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UPCOMING SONGLEADER BOOT CAMP CONFERENCE FEATURES 2017 SPEAKER SERIES & BRAND NEW SLBC RAMAH SHABBATON

St. Louis, MO -- One of the top Jewish Leadership conferences in North America will convene at the St. Louis Jewish Community Center Staenberg Family Complex from February 19-21, 2017. Now in its 8th year, the 2017 Songleader Boot Camp (SLBC) National Conference will bring together over 250 North American rabbis, cantors, Jewish educators, songleaders, Jewish camping staff, teen leaders and family engagement specialists to expand their leadership skills and inspire change in their communities.

SLBC Speakers Series

The SLBC Speaker's Series on Monday, February 20th at 7:30PM, cosponsored by Sh'ma, is open to the public and features a talk on "Praying with Our Hearts/ Praying with Our Feet: The Marriage of Spiritual Commitment and Moral Action," by **two of *Newsweek's* top 50 most influential rabbis in the United States**, Rabbi David Ingber of New York and Rabbi Sharon Brous of Los Angeles. The series takes place at the JCC Staenberg Family Complex, Arts & Education Building, 2 Millstone Campus Drive, Creve Coeur. Space is limited, so participants are asked to RSVP to Rabbi Brad Horwitz at bhorwitz@jccstl.org.

SLBC Ramah Shabbaton

SLBC has partnered with the National Ramah Commission to launch the inaugural [SLBC Ramah Shabbaton](#) weekend that will lead into the SLBC National Conference. The weekend will focus on prayer and song leadership skills that are specific to Conservative Movement settings, providing the time, space, and atmosphere for in-depth learning, strategizing, and spiritual transformation.

"SLBC has a proven track record of being a dynamic, innovative and impactful program that inspires participants to lead—not merely with song but in all aspects of life. As the head of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis that is a proud supporter of the program and as a songleader for the last 30 years, I have seen this conference's impressive results firsthand. SLBC stands among the very best programs of this kind in the nation," said Andrew Rehfeld, President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis.

Founded and launched in 2009 by Rick Recht, Elisa Recht, and Rabbi Brad Horwitz, the Songleader Boot Camp (SLBC) National Conference attracts an extraordinary interdenominational community of Rabbis, Cantors,

Jewish educators, veteran and new song leaders, and Jewish camping staff. SLBC programs include SLBC National and Regional Conferences, on-site leadership training seminars, and individual and small group coaching.

Over the last several years, more than 2000 participants have experienced SLBC conferences and leadership training programs. **Led by nationally renowned Jewish leaders, educators and music artists, SLBC teaches participants new ways to create powerful, interactive connections, expand their leadership abilities and learn specific skills and techniques to inspire change in their communities.** SLBC offers a profound exploration of the physiology, psychology, strategy, and execution behind explosive Jewish teaching and songleading.

SLBC Partners

Songleader Boot Camp partners with many top national Jewish organizations including PJ Library, JCCA Camps, Ramah Camping Movement, and the Cantor's Assembly.

- JCC Track:
 - SLBC has partnered with the Staenberg Family Foundation to support the 4th annual JCC Track, a cohort of JCC camp staff from overnight and day camps throughout North America that convene at SLBC to share best practices and strategize for effective implementation at camp throughout the summer.
- PJ Library Track:
 - SLBC will feature the 3rd annual PJ Library Track for more than 54 family engagement professionals from across the United States who were selected through a highly competitive application process. SLBC also features specialty tracks for clergy, educators, songleaders and alumni.

SLBC Faculty

Keynote faculty for the 2017 SLBC National Conference includes more than 18 top Jewish leaders, educators and musical specialists from across the United States. This year, featured keynote speakers include two of the most prominent leaders in contemporary Judaism, Rabbi David Ingber and Rabbi Sharon Brous. SLBC faculty also include Rick Recht, Cantor Ellen Dreskin, Ellen Allard, Rabbi Susan Talve, Billy Jonas, Hazzan Joanna Dulkan, Josh Warshawsky, Rabbi Brad Horwitz, Saul Kaye, Mikey Pauker, and more.

The Jewish Federation of St. Louis, Gladys K. Crown Foundation, the Staenberg Family Foundation, and local private donors have united to maximize local impact of this year's conference. More than 50 local Jewish educators and leaders representing nearly every Jewish synagogue and organization in St. Louis will attend SLBC through scholarships generously provided by the Jewish Federation of St. Louis.

“The future of our Jewish community is dependent on well-trained and highly effective Jewish professional and lay leaders. The SLBC national conference continues to make an incredible impact on the Jewish world in this area both nationally and now even more so in the St. Louis Jewish Community,” says Lynn Wittels, CEO and President of the St. Louis Jewish Community Center. “We are so thankful to the Jewish Federation of St. Louis and all our partners for sharing this vision and for their support in helping that vision become a reality.”

For more information about Songleader Boot Camp, visit songleaderbootcamp.com, [Facebook.com/songleaderbootcamp](https://www.facebook.com/songleaderbootcamp) or [Twitter.com/Songldrbootcamp](https://twitter.com/Songldrbootcamp). To contact Songleader Boot Camp, email info@songleaderbootcamp.com or call 314.991.0909.

About The St. Louis JCC

The J is an interactive, multi-generational gathering place that offers a variety of programs and services to both the St. Louis Jewish community, and the community at large. The Jewish Community Center provides educational, cultural, social, Jewish identity-building and recreational programming and offers two, state-of-the-art fitness facilities, all designed to promote physical and spiritual growth. Everyone is welcome at the J. Jewish Community Center Staenberg Family Complex is located at 2 Millstone Campus Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146. jccstl.org