SPARKS A-FLYIN' SPRING 2025

issue #15 March 31, 2025

Welcome to the new issue of our quarterly newsletter – it's been so busy on personal and national levels that I missed the winter issue! So here's my biggest recent music news since the fall 2024 issue:

- I've enjoyed recent performing (scroll below for some photos), ranging from a solo show at the one major local congregation I hadn't previously performed original music (I'm always open to performing anywhere!) to co-headlining Chanukah on the Plaza, organized by the Jewish Federation of El Paso & Las Cruces and (for the first time) part of El Paso's month-long WinterFest!

- I also performed my *Sparks* "water-related" songs "The Stone" and "Rowboat" within my half-hour presentation that opened the March 19 programming for UTEP World Water Week 2025. It was a fun adventure combining math, statistics, music, water, and religious studies in one session and an associate dean in attendance emailed me that "I think it is so important to have presentations like yours during these times."

- Speaking of water, I've also been enjoying a "wave" of new songwriting that has helped me stay grounded amidst stress/challenges, and there's more than enough quality material for an album of Jewish-themed songs and/or an album of singer-songwriter songs, so I'm in the process (let me know if you'd like to offer input as one of my sounding boards) of trying to identify which subset of songs are the most compelling and would work well as a collection – or maybe we're in a post-album era and I should just release "singles"….

- Sometimes my musings manifest as poems instead of songs, such as my Purim poem in the collection *An Upside-Down World: Esther and Antisemitism*, published in February by the Academy for Jewish Religion (available via AJR's website or Amazon), or my poems "Same Boat" and "Weatherman Dan" (the latter is also a lyric) published online in a gallery hosted by Poets for Science and Kent State University's Wick Poetry Center. And I just published a paper in *Teaching Statistics* that connects poetry to statistics in novel pedagogical ways, just in time for National Poetry Month (April)!

So grateful for this journey and your interest in it – happy spring!

Larry
https://larrylesser.com/sparks/

Jewish Federation
of El Paso & Las Cruces
presents
Chanukah
on the Plaza
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
3:00 PM | SAN JACINTO PLAZA
PARKS & RECREATION
WINTER FEST
EPTX
with performances by
THE KOSHER COWPOKES
LARRY LESSER
THE J STUDENTS
EL PASO PRO MUSICA
CANTOR DAVID FROMMER
CARLOS GAMEZ
THE FURMAN FAMILY
ROBERT NOVICK
WestStar
ED & HELENE SOLOMON
THE CULINARY STUDIO
GIFT SHOP AT TEMPLE MOUNT SINAI
ADL
PJ Library

Joining me on my set's closing song was the awesome Carlos Gamez!

Larry Lesser
November 24, 2024 ·

enjoyed last night at Chabad Lubavitch of El Paso (photos courtesy of Dov E Kupfer Aifd)