion, culture and traditions) for future generations. It also seeks to develop and maintain harmonious relations among all faiths of the world.

Currently there are approximately 1100 individuals and families registered on our temple mailing list but only a small percentage of devotees are members. We urge you to join the temple membership at this crucial juncture when BTL has embarked on a completion project to ensure compliance with township code, accommodate more devotees, have a fully functional kitchen, and adapt to the needs of future generations by offering classes and facilities.

Temple membership provides vital financial support to maintain and ensure services to the devotees. The annual dues are \$ 150.00 (one hundred fifty dollars) with an additional one-time donation of \$ 250.00 (Two hundred fifty dollars). Membership enables you to vote in the Board of Trustees election and is one of the pre-requisites to serve on the Board. Answers to frequently asked questions related to membership issues are given on the following pages.

You can use the bottom portion of this letter to complete the following details and mail it back to temple with the donation and the dues in the self addressed envelope. **Please note that your membership will be activated for the year 2008 ONLY.**

MEM CAMPN 2008-01

Membership Form

Last Name, First	
Spouse	
Street Address	
City, Zip and State	
Phone	
Email Address	

Donation Amount		For*	
Membership	\$ 150.00	Check #	

Note - * You can donate for 2008 Operating Fund or Capital Improvement Fund using the separate Pledge Card (Yellow)

Your membership will go a long way in supporting and expanding the much needed facilities and services at the Bharatiya Temple of Lansing. Please feel free to contact any board member if you have a specific question. We the board of trustees thank you in anticipation for your kind support.

Yours Truly,

Board of Trustees
Bharatiya Temple of Lansing

MEMBERSHIP IN TEMPLE

You are urged to support the Temple by becoming a member of the Temple. In what follows, we give answers to frequently asked questions related to membership issues. Please read them carefully and, if you still have questions, you are welcome to call our Chairperson Rajiv Das at (517) 862-9683 or Secretary Pratin Trivedi at (517) 349-5134.

Q. What is the annual membership cost?

A. Any individual or family wishing to become a member must have

- a. Donated a total of \$250 (excluding membership dues) to this Temple in their lifetime **and**
- b. Paid annual membership of \$150 (family) or \$75 (individual)

In order to be eligible to vote in a particular year, dues must be paid prior to June 30th of that year.

Q. Who can become a member of the Bharatiya Temple?

A. Any individual or family subscribing to the objectives of the temple and submitting the necessary dues and donations.

Q. Are there any exceptions to this policy?

A. Life members (an individual or family who has donated a total of \$10,000 and honorary members need not pay annual membership dues.

Q. What are the benefits of the membership?

A. Membership in this great institution is a privilege. It primarily provides you and your spouse (family membership) a right to vote in the election of the Board of Trustees and therefore a voice in the administration of Temple activities. It also allows you to rent the temple facility for private functions such as weddings, birthday parties, etc.

Q. Who can serve as a Trustee?

A. (a) Life member

(b) Any individual or family, who has donated a total of \$1,000 in their lifetime to this Temple and has paid annual membership dues.

Q. What type of payments made to the Temple are tax deductible?

A. Bharatiya Temple is a tax-exempt organization under Sec. 501 (c)(3) of Internal Revenue Code. We must use this status very wisely and follow all regulations. IRS regulations state that any donations made to the Temple in cash or kind to the extent that the donor does not receive any value of goods or services back from the Temple are tax deductible.

The following payments help the Temple activities but do not qualify for tax deductions as a contribution under the current IRS regulations: (These are a few examples.)

- Purchase of tickets for Temple-sponsored cultural events. (However, if you sponsor the program to defray the cost, it will be a tax-deductible item.)
- Cost of ad placed in Temple brochure
- Purchase or rental of library books or videos
- Any amount paid towards services such as Priest services for puja in your home, Sunday school/ BalVihar, Temple rental etc.
- In the event that a fund raising dinner or program is arranged, the Temple will provide you with the portion of the total price which will be eligible for tax deduction.

Q. Do I get a receipt for my contributions?

A. Yes, a receipt will be mailed to you for each contribution.

We cannot apply any part of your contribution as membership dues without your express instructions. Please complete the form on the first page and return it with your payment before the due date to become a voting member.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE