

SAY:

The Stuttering Association for the Young

VIRTUAL 2021 ANNUAL GALA

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021



SAY: OUR MISSION

SAY: The Stuttering Association for the Young is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides support, advocacy, and life-changing experiences for young people who stutter, ages 3-25.

SAY: OUR VISION

A world where every voice matters.

SAY: HOW WE HELP

Over 70 million people stutter across the world, including 5% of all children. Young people who stutter often face relentless fear and cruelty from a world that doesn't understand them. Over time, they may recoil from the world, silencing themselves to hide their stutter, embarrassment, and shame. Young people who stutter may also feel incredibly isolated and alone, and many face daily ridicule, teasing, and bullying.

Since 2001, SAY has offered comprehensive, innovative programs that address the physical, social, and emotional impacts of stuttering. Through summer camp, regional day camps, speech therapy, and creative arts programming, SAY builds a community of acceptance, friendship, and encouragement where kids and teens who stutter can develop the confidence and communication skills they need to thrive.

SAY is dedicated to serving children from all socioeconomic backgrounds. To date, no child has ever been turned away due to a family's inability to pay. Your support helps ensure this important and essential legacy.

At SAY, we believe that every child who stutters has a voice that matters, and it is a voice that deserves to be heard.



The Stuttering Association for the Young

Our Virtual 2021 Annual Gala

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021

Live Stream Performance at 7:00 PM EST

[SAYGala.org](https://saygala.org)

HONORING

Dr. Cleavon Gilman - SAY: Hero Award

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Timothy Pfeifer

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Connect with us:



@SAYorg

A Letter From Noah Cornman

Dear Friends:

Welcome to our 2021 Virtual Benefit Gala for SAY: The Stuttering Association for the Young. This year has been challenging, for all of us. This year has also been inspiring, extraordinary, and overflowing with generosity, kindness, gratitude and hope. Thank you for being here with us tonight. Thank you for being there for us this past year. Thank you for sharing our belief that every voice matters – and that the voices of young people who stutter deserve to be heard.

It's fitting that we are celebrating the young people of SAY during National Stuttering Awareness Week. We work tirelessly to ensure that young people who stutter have a home, a community, where they are welcomed, and celebrated for who they are, just as they are, right now. We believe, and know, that people who stutter can be anything they want to be in life, and that they can achieve anything they want to achieve – and be a person who stutters. Tonight's SAY: Hero Award Honoree, Dr. Cleavon Gilman, embodies that in so many ways. Dr. Gilman has not let anything stop him from achieving his dreams, and he is using his voice to effect meaningful change in the world, and to change and save lives. Dr. Gilman is an inspiration to us all, especially to the kids of SAY. It's an honor to honor him this evening.

For 20 years, the family of SAY has grown, persevered, and stayed true to our mission of providing support, advocacy and life-changing experiences for young people who stutter. Throughout this past year, all of our programs have continued: Confident Voices, SAY: DC, Camp SAY:

Across the USA, Speech Therapy, and Camp SAY. We've incorporated virtual program offerings, expanding our reach even further. As our Founder Taro Alexander says, "Can't Stop, Won't Stop!"

Thank you for your partnership in our work. We cannot meet the needs of our community without you, really and truly. We are humbled to have you with us this evening, grateful for your support and advocacy, and at your service, now, and always, all ways.

With love and gratitude,

Noah Cornman
Executive Director



THE PERFORMANCE*

Tonight's original live stream performance is inspired by the voices of young people who stutter.

WRITTEN BY

Taro Alexander and Everett Bradley

DIRECTED BY

Taro Alexander

ASSISTANT DIRECTION

Leigh Pennebaker

MUSICAL DIRECTION, UNDERSCORING AND ARRANGEMENTS

Everett Bradley

ASL INTERPRETATION Billy Sanders

VIDEO EDITOR Brad Schulz

ADDITIONAL VIDEOGRAPHY Mikiodo

HOSTED BY

Keon Lee & Klanell Lee

SPECIAL APPEARANCES BY

Everett Bradley, Catherine Coughlan, Brenda Edwards, Kimberly Garvin, Savannah Jackson, Miranda Joan, Naudia Jones, Danielle Leneé, Edward Maware, Jennifer McGuire, Kelli O'Hara, Julianna Padilla, Victoria Perlman, Nicki Richards, Tianna Richards, Amy Rodriguez, Alison Williams

