



Marylou Huisking

Teacher

*Interviewed by Julia Turner
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Marylou Huisking grew up in Huntington, Long Island, New York, and attended Ladycliff College in Highland Falls, New York. She graduated in 1974 with a degree in business. She spent ten years in the field before going to Fairfield University to earn her Masters in Special Education. She graduated in 1983 and worked for ten years in Newtown, Connecticut, until 1996 when she came to Staples. She enjoys working as a teacher and has three children and three grandchildren.

Where were you during the attack on September 11, 2001?

On the morning of September 11th, I was waiting for the principal in the office because I was going to meet with her to discuss a student. The office had one of the only TV's in the whole school so as I was waiting and saw the news come on about the Towers being hit.

How did you react immediately?

I reacted as every student and teacher did at Staples. I was scared and horrified that my family was in danger but thank goodness they were all safe and near home that day. I did my best to help out Staples though as it was quite hectic on that day.

How did the attack impact your life?

The attack on 9/11 didn't have a huge impact on my life but it did affect the day to day life of many people in Westport and across the country. For the longest time, people were afraid to go out or have trust in anybody as they feared another grave attack like 9/11 was about to happen again in just a matter of days.

Do you know anyone who was directly affected by the attacks?

I don't know anyone personally who was affected by the attacks but I do know there were numerous families in Westport who were affected by the events on September 11th.

What did you think about terrorism before the attacks? Did the attacks change your view on terrorism? If so, how? Do you feel the same way today?

Terrorism before the attacks wasn't as big of an issue as it was after 9/11. The biggest thing after 9/11 that changed was the amount of security in public places. It use to be that you could walk on and off a ferry without anyone asking what you were doing but if I tried to walk off a ferry now they would ask me if I planted a bomb on the ship.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I would really like it if we could have a memorial just like for World War II honoring all those who died in Westport up somewhere in Staples. It would really be nice every day to walk by it reflecting on that day at Staples and how it impacted the country overall.