

The Jupiter American Sign Language Club presents: The 2nd Deaf and Hard of Hearing Panel Discussion

PANELISTS

Sarah Campbell

Sarah Campbell is a second-generation sign language interpreter with deep personal and professional connections to the Deaf community. Several members of her family use sign language, including her husband, giving her a lifelong perspective on language access and Deaf culture.

She began working as an interpreter immediately after high school and later earned national certification. Early in her career, I joined the Video Relay Service (VRS) industry during its formative years, when the technology was still evolving and the technical challenges were significant—well before the era of smartphones and widespread video communication.

Over the past 25 years, much of her work has focused on medical interpreting. She served as the primary on-call ER interpreter for three years at a large teaching hospital and have interpreted in a wide range of medical situations, from birth to end-of-life care and everything in between.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, She worked with a medical Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) company and continue to provide both remote and in-person interpreting services.

Robin Peterson

Robin Peterson was born hard of hearing in New York as a result of the Rubella epidemic and wears a cochlear implant. She attended public hearing schools throughout her school years. She attended NTID (National Institute of Technology) at RIT (Rochester Institute of Technology) and has a Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Design. Later on, she earned her Master's in Deaf Education/Special Education. She teaches Deaf and Hard of Hearing students at local high schools and has been teaching ASL (American Sign Language) for over 35 years. She lives in Florida with her husband and her hearing son.

Molly Preato

Molly Preato, a native of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, has dedicated her career to bridging communication and care across communities. She has worked as an interpreter for the Deaf since 1987 and has been a Registered Nurse since 1992, bringing a unique blend of linguistic expertise and medical knowledge to her work. Her interpreting specialties include Christian, Artistic, and Medical/Psychological settings, where both precision and cultural understanding are essential.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities, ensuring equal opportunity for accessibility.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates that healthcare providers ensure effective communication, which often includes providing qualified interpreters.

Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) is an on-demand, web-based service providing sign language or spoken language interpretation via video conferencing.

Not all individuals with hearing loss use sign language; some utilize their own voice and amplification devices to assist in communication.

Audism is the belief that hearing people are superior to the DHH community, which often results in negative attitudes.

Studies show that up to 88% of surveyed providers have not attended specific training on interacting with deaf patients. ([Yahia Akeely et al., 2022](#)).

An estimated 90% of Deaf individuals are born to hearing parents with little to no experience in deafness, highlighting the importance of accessible resources and education.

American Sign Language is the 3rd most used language in the U.S and Canada after English and Spanish.

DEFINITIONS

ASL - American Sign Language
CODA - Child of a Deaf Adult d/Deaf
d/Deaf - lacking the ability to hear
Hard of Hearing - unable to hear at full capacity without assistance

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