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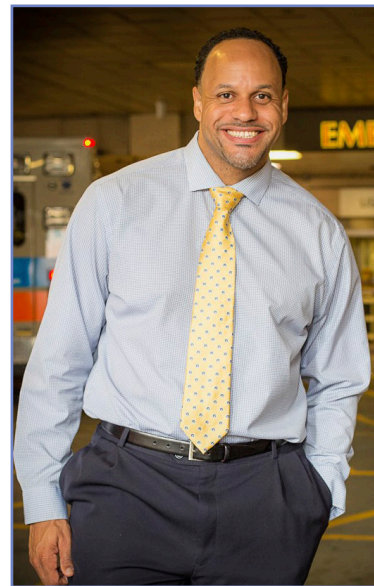
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In loving memory of Howard Bingham, Peggy Lipton, Nanette & Budd Mayer, Alan Rabinowitz, Mel Tillis, Bill Withers

Special Thanks to Barry Sonders for giving so much to the community and kids of SAY!

* scheduled to appear at time of publishing

SAY what's in
your heart.



"It's a great honor to receive the SAY: Hero Award. My circuitous path to becoming an emergency medicine physician was difficult for many reasons, including being a person who stutters. I'm looking forward to working with the SAY community to help young people who stutter realize their dreams."

-Dr. Cleavon Gilman

HONORING

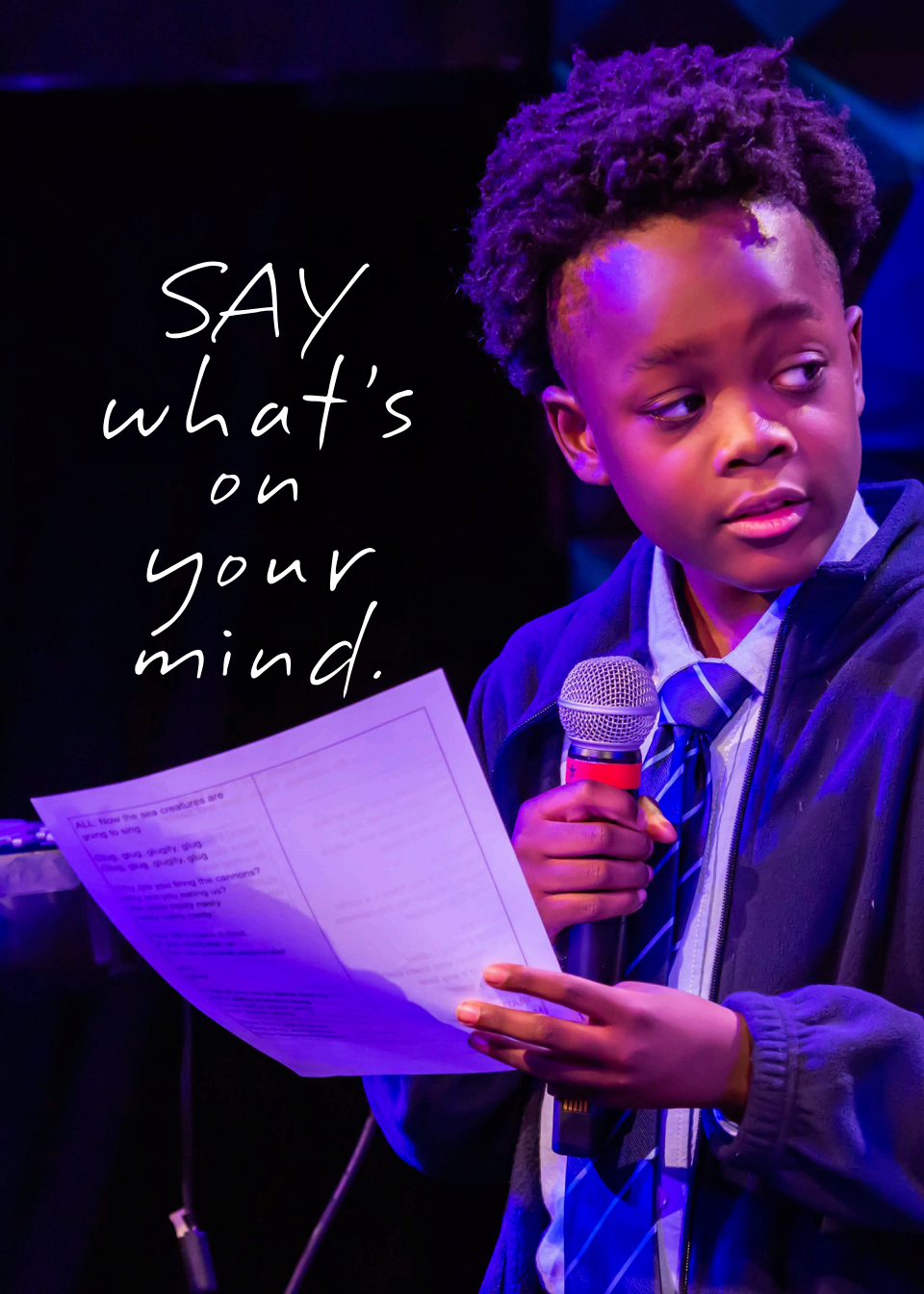
Dr. Cleavon Gilman

SAY: Hero Award

Dr. Cleavon Gilman is an emergency room physician and a person who stutters. He grew up in New Jersey, then served 5 years in the U.S. Navy as a Hospital Corpsman. After returning from the Iraq War in 2004, Dr. Gilman began his journey to become an ER doctor and graduated from UC Berkeley in 2009. He earned his Medical Degree at UC San Francisco Medical School and completed his Emergency Medicine Residency at New York-Presbyterian in New York City.

Dr. Gilman is an outspoken public health advocate who chronicled the realities of the COVID-19 outbreak from the front lines, and continues to raise awareness about the coronavirus pandemic.

SAY is thrilled to honor Dr. Cleavon Gilman with the SAY: Hero Award for his enormous contributions to the health and safety of our country, and as a shining example to the stuttering community.



SAY
what's
on
your
mind.

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Primary invitation and program photography

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SAY: PROGRAMS

Visit [SAY.org](https://say.org) for more details

CAMP SAY:

A Summer Camp for Young People Who Stutter

Camp SAY is an ACA-accredited, 2-week, summer camp for young people who stutter, ages 8-18. Kids & teens who stutter have endless fun while building confidence & independence, improving communication skills, and forming lifelong friendships.

