

Judith Rivas Biography

Judith Rivas was born of Puerto Rican parents on December 8, 1955 in the Bronx, New York. She graduated from the Bronx High School of Science, attended Fordham University, and Southern Connecticut State University, and completed master's degrees in library science and instructional technology. Judith was the former Director of Library Information Services for the Norwalk Public Library, where she worked for over 28 years. While she served at the Library, she enjoyed helping people in need and continuously advocated for the underserved, including the Hispanic community. She developed a Spanish language collection, provided publications and computer classes in Spanish, and recruited bilingual staff.

Judith was also an active member of several community organizations and co-founder of the United Hispanic Action of Norwalk (UHAN). She especially enjoyed her work for the Wilkerson Scholarship Fund helping needed but talented students in the Norwalk High Schools.

Judith was considered a pioneer in the Latino community of Norwalk for becoming the first Latina to serve on the Common Council and the Board of Education. For over two years, she served as an elected member of the Board of Education and was elected a Common Councilwoman for three consecutive terms. During her term in the Norwalk State Legislature, she successfully advocated for the acquisition and restoration of the great Fodor Farm by the City of Norwalk. Judith was married to her loving husband Neil Hershkowitz. She died on May 22, 2014 at the age of 58.