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2021 SONGLEADER BOOT CAMP NATIONAL CONFERENCE OFFERS GAME-CHANGING VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

*Over 400 Jewish thought-leaders, educators and music artists will join together Feb. 9-18
for a ground-breaking virtual Jewish music and leadership conference*

St. Louis, MO — Songleader Boot Camp (SLBC) National Conference will host its first virtual North American leadership training conference with significantly expanded learning opportunities February 9-18, 2021. The 2021 Songleader Boot Camp (SLBC) National Conference (Feb. 14-16), SLBC Tefilah & Shira Kallah (Feb. 9-12) and SLBC Songleader Summit (Feb. 16-18) will bring together over 400 North American Jewish professionals to expand their leadership skills and inspire change in their communities, whether virtually or in-person.

SLBC is a powerful force in American Jewish life, encouraging growth and engagement among thousands of participants and rippling outward. Now in its 12th year, SLBC's innovative and soulful approach has attracted more than 2,000 clergy, musicians, and lay leaders who want to develop their leadership skills and truly impact their home communities. SLBC is a national signature initiative of the St. Louis Jewish Community Center, which has served as the in-person host venue for all SLBC national conferences.

“SLBC is an incredibly energizing and inspiring and really soulful space where people can search within their own hearts to figure out what kind of leaders they are and what kind of leaders they can be actually be in the world,” said Rabbi Sharon Brous of IKAR in Los Angeles, California. “It is pretty extraordinary! The level of inspiration is so high.”

Launched in 2009 by internationally touring Jewish music artist and SLBC Executive Director, Rick Recht, renowned educator Elisa Heiligman Recht, and Rabbi Brad Horwitz, the SLBC National Conference convenes an extraordinary interdenominational community of rabbis, cantors, Jewish educators, family engagement specialists, Jewish camping staff and veteran and new songleaders. Recht shares that, “More than ever, the Jewish world needs passionate, visionary, and highly-effective leaders. SLBC provides a unique, immersive, and pluralistic atmosphere for Jewish leaders to learn skills and strategies that will have long term impact in their communities.” In addition to both national and regional conferences, SLBC also offers leadership training seminars and personal coaching throughout the year.

The SLBC conference houses and inspires cutting edge leadership-building techniques, tailored to a wide range of Jewish professionals. “SLBC helps unlock the door to your own leadership potential. For educators, cantors,

rabbis, lay leaders and musicians who want to improve their leadership skills, this is the ticket,” said Rabbi Micah Greenstein of Temple Israel, Memphis, TN

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 skills and techniques to inspire change in their communities. Songleader Boot Camp has partnered with many national Jewish organizations, including PJ Library, JCCA Camps, Ramah Camping Movement, and the Cantor’s Assembly.

What’s new at SLBC 2021?

Presented entirely virtually, the 2021 SLBC National Conference offers increased accessibility to participants. **All sessions will be recorded and available for two months after the conference** concludes, and participants will have access to the first ever **SLBC Repertoire Video Archive** — original songs taught on video by the artists who composed complete with additional resources such as sheet music and online recordings.

SLBC has partnered with the National Ramah Commission for the SLBC Tefilah & Shira Kallah that will lead into the SLBC National Conference. The weekend, directed by Rabbi Josh Warshawsky and Eliana Light, will explore the rich history of Jewish liturgical music and practice; participants will discuss how to craft meaningful prayer experiences, no matter the time or place, virtual or in person.

Capping off the SLBC experience will be the first ever **SLBC Songleader Summit**, an intensive songleading skills development program for both new and veteran songleaders looking to take their leadership, teaching and presentation abilities to the next level. Courses will focus on skills/technique, leadership/presentation skills, song session preparation and planning, audio/visual equipment for songleading, personal care, and more.

With gracious support from the Staenberg Family Foundation, SLBC will continue to offer the **Staenberg Teen Chavurah**, directed by Charlie Kramer and Naomi Less, and the **Staenberg Camping Chavurah**. The Teen Chavurah works to build strong, vibrant future leaders of the Jewish world by teaching participants about the many tools they can access to create powerful, interactive Jewish connections, regardless of musical ability, while the Camping Chavurah offers a grant opportunity to nine camps to help transform their musical culture and leadership.

As Rabbi Brad Artson, Dean, American Jewish University, shares, “What’s unique about SLBC is it’s a blend of music and conversation and inspiration and worship and really collective thinking together about what are the needs of our time and how do we convey the wisdom of Jewish tradition for the next generation. I don’t know of any place like this place.”

The 2021 SLBC National Conference will feature the largest group of core educators and presenters in SLBC history. Influential Jewish leaders, educators, and musical specialists from across the United States will lead present and lead workshops, including Ellen Allard, Rabbi Brad Artson, Rabbi Joe Black, Rabbi Sharon Brous, Joe Buchanan, Cantor Ellen Dreskin, Rabbi Rebecca Dubowe, Hazzan Joanna Dulkan, Rabbi Ed Feinstein, Erica Goldman, Rabbi Andrea Goldstein, Rabbi Micah Greenstein, Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann, Rabbi Brad Horwitz, Rabbi David Ingber, Billy Jonas, Shira Kline, Charlie Kramer, Jacob Spike Kraus, Rabbi Sandra Lawson, Naomi Less, Eliana Light, Chava Mirel, Elana Naftalin-Kelman, Josh Nelson, Craig Parks, Mikey Pauker, Rick Recht, Rabbi Lisa Silverstein, Rabbi Susan Talve, Rabbi Lauren Tuchman, Rabbi Josh Warshawsky and more.

ABOUT RICK RECHT

[Rick Recht](#) is one of the top touring musicians in Jewish music playing over 150 dates each year in the US and abroad. Rick has revolutionized and elevated the genre of Jewish rock music as a powerful and effective tool for

developing Jewish pride and identity in youth and adults across the US. Rick is the national celebrity spokesman for the [PJ Library](#) and is the Executive Director of [Songleader Boot Camp](#) – a national songleader training immersion program held in various cities around the U.S. Rick is also the founder and Executive Director of [Jewish Rock Radio](#) and JKids Radio, two high-caliber, 24/7 international online radio stations! Rick is also the Artist in Residence at United Hebrew Congregation in St. Louis, MO

ABOUT STAENBERG FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Staenberg Family Foundation was founded in 2005 by Michael and Carol Staenberg as a supporting foundation of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis. Guided by Jewish values, the Staenberg Family Foundation seeks to ensure that the Jewish community, as well as the greater St. Louis region, thrives and flourishes. The Staenbergs chose to establish the Foundation in this manner because they believe that the Jewish Federation of St. Louis' mission is consistent with their family values as Jews. *Tzedakah* (righteousness) and *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world) are values that have guided the Jewish people and guide the Staenberg family. They also wanted to set an example of giving for the community and their immediate family. “Our children are the next generation and it’s really important that we teach them the importance of giving to others. *Tzedakah* is basic to Judaism,” stated Carol Staenberg.

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