CAMP SAY: ACROSS THE USA

Regional mini-day camp programs that bring the Camp SAY experience to cities across the USA! Young people, ages 8-18, have fun while connecting with other kids who stutter from their local areas.

Confident Voices

SAY's ground-breaking, after-school and weekend programs employ the arts to inspire creativity and expression, encourage collaboration and connection, and celebrate the voices of young people who stutter, ages 8-18. Offering sessions throughout the school year.

SAY:DC

The Stuttering Association for the Young

Year-round after-school and weekend creative arts programming in the Washington, DC area that provides a supportive space of empathy, friendship, and inspiration for children who stutter, ages 8-25, and their families.

SPEECH THERAPY

SAY's Speech Therapy program is led by a bilingual (English & Spanish) Speech-Language Pathologist with specialized experience and a practical and holistic approach to stuttering therapy that addresses the individual needs and goals of each child. Serving ages 3-18.

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The award-winning independent documentary from Executive Producers
Mariska Hargitay, Peter Hermann, Paul Rudd & George Springer is
NOW streaming in the UNITED STATES on discovery+ and
available to buy or rent WORLDWIDE via Vimeo On Demand.

My BEAUTIFUL STUTTER follows five kids who stutter, ages 9 to 18, from all over the United States who, after experiencing a lifetime of bullying and stigmatization, meet other children who stutter at **SAY** and **Camp SAY**. Over the course of a year, we witness the incredible transformation that happens when these young people experience for the first time the revolutionary idea at the heart of SAY: that it is really, REALLY okay to stutter.

SAY is so proud to be a part of this moving film and thrilled that it is now reaching a broad, global audience and spreading stuttering awareness all across the world!



CAMP SAY:

A Summer Camp for Young People Who Stutter



BACK In-Person this Summer!

