SPARKS A-FLYIN' MID-SUMMER 2026

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Happy Tu B'Av tonight!

Some exciting news that couldn't wait until the start of fall (when I know my schedule will be busier)….

- Last week, I joined forces with Amalia Kelter Zeitlin (who added the amazing violin parts to my recent albums) to play a half-dozen of our songs together live for the first time (because in the studio, I put down the guitar part and then she added violin on a separate track). The event was not a concert performance per se, but an innovative contemplative applause-less gathering Temple Beth El (Las Cruces, NM) hosted where we all sat in a circle and used songs, poetry, Eicha chanting, and discussion to explore themes of Tisha B'Av together. It may not have been fully "traditional," but was one of the most powerful commemorations I've experienced and you can hear it at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_j0X_x24bc

- My fall 2025 Jewish folk-rock album *Night Will End* https://larrylesser.com/nightwillend/ will be submitted by a Recording Academy member to the 69th GRAMMYs in the category of Best Contemporary Folk Album, with first-round voting occurring in mid-October. There is actually activity behind the scenes to have the GRAMMYs create a category in future years for original Jewish music (since they have one for Christian music).

- The song "Sparks" will air during the first hour of this Saturday's 6-9pm (MDT) "Folk Fury" program on KTEP 88.5 FM (non-locals can listen online at https://www.ktep.org/); the song features Bill Radcliffe on bass guitar and ethereal lap steel guitar, Ross Ingram on synth bass, and yours truly on acoustic guitar and vocals; crank up this kabbalistic anthem in stereo and you'll hear the sparks zoom past your head!

- Because some songs turn into vehicles for continued reflection ('cause I'm a work in progress!), I revisited a half-dozen songs from *Sparks* and resang the new lyrics with sharper phrasing or even transformed meaning, yielding the mini-album *Sparks Reignited*: https://larrylesser1.bandcamp.com/album/sparks-reignited

- My singer-songwriter debut album (a cassette release in 1992!) is finally available in digital form since almost no one still has a cassette tape player these days, especially in their cars: https://larrylesser1.bandcamp.com/album/afterglow

Many thanks and blessings,
Larry

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