Larry's mailing list Spring (April 12) 2020 edition no. 1

SPARKS friends,

I hope this email finds you and your loved ones safe. This is such a rollercoaster time, with stress and grief juxtaposed with opportunities for meaningful reflection and (re)connection.

Thanks again for signing my mailing list during the February album release event -- I'm so grateful I managed to get the album released before everything started shutting down. I promised I'd send an email only a few times a year, and so here's the "spring edition" with 3 bits of news:

* I so enjoyed doing the campus and congregational album release concerts, but in-person follow-up concerts are not an option now, so I'm having fun preparing my first-ever **ONLINE CONCERT** (where people can attend using Zoom or Facebook Live) a week from today (6 - 6:30pm, April 19, Sunday, see https://www.facebook.com/events/238799967505178/ for details) -- it's sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso and it's free -- "bring" your friends to the adventure! Today or tomorrow you can email "requests" from the album to LetsConnect@JFedElPaso.org and I promise to include the top 1 or 2 vote-getters in my setlist!

* We've had **AIRPLAY!** I'm happy to share that at least 3 radio stations (KTEP-FM, WCUW-FM, and JewishRockRadio.com) have played one or more songs one or more times from the album, with at least 4 different songs played that I'm aware of ("Sparks", "Rowboat", "One-Way Train", and "The Stone"), and the WCUW program host noted that the song "Rowboat" with its theme of interdependence is so salient in how we are responding to the pandemic. A 15-minute interview with me and the album's flutist (Sabiha Khan) aired on KTEP-FM and should be posted on the station website when the staff is able to resume those kinds of tasks. Some wonderful testimonial quotes have come in (a link to a page of them is at larrylesser.com/sparks), and I'm still hoping some bigger periodicals will get around to doing a review of the album when things calm down for them. If you've got any connections, let me know :-)

* if you have a friend who appreciates creative Jewish songs, especially if they are looking for something new and different to break up their routine, please let them know **the album continues to be available** for download or streaming from major platforms (see larrylesser.com/sparks for links to those platforms); the album is also still available as a physical CD with options currently in transition

wishing you healing and peace (shalom),
Larry