August 2 - 16, 2021

Camp SAY is an ACA-accredited, 2-week, summer camp for young people who stutter, ages 8-18. Kids & teens have endless fun while building confidence & independence, improving communication skills, and forming lifelong friendships.

Sliding Scale Tuition & a shortened stay option are available.

For more information about Camp SAY, please contact us at:

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SAY the
story
you want
to tell.

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of SAY and its amazing
youth programs.**

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We are proud & thankful

to be dedicated supporters of SAY,
an organization whose staff and
kids show an irrepressible spirit,
and where kindness, courage and
compassion abound and astound.

We especially want to **recognize**
and **applaud** the extraordinary
determination shown over the
past extraordinary year - SAY
did not miss a beat in bringing
its life-changing programs and
encouragement to every SAY child.

To SAY, to the SAY kids and to the
SAY families, we will stand by you
every step of the way!

Fred Ragucci and Maria Sarath Ragucci



Congratulations

to Dr. Cleavon Gilman on
your well-deserved honor.
Your service is greatly
appreciated, and your
dedication to the kids of
SAY is an inspiration.

We salute all the
young people of SAY,
for leading the way,
believing in yourselves,
and dreaming big. Never
stop saying what's in
your hearts!

With admiration
and respect,
Joe Moglia





May 13, 2021, a fitting and perfect day for a SAY gala.

Five years ago, May 13, 2016, my dad, Budd Mayer, said his final good byes to this earthly plane.

20 years ago, when SAY began, my dad became the first chairman of the board and remained a SAY advisor for as long as he had breath.

He absolutely, positively adored his grandson, SAY founder, Taro Alexander, with a respect and love that was glorious to behold. He loved everything about SAY, especially the unconditional love and consistent, reliable support it provides young people who stutter and their families.

He and my mother, Nanette, were beyond proud of Taro's creation of SAY. They were amazed to witness Taro heal his own childhood pain and fear of stuttering by giving back to young people who stutter.

I feel them smiling their effervescent light down on this special SAY event.

IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL, SAY NEVER STOPS DELIVERING THE GOODS!

Shining a light on young people who stutter. Recognizing and uplifting their voices. Affirming and celebrating: each and every voice matters.

No matter how you say it SAY it!!!

What you have to SAY matters!

SAY: YOU ROCK THE WORLD!

With all my love,
Riki Alexander
aka Taro's SUPER PROUD mom

TO ALL OF THE AMAZING SAY: KIDS You are an Inspiration!

Bettina & Michael Klein

Congratulations

to

Dr. Gilman

for his hard work and
deserved recognition by SAY.

Thank you to SAY for its
amazing dedication
and programming.

We are proud to see the
organization outshine itself
every year.

The Spodek Family

Your words are not just sounds
coming out of a hole in your
face; your words are the
EXPRESSIONS of your **HEART**
and **MIND** and their power does
not depend on fluency, but on
the **SINCERITY, PASSION,** and
THOUGHTFULNESS with which
you speak them.

Thank you to SAY for giving
so many beautiful voices the
confidence to speak from the
heart and to change the world in
the process.

- VID

BARBARA AND PRESTON PADDEN

**SALUTE ALL THE
AMAZING SAY
YOUNG PEOPLE.**



Each Spring we are thrilled
to celebrate the inspiring and
incredible kids of SAY.

This year our hearts are even
more full because SAY is honoring

Dr. Cleavon Gilman,

a stellar human, doctor, pandemic
fighter, and person who stutters.

Thank you Dr. Gilman for your
big heart and for sharing your
love with SAY.

Love,
Jenny, Seth, Danby and Auden McGuire

We are honored
to support SAY
in bringing its
exceptional programs
to more and more
children every year.

The Stifelman Family

**The Alexander and
Cornman Families**
are so proud of SAY and
all it does to give youths a
voice in this world.

Thank you,
Taro Alexander and
Noah Cornman, our
beloved ones.

