



for joyous occasions such as weddings, as well as provide guidance and refuge during times of crisis. Over the past 30 years, the temple has played an essential role in the spiritual development and health of the local community.



Please be kind to our environment by using public transportation, biking or walking when visiting the temple. Vehicle parking is limited. There is plenty of bicycle parking and we are located just one block north of the Ashby Bart and a few steps away from AC Transit Lines 15 and 18.

LOCATION

Wat Mongkolratanaram
1911 Russell Street Berkeley, CA 94703

PUBLIC HOURS

Monday - Saturday 9AM - 5PM
Sunday - 10AM - 1PM

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 510.849.3419
Email: watmongkol@hotmail.com



Thank you to the community for your continued support of the temple. Help us continue to be good neighbors. Please contact us at any time should there be any questions or comments.



WAT MONGKOLRATANARAM
Buddhist Temple and Thai Cultural
Center of the San Francisco Bay Area



SPIRIT

Wat Mongkolratanaram serves as a spiritual sanctuary for the Buddhist, Southeast Asian and local community in the San Francisco Bay Area. We provide a peaceful place for people to practice and learn about Buddhist philosophy and culture. Monks encourage a warm atmosphere welcoming people of all cultures and backgrounds to practice meditation, participate in Buddhist ceremonies, enjoy cultural celebrations or simply for a peaceful walk through the garden. Monks also perform traditional blessing ceremonies

CULTURE

We are also home to the Thai Cultural Center of the San Francisco Bay Area. Through the dedication of hardworking volunteers, an international visiting instructor program and donations from the community, we are able to offer children of all backgrounds traditional Thai dance and music instruction. Classes take place every Sunday afternoon during the school year and a more intensive program is offered every summer. The center performs for a variety of cultural shows, fundraisers, Thai Buddhist holidays, festivals and private functions throughout the Bay Area, including events at the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco City Hall, the California Culinary Academy Greystone Campus and the San Francisco Chinese New Year's Street Festival.

Alongside the music and dance program, Thai language classes are offered to children as well as adults of all backgrounds. Instruction is provided by native Thai speakers and visiting instructors from Thailand. Throughout the year, children and adults can be found learning how to speak, read, write and even sing in Thai. Language is vital to the transference of culture and heritage, thus our program plays an important role in keeping Thai culture alive in Thai American youth and in introducing people of other cultures to our rich and lively traditions.



COMMUNITY

We are well known throughout the Bay Area as a peaceful gathering place for people of all cultures and backgrounds including students, professionals, families, Buddhist followers and the local Southeast Asian community. Visitors are often found meditating or enjoying the tranquility of the temple as well as celebrating personal and cultural events, socializing or participating in cultural exchange. These shared experiences are a bedrock of this community center.

Sharing food is an important part of Thai, Southeast Asian and Buddhist culture. As monks may not work and live as laymen, visitors and members of the temple make food offerings daily to monks as a form of merit making that is inherent to Buddhist beliefs. This tradition of sharing food and merit making is extended to the local community. Food is donated and prepared by volunteers and offered to the community on Sundays and during cultural celebrations. Suggested donations are offered to the temple which supports our dance, music and language programs and temple proper allowing us to continue to contribute to the spiritual and cultural development of the local community.

