

## NJ Women's Voices Interview

Caitlin O. interviewing Diane

### **Background Information:**

What is your:

**Name:** Diane

**Age:** 48

**Education level:** 12th grade; some college

**Current profession:** Sales Consultant

**Marital status:** Married

**Race/Ethnicity:** White

**Hometown/where were you born:** Staten Island, N.Y.

**Political affiliation:** Republican

**Religion:** Lutheran

**Relationship to me:** Friend

**Do you have children:** Yes, 2 of them. Both females, ages 19 and 17

**In what format did the interview take place:** Email

### **Questions about Feminism:**

**Q:** What do you know about feminism?

**A:** Women's liberation

**Q:** Do you consider yourself a feminist?

**A:** Not a feminist but a person who believes in equal rights.

**Q:** Why not?

**A:** A feminist is very extreme or passionate in their cause or movement and sometimes become very aggressive to achieve their way.

**Q:** If you wouldn't call yourself a feminist, is there another term that better describes you?

**A:** Believer that all people are created equal.

**Q:** Do you think being a feminist means giving up romance and chivalry?

**A:** No. It's a matter of opinion.

**Q:** In your opinion, what has been the greatest obstacle that the feminist movement has overcome?

**A:** Woman can now work in any type of career or job. For women back in the 60s they were denied their basic rights, basically labeled a housewife to serve the family; never to become self sufficient.

**Q:** Has the feminist movement hurt women or men in any way?

**A:** Again it is a matter of opinion. For men it could go either way. Men by nature are providers. They may feel inferior having a female boss or mate that makes more money than them. However, on the other side men could be relieved that their mate is doing her share in helping with the bills. From my own experience when my sister and I were younger my mom did not work; not by her choice but by my father's. It would cost him more money in taxes for her to work a small part time job because she lacked the skills for a better paying job. Now in current days my salary is just as important as my husband's.

**Q:** What would equality for men and women entail?

**A:** People to be more open minded and not threatened by change

**Q:** Can men and women ever achieve true equality?

**A:** Probably not

**Q:** Why not?

**A:** There will always be ignorant people in this world.

#### **Questions about Work and Family:**

**Q:** How does society view housewives?

**A:** Again it is opinion. Some people frown upon it perceiving it as entitlement. Others think it is the absolute right thing to do for the children. Most families today both husband and wife work whether it is inside or outside the home.

**Q:** If you had or have the option of being a housewife, would you consider it?

**A:** Full time NO. I have always worked throughout my married life. Mostly part time and I felt that was the best option. I was a housewife and career woman.

**Q:** Why or why not?

**A:** Staying home tending to the house fulltime honestly is boring and unchallenging.

**Q:** When you were growing up, did a specific person in your household make the majority of the decisions or otherwise run the household?

**A:** Yes, my father

**Q:** Do you think the person's gender influenced when or what types of decisions she or he made?

**A:** Absolutely

**Q:** Do you think women in male-dominated professions must diminish their feminine traits in order to gain respect from their peers?

**A:** Yes. The pressure that a woman feels to keep up with the men causes them to lose a lot of respect. Women also have to watch out for sexual advances made by male co-workers especially if they display their true feminism.

**Q:** Now that the United States has elected a Black male president, do you think the country will elect a female president in the near future?

**A:** Probably. If the right woman displays the right intellect it is possible.

**Q:** What would you consider to be the most challenging aspect of being a female?

**A:** The pressure to be everything. The maternal instinct a woman has with their children always makes them feel like they are not doing enough. If they are working they feel guilty they are not there for their children. Plus the pressure the males/husband put on women that they don't do enough for them can be challenging to juggle with the guiltiness of the children.

**Q:** Do you think males share this struggle?

**A:** NO

**Q:** What advice do you have for young people today?

**A:** Be true to yourself. Try to work as an equal team with your mate and always have respect for each other. Without that, there is nothing.