SPARKS A-FLYIN’ SUMMER 2020 issue #2

Welcome to the second quarterly newsletter – I hope it finds you and your loved ones safe in what continues to be a rollercoaster time, with the unavoidable stress, worry, and grief juxtaposed with silver linings and opportunities for meaningful reflection and (re)connection.

Here’s the latest 3 bits of news:

* As I mentioned in the Spring 2020 newsletter, I followed up my campus and congregational album release concerts with my first-ever **ONLINE CONCERT** on April 19. I’m happy to say there were no major technical difficulties, attendance was good, and anyone who missed it live can see it at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGgrtWs_9GY&feature=youtu.be.

* We keep getting **AIRPLAY!** I'm happy to share at least 3 stations (KTEP-FM, WCUW-FM, and JewishRockRadio) have played one or more songs (sometimes in regular rotation) from the album, with at least 7 different songs played that I'm aware of ("Sparks", "Rowboat", "One-Way Train", “Stack the Stones,” “Two Jews, Three Opinions”, “Shabbos Keeps the Jews”, and "The Stone"). The WCUW program host noted on air that the song "Rowboat" with its theme of interdependence is so salient in how we are responding to our current challenges (e.g., the pandemic). Feel free to send in requests to these (or other) stations so there will be even more airplay! Two 15-minute **interviews** about the album on our NPR station are posted at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJMPVkodndQ&feature=youtu.be and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LK80hlroeIo&feature=youtu.be

* Most exciting is that *SPARKS* is under consideration by the Recording Academy to be a **GRAMMY nominee** in the Best Folk Album category. It may be a long shot (with 100+ albums entered in that category), but it’s fun to be in contention! I assume it’ll be 3 months before I hear if *SPARKS* indeed becomes one of the 5 nominees on the final ballot – stay tuned!

Thanks again for your continuing interest! If you have a friend who who is eclectic in their musical (or Jewish) tastes, please let them know **the album is available** via many options from major platforms (see https://larrylesser.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ACCESS.pdf).

wishing you healing and peace,
Larry