

NEWS



Edward A. Diana
Orange County Executive

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For Immediate Release

03-16-11 THIS WEEK IN ORANGE COUNTY BY EDWARD A. DIANA

March 2011 marks the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. This day of recognition is celebrated by countries and women's organizations around the world. In fact, it's a national holiday in about 25 countries. International Women's Day is a global celebration of the economic, political, and social achievements of women past, present, and future.

In honor of International Women's Day, I'm proud to recognize some of our own women of achievement right here in Orange County. Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson and YWCA Orange County recently announced the 2011 recipients of their annual Tribute to Women of Achievement of Orange County. Congratulations to this year's eight honorees: Arts - Donna Hall, New York School of Music and Rock Camp USA; Business - Trish Fisher, Greater Newburgh YMCA; Communications - Cecille Jones, Orange and Rockland Utilities; Public Service - Karen Van Houten Minogue, Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan; Health & Human Services - Maureen Torelli, Glen Arden; Education - Florence Blueglass Hannes, SUNY Orange; and Woman of the Future - Aisling Cuffe, Cornwall High School. Dr. Michelle Winchester Vega will receive the Bobbie A. Lahey Memorial Award for Volunteer Services.

Now in its 19th year, the Tribute award honors women in our County who have made outstanding contributions to our community through their professional, personal, or school-based activities. Nearly 190 Orange County women have been recognized by the Girl Scouts and the YWCA since they started presenting this award. Thank you to our many Orange County Women of Achievement for sharing your time, talent, and expertise in order to make a difference in our community, and thank you to my dear friends Donna Cornell and Ann Barber-Smith for co-chairing this wonderful event.

There are many ways that you may get involved today to help nurture Orange County's women of achievement of tomorrow. If you have a daughter, talk to her about Girl Scouts. Their motto is "building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place." Consider being a Big Sister through Orange County Big Brothers Big Sisters. Many young people in our County, both boys and girls, need a positive adult figure they can count on to be a strong role model, mentor, and friend. Show a child you care and help them find a safe place to spend their out of school hours by volunteering with the Boys & Girls Club of Walkkill or the Center for HOPE in Newburgh. Give a young woman the tools she needs to succeed by sharing your time, talent, and expertise through one of the YWCA's confidence-building programs like TechGYRLS. This innovative program encourages girls to become more comfortable with technology and explore careers in fields like information technology and engineering.

For links to many of these programs and more information and ideas about personal development opportunities for all of our County youth, visit the Youth Bureau's Department pages on our website at www.orangecountygov.com.

Until next week, wishing you good health and happiness.

Edward A. Diana
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