

SONG	SUMMARY & RELATED TEXT (most on <a href="http://www.sefaria.org">www.sefaria.org</a> )
2 Jews, 3 Opinions	Using a popular cultural quip to explore how our diverse opinions are strengths when we argue constructively, seeking truth rather than victory; featured in <a href="#">Israeli Journal of Humor Research</a> ; Erubin 13b, Genesis 1:28-29, Numbers 16, Pirkei Avot 5:17, Menachot 33a
Shabbos Keeps the Jews	Quip by cultural Zionism founder Asher Ginsberg (Ahad Ha'am): musing what transcends varied approaches to Shabbat practice; <b>New Mexico Music Awards Finalist for Best Bluegrass Song</b>
Lights Lead Home	Jewish ritual can awaken what's within, as it has for many B'nai Anusim (Crypto-Jews) whose ancestors were forced by medieval Spain to flee or forsake their faith. This song is a composite of experiences of B'nei Anusim I've known from my time in El Paso (which has an <a href="#">Anusim Center</a> ) and the lyric was featured in a national <a href="#">resource guide</a> and the Spring/Summer 2020 <a href="#">HaLapid</a>
Kind	Dietary practices (Deuteronomy 14:3-21, Genesis 9:4, Leviticus 17:10-14) have allegorical kindness rationale from first-century BCE philosopher Philo of Alexandria's <i>The Special Laws IV</i> (103, 107, 108, 111, 116) and <i>On the Virtues</i> (133-144); featured by <a href="#">KosherToday</a> and <a href="#">Opera UTEP</a>
Max (The Bark Mitzvah Song)	Jewish coming-of-age from canine view; Exodus 11:4-7 & 24:7, Pirkei Avot 4:2 & 6:1; my related letter in the Jan./Feb. 2020 <i>Moment</i> responds to <a href="#">this piece</a> ; <b>New Mexico Music Awards WINNER for Best Humorous Song!</b> Featured in <a href="#">Israeli Journal of Humor Research</a>
7 Circles	Poetic reflections on a mathematical motif in Judaism; Joshua 6:15-20, Exodus 23:10-12
Sparks	Atmospheric anthem inspired by Kabbalah, which charges us to free and reunite trapped sparks of the Divine Light by transforming ourselves and repairing the world; Genesis 1:27; Zohar (I, 2a, 15a); <b>New Mexico Music Awards Finalist for Best Religious Song</b>
2 Pockets	Chassidic rabbi Simcha Bunem (1765-1827) of Peshischa suggests we find balance by recalling both our importance and impermanence; his proverb was featured at a <a href="#">nationally-televised town hall</a> from the prior Presidential election year; Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5, Sanhedrin 37a, Genesis 18:27
Feathers	Parable (some attribute to R. Levi Yitzhak of Berditchev) illustrates why careful speech is crucial; Leviticus 19:16, Arakhin 15b
Temples	What doomed the Second Temple in the year 70 still looms today; Gittin 55b-58a, Yoma 9b
Spiritual Not Religious	This increasingly popular label fit my 20s self; Featured in <a href="#">Israeli Journal of Humor Research</a> ; audience recording from <a href="#">2018 Yom HaShir</a>
Tearin' the Sea	My improbable <a href="#">story</a> validates the Talmud's metaphor for how hard it is to find a soulmate; Sotah 2a; Sanhedrin 22a; Psalm 136:13; Bereshit Rabbah 68:4; Zohar; Megillah 10b; Exodus 15:20-21 & 14:22
The Best	Like trying to grasp a movie in the middle, we don't always see how barriers may yield blessings in a bigger picture; featured in <a href="#">The Jewish Educator</a> and Opera UTEP; life lessons in travels of Rabbi Akiva
One-Way Train	Written after reading <i>Night</i> by Elie Wiesel OBM; sadly salient now as survivors dwindle and anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial rise; picked for a 2021 NEA Big Read event
Stack the Stones	Set in post-Shoah Eastern Europe; Genesis 35:20, Numbers 19:11, Psalm 18:3
Right Messiah	A song on why Jews believe the Messiah hasn't yet come that I wish I had in college when encountering some supersessionist evangelism whose approach offended even many Christian classmates. Isaiah 2:4, Zechariah 14:9, Isaiah 11:11-12, Jeremiah 23:8 & 33:18; Jeremiah 23:5; Deuteronomy 29:28, Avot d'Rabbi Natan 31b
Nothing in Between	Distinctive ways we connect; Exodus 20:3, Psalms 145:18, Genesis 1, Deuteronomy 5:3, Exodus 19:2 Rashi, Kedushat HaYom (Shabbat Mincha Amidah), Mechilta d'Rabbi Yishmael 19:2:10
Deep and Wide	Pirkei Avot 4:1 tells us that a wise person learns from everyone and I've been inspired enough by friends and relatives with diverse Jewish practices to refuse to settle for a faith that's not deep <i>and</i> wide; Deut.5:3
Rowboat	15 centuries old parable of interdependence (Midrash Rabbah Vayikra 4:6) extended to our environmental crisis; featured in <a href="#">The Jewish Educator</a> , <a href="#">Hadassah</a> , and a 2023 art gallery exhibition
Bruria	Tribute to a top (female) sage of the Talmud; Pesachim 62b, Tosefta Keilim Metsia 1:3, Brakhot 10a, Midrash Proverbs 31:2, Hilchot Talmud Torah 1:13, Def Shevui & Rashi on Avodah Zarah 18b:4, Brakhot 10a, Erubin 53b-54a; chosen for a 2020 gender studies <a href="#">conference</a> and a 2023 art gallery exhibition
Letters	encounter with unlettered but deeply spiritual person affirms that a humble open heart matters most
Everyone	Popular culture makes us feel few have room to succeed, but Pirkei Avot 4:1 opens success to all!
The Stone	Rabbi Akiva's watershed moment launched his great mid-life learning; Job 14:19, Avot d'Rabbi Natan 6:2, Bava Kamma 82a
Give Thanks	Blessed with a wonderful son Yehuda, I especially appreciate how an attitude of gratitude is in the nature – and name – of a Jew ( <i>Yehudi</i> ); Brakhot 60b, Genesis 29:35, Menachot 43b