

## DIRECTORS, 2022

Lewis Golinker  
Lois Jean Brady  
Beth Speaker-Christensen  
Betsy Caporale  
Tami Altschuler



## OFFICERS, 2022

Amy Goldman, President  
Tracy Rackensberger, President-Elect  
Yoo Sun Chung, Past President  
Sarah Blackstone, VP Finance  
Tina Moreno, VP People who use  
AAC and their families  
Alison Pentland, Secretary

January, 2021

Dear Friends:

I am thrilled to welcome you to USSAAC in my first “President’s Letter”! It’s an honor to serve you! As such, I am always interested in hearing your ideas and thoughts about USSAAC’s mission and activities, so feel free to contact me at [president@ussaac.org](mailto:president@ussaac.org)

January is when we welcome our newly elected board members, as well as board members who are returning and those who are moving to a new board position, as follows:

**Tracy Rackensberger**, who has served for four years as Director, People Who Use AAC and Their Families, is now **President-Elect**.

**Yoo Sun Chung**, who served January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2021 as President is now **Past President**.

We welcome new board members **Tina Moreno and Betsy Caporale!**

- **Tina Moreno, Director, People who Use AAC and Their Families**

Tina is mother to Mateo, who is 22 years old. Born with apraxia and dysarthria, he has been an AAC user since the age of four. Tina has learned about AAC and assistive technology right beside Mateo, returning to school when he was eight years old to become a speech-language pathologist in order to be a better support for him and others. Tina received her master's degree in speech-language pathology from Cleveland State University. She serves the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities in Cleveland, Ohio where she focuses on AAC assessment and implementation, working primarily with school-aged communicators. She is co-founder and co-director of Camp ALEC, a summer literacy camp for children with significant disabilities who use AAC. She also owns a small private practice and presents locally and nationally on AAC and literacy, sometimes with Mateo. Tina enjoys providing training, coaching and encouragement to individuals, families and educational teams who are just starting out on their own AAC journeys.

- **Betsy Caporale, Director, Professional Affairs**

Betsy Caporale, M.S., CCC-SLP, AAC/AT Specialist. Betsy has been working in the field of AAC/AT for over 20 years. In 2006 she earned her Competency Certificate in Communication Assistive Technology Applications from The National Association of State Directors of Special Education and was awarded an Assistive Technology Specialty Certificate in Communication Services from the University of South Florida. She has

## DIRECTORS, 2022

Lewis Golinker  
Lois Jean Brady  
Beth Speaker-Christensen  
Betsy Caporale  
Tami Altschuler



## OFFICERS, 2022

Amy Goldman, President  
Tracy Rackensberger, President-Elect  
Yoo Sun Chung, Past President  
Sarah Blackstone, VP Finance  
Tina Moreno, VP People who use  
AAC and their families  
Alison Pentland, Secretary

presented nationally and internationally on topics related to Autism and Complex Communication Needs. While working for the California Department of Education, Northern California Diagnostic Center she developed and taught an AAC Assessment and Services Certification Course, certifying over 200 speech-language pathologists serving students in educational settings. Betsy is the owner of Augmentative Communication Solutions, a private practice supporting students and school districts in California.

And, we welcome back to the Board **Sarah Blackstone**, Vice President for Financial Affairs, **Alison Pentland**, Secretary, and Directors **Law Golinker** (Advocacy), **Beth Speaker Christensen** (Membership), **Lois Brady** (Public Information), and **Tami Altschuler** (ISAAC Liaison).

On behalf of the Board of Directors, a hearty THANK YOU to **Wendy Quach**, Past President, and **Stephanie Meehan**, Director, Professional Affairs, who leave the Board but not their engagement in USSAAC!

Are you traveling to Orlando for the Assistive Technology Industry Association Conference? If so, please plan to attend the **USSAAC Meet-Up on Thursday, January 27, 5:30 – 6:30 PM in Curacao 1-2!** Bring a friend who is not (yet) – but should be – a member! It is an opportunity for you to learn more about what USSAAC has been up to, and some of our plans for 2022. Not traveling? Stay tuned for information about a virtual membership meeting in the Spring, and – hopefully, a face-to-face chapter meeting in Cancun! Another way to stay up-to-date on USSAAC activities is to follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ussaac1>

Did you participate in last summer's **ISAAC Connect Conference**? Did you know it was funded through a R13 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and that, in collaboration with the Oregon Health Sciences University and San Jose State University, USSAAC was able to support speakers from the US and across the globe? Goals of the grant were to 1) bring experts to the meeting for presentation of the latest AAC science and to interact with young professionals; (2) bring people with disabilities and underrepresented participants to the meeting; and (3) support learning and informal networking. Special thanks goes to Dr. Melanie Fried-Oken for spearheading the grant application effort. By the way, you may want to give (another) look and listen to the ISAAC Connect opening song at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2XtXU3hH9Y>

USSAAC has many active committees doing wonderful things to support people who use AAC, their families, and of course, our members. Learn more about our standing committees at [Committees - USSAAC](#) and join one (or more) today! I will be featuring the work of these committees in future letters.

**DIRECTORS, 2022**

Lewis Golinker  
Lois Jean Brady  
Beth Speaker-Christensen  
Betsy Caporale  
Tami Altschuler



**OFFICERS, 2022**

Amy Goldman, President  
Tracy Rackensberger, President-Elect  
Yoo Sun Chung, Past President  
Sarah Blackstone, VP Finance  
Tina Moreno, VP People who use  
AAC and their families  
Alison Pentland, Secretary

A final reminder: Join /renew today at [Membership - USSAAC](#). Remember that discount to ISAAC Cancun is a great member benefit, and new for 2022, ISAAC webinars will have member-only access.

Stay safe and warm!  
Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy S. Goldman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy S. Goldman, President