SPARKS A-FLYIN' SUMMER 2026

issue #19 June 21, 2026

Happy first day of summer (and Father's Day)!

Can't believe almost a year ago I began recording my fall 2025 album *NIGHT WILL END*, accessible at https://larrylesser1.bandcamp.com/album/night-will-end or https://LarryLesser.com/nightwillend. I've been enjoying further opportunities to play songs from the 2020 and 2025 albums, ranging from a Tu Bishvat celebration at the local Chabad (photo below) to a service this past Friday at the local Reform congregation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UO9vQw9lIQ (which has user-friendly time stamps). Given that this weekend is Father's Day weekend, it was particularly meaningful to close that service with my song about aspirational parenting values, "Highest Praise."

Another song from the new album that I played at the service, "Who You Are," was selected by Artists Against Antisemitism to lead off the Music category in its third annual Community Arts Project: https://www.theartistsagainstantisemitism.com/jahm-2026-music. On May 1, 2026, the project's virtual gallery https://www.theartistsagainstantisemitism.com/jahm-2026-art-gallery opened to honor Jewish American Heritage month (May) as well as America 250.

A recent highlight was the public shoutout Houston-based Jewish country music artist Joe Buchanan gave me during an event he did here on March 14, which felt super meaningful because it was Joe's encouragement and advice that helped solidify my decision to make the 2020 album in the first place!

In 2026, I've been more consistent in attending a monthly local songwriters song circle where each evening we get to play 2 songs for a supportive, talented, and eclectic bunch – it's a great source of motivation and feedback, as are occasional jams with local guitar buddies like José. Now if I can just find more time to finish all the new songs I've started…..

Many thanks and blessings,
Larry