

# The Jupiter American Sign Language Club presents: The 1st Deaf and Hard of Hearing Panel Discussion

## PANELISTS

### Kassandra J Liburd

Kassandra was born hard of hearing to hearing parents and has been wearing hearing aids since she was two months old. She attended public hearing schools throughout her childhood. She is currently pursuing her Behavioral Economics Bachelors degree at the FAU Wilkes Honors College. As a second year college student, she is currently starting a non-profit for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children throughout South Florida.  
Fun fact she has three cats!

### Caroline Partin

Caroline was born hearing in a fully Deaf family. She grew up in a world where communication was always visual and rich with non-verbal expression. ASL was her first language. She spoke it and signed it to communicate with her family, serving as an informal interpreter and the bridge between her family and the larger hearing world. Being a CODA has taught her to value communication in all its forms, whether spoken or signed, and inspired her to pursue her national certification in Sign Language Interpreting in 2005. She continues to advocate for accessibility, understanding, and connection between the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and hearing communities.

### Robin Peterson

Robin was born hard of hearing and wears a cochlear implant. She attended public hearing school throughout her school years. She attended NTID (National Institute of Technology) at RIT (Rochester Institute of Technology) and has a Bachelor Degree in Graphic Design. Later on earned her Masters in Deaf Education/Special Education. She teaches Deaf and Hard of Hearing students at a local H.S. and been teaching American Sign Language for over 35 years. She is married and has one son who is hearing.

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## Did you know?

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.

Many Deaf individuals consider their deafness a crucial part of their identity and don't view hearing as a necessary aspect of a good life.

There are three types of hearing loss: Conductive, which involves the outer or middle ear. Sensorineural, which involves the inner ear. Mixed, which is a mix of the two.

Gallaudet University, located in Washington, DC, is the world's only bilingual university for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled students and more.

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

In the 19th century, residents of Martha's Vineyard, developed their own sign language due to a high population of Deaf individuals.

Many Deaf individuals use visual alert systems in their homes, such as flashing lights for doorbells, alarms, and phone notifications, ensuring accessibility and safety.

The 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act mandated captioning for televised and online content, enhancing accessibility standards.

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 - lacking the ability to hear  
Hard of Hearing - unable to hear at full capacity without assistance

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