

## DIRECTORS 2020-2021

Lewis Golinker  
Lois Jean Brady  
Mike Hipple  
Stephanie Meehan  
Tami Altschuler



## OFFICERS 2020-2021

Yoosun Chung, President  
Amy Goldman, President-Elect  
Wendy Quach, Past President  
Sarah Blackstone, VP Finance  
Tracy Rackensberger, VP People  
who use AAC and their families  
Alison Pentland, Secretary

## PAST PRESIDENTS

Sarah Blackstone  
David Beukelman  
Iris Fishman  
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Tracy Kovach  
Lateef McLeod  
Judy Montgomery  
India Ochs  
Patricia Ourand  
Sheela Stuart  
Michael B. Williams  
David Yoder

Dear USSAAC Colleagues,

I hope you and your family are remaining healthy and safe in the pandemic.

As I mentioned in the October President letter, USSAAC has been promoting the October International AAC Awareness Month. I always appreciate your time and effort on making this a success. The signature webinar by *Stephanie Faso*, held on October 14<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the awareness month, was excellent. We learned how important it is to recognize, encourage and support the autonomy, independence, and sense of self individuals who use AAC need to develop and the key roles USSAAC members may have in supporting them. I would like to thank Stephanie again for her passion on these topics. You can find the archived webinar and Stephanie's slides at <https://isaac-online.org/english/webinars/archived-webinars/a-discussion-of-empowering-autonomy-and-self-in-individuals-with-aac-needs-october-14-2020/>.

I am excited to share some events you might be interested in.

- 1) It is time to recognize Jill Senner, USSAAC *SpeakUp* Editor for many years, and to welcome Christina Byun, who is our new *SpeakUp* Editor. Jill's dedication and excellent work made a huge difference and we are forever grateful. Please consider contributing to *SpeakUp*. Guidelines can be found at <https://ussaac.org/speakup/>.
- 2) USSAAC Board members, Sarah Blackstone and Mike Hipple, were recently interviewed by Shannon Penrod on Autism Live, October 15th, 2020. During the interview, Sarah and Mike enthusiastically promoted USSAAC. You can watch this at <https://youtu.be/7T7xwtFMJn0>. Mike set this up. Thank you, Mike.
- 3) Have you registered for ATIA 2021, "AT Connected" (<https://www.atia.org/>)? Act BY NOVEMBER 16 to get a special 20% discount in celebration of AAC Awareness Month! Use the code AACAware at checkout. If you miss this deadline, USSAAC members get a 5% registration discount. USSAAC is proud to be a partner for ATIA's AAC strand! Join us for a live (virtual) social event on Monday January 25 at 5 PM eastern for an opportunity to meet and greet AND win prizes!
- 4) Our 2021 membership drive has begun! The good news is that there is no increase from 2020, and the option to renew for two years continues. Details at <https://isaac-online.org/english/about-isaac/members/membership/ussaac/> Renew before 12/31/2020 to be eligible for a drawing for a free registration to ATIA 2022!
- 5) Mark your calendars for our next USSAAC webinar on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 7 to 8 PM Eastern. Julie Gatts will address "Beyond Knowing Where to Find Messages on High Tech AAC Systems: What Can We Do to Increase Use in Social Interactions. This session is focused on individuals with Aphasia. A USSAAC member benefit is the included ASHA CEUs on most USSAAC webinars! To register go to <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6747552637148959757>.

Although this year's Thanksgiving is likely to be a different gathering than previous years, it is still an opportunity to reflect on the blessings you have enjoyed this year. The USSAAC Board wishes you all the best, and we are especially thankful for all our volunteers!

Stay healthy!

Best,