Another week has passed—clock-driven and overfilled; the news tells us another story of a world in great need of care and compassion. You are in need of connection. It is Shabbat and you find yourself seated in the Bet Alef sanctuary. Evening sun glows warmly through the stained glass and the Ner Tamid flickers above the gilded ark, drawing you in and providing focus. A wave of peace washes over you.

Alef and Bet are the first two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. The alef is the silent letter that symbolizes the silence of Spirit from which all sound flows. The name of the letter bet means “house”. Our synagogue is named Bet Alef because we are creating a bet alef—a home for the Jewish spirit; a home for your spirit.

Music, song, chanting, silence—these are the sounds that fill our hearts and minds during Shabbat and Holiday worship. We awaken to a deeper understanding of Self and acceptance that we, like everything the light touches or leaves in shadow, are holy.

At Bet Alef, we hold true to the teaching that it is incumbent upon us in each generation to interpret Torah as it is relevant today—to discover new relevance in Jewish text. We do this through a meditative approach to Jewish tradition, text, ritual, and identity.

We support a spiritual deepening that can express through acts of greater compassion in the world. Rabbi Olivier’s weekly Torah Reflections, Kabbalat Shabbat talks and sitting together in discussion at Saturday Morning Torah Study help to guide and encourage us as we ask questions and look for deeper meaning in the texts and traditions that have held the Jewish people together for generations.

Together, we create a shared identity that connects us to each other and to our common spiritual values rooted in millennia-old traditions. A Family Service on Yom Kippur, Tu BiSh’vat Seder and guided tour through the Arboretum, dancing with our Torah on Simchat Torah, and Shabbat Learning are some of the experiences that bring our community together—L’Dor V’Dor—from generation to generation.

Our legacy donors are committed members like you who understand that it is incumbent upon us to preserve and strengthen our joyful community so that our children and grandchildren will have a place to explore their Jewish spirituality and learn the values of our tradition.

By making a bequest or other legacy gift today, you will be doing your part to secure Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue’s future. We invite you to be a part of assuring our community’s vitality and vibrancy, our traditions and our innovations for our future generations.

The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER SEATTLE

Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue
www.betalef.org