**Judith Rae Lokken Interviewed by Sandra Garcia**

NJ Women’s Voices Interview

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* Name: Judith Rae Lokken
* Age: 54
* Education level: BS Degree
* Current Profession: Welcome Center Director
* Marital Status: Married
* Race/Ethnicity: Caucasian
* Hometown: Milwaukee, Wisconsin currently living in Burlington, New Jersey
* Political affiliation: Dependent
* Religion: Catholic
* Relationship to me (the interviewer)? Roommates mother

2. The interview was done over the phone.

3. Q: Do you have children?

A: Three girls ages 29, 25, 19.

4. Q: What do you think about full-time stay at home mothers? What about full time stay at home fathers? If you have or plan to have children, what influenced, or influences or will influence your decision about how to manage childcare?

A: They do a great job and service, they have to work and have to take care of children. It is a choice that the parent ultimately makes. I feel like my kids benefitted from me being a stay at home mom. Being a stay at home mom was influenced by finances.

5. Q: For you, what defines a woman? Is there anyone you can think of that embodies these qualities?

A: Women are viewed as caretaker, motherly. Although women can be whatever they want to be, it’s wide open. It is the choice of the individual. My mother was an example of a woman, an example of living a good life being well rounded. She was an example for the older generations.

6. Q: What do you think is the most challenging part about being a woman in today’s society? What personal struggles have you faced as a woman?

A: Juggling the home, family and job. Trying to do it all and still have time to oneself. I have gone passed many personal struggles feeling overwhelmed with kids and not having the time to do what I wanted to do.

7. Q: Do you think we still live in a society where women are sexually exploited by or oppressed by men? Why or why not?

A: We still probably are. Advertisement still exploits women. Yes, we are still dealing with this today. Compared to how things were in the passed, women have come a long way.

8. Q: Have you personally experienced sexism or know of anyone who has? If you have, briefly describe the situation and its outcome.

A: I was a stay at home mom so I can’t really comment on it. I don’t know anyone who has.

9. Q: Do you believe there is still a double-standard when it comes to men’s and women’s sexual behaviors? For example, is society still more tolerant of men who have more sexual partners? Are there behaviors that women can exhibit that men cannot?

A: Yes, there is still a double-standard. Women have more freedom now. It has become more acceptable in time. There are still things that women cannot do that men can. Even between age groups it is more acceptable for an older man to date a younger girl, than an older women dating a younger man.

10. Q: It’s often assumed that women are more emotional than men. Do you agree or disagree with that common assumption? Do you think that a female president will be able to handle a tough situation as well as a male president?

A: Yes, there are differences in sexes. That is just the nature of how things are. There have been female rulers for centuries. The whole controversy of having a female ruler is something that troubles the American society. A women ruler will do a fine job given the right opportunity.

11. Q: What do you know about feminism? So you consider yourself a feminist? Why or why not? If you wouldn’t call yourself a feminist, is there another term that better describes you?

A: Women who want equal pay for equal work, are independent and pro abortion. I am not a feminist in the militant sense. I do not agree with some parts of feminism. I am prolife and prochoice. I don’t know about another term for myself. I never thought about it.