SPARKS A-FLYIN' FALL 2023 issue #12 November 19, 2023

Welcome to the new issue of our quarterly newsletter – my biggest recent music news is:

- The lyric to my song "Break" was selected by Belinda Subraman (the current Texas Beat Poet Laureate) for her book *Border Beats: Writing Across Boundaries*, which can be ordered from Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Border-Beats-Writing-Across-Boundaries/dp/B0CJ457764/. Who knew that my song about Israeli-Palestinian dialogue would take on such bigger salience after October 7, just 23 days after the book was released? Related to the Gaza conflict, I performed my song "Sderot Sky" a few days after the horrific events of October 7 at a national event hosted by the Cantors Assembly, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSUlvVbkTAk. These times are a rollercoaster for songwriters because on some days, we feel raw and cracked open with emotions and ideas coming out in torrents ready to serve, while at other times, we feel paralyzed and completely at a loss to do or say anything. (Indeed, neither of these above two songs made the *Sparks* album because I felt at the time that songs about Israel might not fit the themes and timelessness of the rest of the album.) By the next quarterly newsletter, may there be a peaceful and lasting resolution.

- This coming Saturday Nov. 25 will feature my *Sparks* song "One-Way Train" played sometime between 6:30-7pm Mountain Time on KTEP-FM program host Dan Alloway's "Folk Fury" show. The show can be heard locally on 88.5 FM or from anywhere via https://www.ktep.org/. This song is particularly meaningful in these days of Holocaust denial and anti-Semitism.

- Joel Carrasco, a talented photographer and UTEP graphic design major, made a moving video in August for my *Sparks* song about Crypto-Judaic experience, "Lights Lead Home." The video has made appearances in exhibits (San Elizario's Los Portales Museum and UTEP's Union East art gallery) and a screening at a plenary session of a national conference (Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies). You can watch the video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4hcONJnxzo.

I'm so grateful for this journey and your interest in it – happy Thanksgiving!

Larry
https://larrylesser.com/sparks/

p.s. At https://larrylesser.com/sparks-newsletter/ are past issues of this quarterly newsletter in case you missed one or want to share with a friend.