

Reflections of a President  
*What a long strange trip it's been ...*



***Oseh Shalom***

עושה שלום במרומיו...

# We are Family

Living Life is Fun

- ▶ Oseh Shalom is in Laurel, MD - Suburb of Washington DC
- ▶ 200 Member Units



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# You Say You Want a Revolution

## We all want to change the world

### Opportunities

- I'm the "New Kid"
- Lengthy Decision Making Process ("Stuckedness")
- Long Meetings
- Religious School Competitiveness



# Lean on Me

I'll be your friend to help you carry on

## Past Presidents Play an Important Role

- *They Know the Background on Outstanding Issues*
- *Insights to Team Dynamics*
- *Institutional Knowledge*
- *Expertise on Specific Issues*
- *Lend Support When Needed (On Close Votes)*



# Ch-Ch-Ch-Ch Changes

Turn and Face the Strange

## Transitions Transitions Transitions

- *New Rabbis*
- *Administrator Resigned*
- *Religious School Director Resigned*
- *Cantor Retired*
- *Tenant Contract Up for Renewal*



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# It's the End of the World As We Know It (And I Feel Fine)

## Covid Response Team - Re-Opening Committee

- *Monitor CDC, State and Local Policy*
- *Created a Matrix for Threat Levels*
- *Recommended Policy to the Executive Committee*



# I Get By With a Little Help From My Friends

## Do You Need Anybody?

### Establishing (Or Reinvigorating) New Committees for Flexibility in Meeting Changing Needs and Interests

- *Security*
- *School Director Search Committee*
- *Administrator Search Committee*
- *Security Committee*
- *Social Justice Committee*
- *Caring & Support Committee*
- *Shma Koleynu - In Reach*
- *Oseh Listens Team - Feedback*
- *Re-Opening Committee (COVID)*
- *Cantor Search Committee*
- *Young Adults Committee*
- *Keshet Equality Task Force*
- *Empty Nester Chavurah*
- *ShulCloud Migration Team*



# I Get By With a Little Help From My Friends

## Do You Need Anybody?

### Executive Committee and Board Of Directors - Agility

- Smaller Group - *Quicker Decisions - Shorter Meetings!!!*
- Special Committees for Policy Recommendations
- Political Engagement Policy
- Policy Approvals by Executive Committee
- Board Meetings more focused on reporting/oversight/long range planning
- *Restructured School Fees and Created New Membership Categories*



# I Get By With a Little Help From My Friends

## Do You Need Anybody?

### Play to People's Strengths

- **Have Diverse Perspectives** - especially people who don't readily agree with you - Watch for Group Think
- **Identify Mentors and Advisors** - and call on them!
- **Value People's Time** - use timed agendas to keep meetings on time and on topic



# Sound Track

- *We Are Family - Sister Sledge*
- *Revolution - The Beatles*
- *Lean on Me - Bill Withers*
- *It's the End of the World as We Know It - REM*
- *I Get By With A Little Help From My Friends - Joe Cocker*