-Jane Alexander

In honor of
everyone at SAY
May the power of
your voices be a
reflection of your
beautiful souls and
an inspiration to all

Yona & Steven
Serota

~~~~~  
*Congratulations to*  
*Dr. Cleavon Gilman!*  
~~~~~

YOU ARE AN INSPIRATION
TO PEOPLE WHO STUTTER
EVERYWHERE, ESPECIALLY TO THE
SAY COMMUNITY. AND TO THE
YOUNG PEOPLE OF SAY, YOU ARE
OUR HEROES EACH AND EVERY
DAY! THANK YOU FOR YOUR
BRAVERY AND FOR ALWAYS SAYING
WHAT IS IN YOUR HEARTS.

Love, Shachar & Jason Scott

The passion and dedication
of SAY translates to the
confidence and inspiration
seen in all the kids that
participate. We feel this at
each and every event.

THANK YOU
for all your hard work and
honored to support SAY!

**Angela, Macrae &
Andrew Olson**

In Memory of Eric Olson

THANK YOU
SAY
for giving our sons
a truly special place
to build their
CONFIDENCE
and
FIND THEIR VOICES.

With gratitude,
Danielle &
Steven Mirsky



**We are proud
of you, and support
all your hard work.**

- Joseph & Donna Pastore

We proudly support the
life-changing work of

SAY: The Stuttering
Association
For the Young

CONGRATULATIONS

to

Dr. Cleavon Gilman
on this distinguished honor.

And to the young people of SAY

THANK YOU

for inspiring us all!

- Norene & Arnie Foster

**We proudly
support the young
people of SAY,
and celebrate
their incredible
and beautiful
voices every day!**

Anna May & Timothy Feige



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**We are
PROUD
to support the SAY
community, and
APPLAUD
young people who
stutter for sharing
their voices!**

Anne & Nikko Hayes

SAY: inspires us.

It's a privilege
to support a
program that so
deeply touches the
lives of so many
deserving kids.

**Mark, Randi,
EJ & Max Berman**



is proud to support
the terrific work of

SAY: The Stuttering
Association
For the Young

in making triumph,
happiness and fulfillment
possible for so many.

Every voice matters.

broadwaycares.org

**SAY KIDS
CAN'T STOP
WON'T STOP.**

**We couldn't be more
honored to be a part
of the SAY family.**

Justin Waller & Michael Stehlik

STUTTERING 101

Stuttering is often misunderstood and can make those listening to a person who stutters feel quite uncomfortable. These tips are provided to help make your interactions with a person who stutters a more positive, communicative and supportive experience:

- Please be patient. You may be tempted to finish sentences or fill in words, but please refrain from doing so unless you know the other person well and have their permission. Although you may have the best of intentions, completing another person's sentences may feel demeaning. Of course, if you guess the wrong word, the communication difficulties only increase.
- Try to refrain from comments such as "slow down," "take a breath" or "relax." To many people who stutter, this advice feels patronizing.
- Maintain eye contact and try not to look embarrassed or alarmed. Just wait patiently until the other person is finished talking.
- Be aware that people who stutter usually have more trouble controlling their speech on the telephone. In particular, saying "Hello" often presents a special problem. Please be extra patient in this situation.
- People sometimes wonder if it's OK to ask someone questions about their stuttering. This is certainly a judgment call and stuttering should not be considered a taboo subject. However, some people who stutter are sensitive about it and may prefer not to discuss the subject. By following the rules of common courtesy, everything should be fine.
- A person's stuttering sometimes makes it harder to understand what they are saying. If you do not understand what is being said, don't be afraid to simply say, "I'm sorry, I didn't understand what you just said." No matter how much of a struggle it was for them to say it, this is preferable to pretending you understood or guessing what was said.
- Let the person who stutters know by your body language and actions that you are listening to what is being said, not how it's being said. Be yourself and be a good listener.
- People who stutter are completely normal – it may just take them a bit longer to speak. Stuttering is a complex set of behaviors that interfere with the production of fluent speech. There are as many different patterns of stuttering behavior as there are people who stutter.
- Please be kind, be compassionate and be a great listener because in the end, what ties us all together is the incredible gesture of human kindness!



SAY what's in your heart.

SAY what's on your mind.

SAY what you want to say.

SAY the story you want to tell.

SAY the things you want the world to know about you.

SAY the things you want the world to hear.

Because in the end, what you have to SAY, not only says a lot about you, it says a lot about all of us.

We're here to help you SAY the things that shouldn't go unsaid.

SAY what you
want to say.

