

## Wednesday, September 23: Sign Languages for All Deaf Learners

### Video Transcript

Hello, my name is Astrid. Today we are celebrating the theme “Cherishing ASL” because ASL is very important. I’ve been teaching ASL for over 30 years to a wide variety of learners. I believe ASL is for everyone, it doesn’t matter if you’re hearing, Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deafblind, younger or older. I have multiple stories I could share, so it’s difficult to pick just one. But something I have noticed from people who have moved here from different countries is their fast language development and expansion of knowledge. They came from places where they didn’t have an opportunity to go to school, learn their countries sign language and were faced with numerous communication barriers. They have been able to quickly learn and take in new signs to better their communication skills. It really improves their quality of life and opportunities to socialize. Same as the rest of the world, language and communication is extremely valuable because it is what connects us all. It is important to have language, even if it is not the same language as someone else. Because language is so unique, valuable and rich, it enhances things such as our ideas, art, poetry, and stories. You can play around and really make it your own in more ways than one. That is your Deaf culture; it’s a wonderful part of being Deaf. Overall, sign language and communication are extremely important.