



**OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK**

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**March 9, 2015**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Douglas Kendall, City Clerk (607)432-6450**

**Joyce Miller, Chair, Commission on Community Relations and  
Human Rights, (607)432-8751**

**PRESS RELEASE**

The City of Oneonta's Commission on Community Relations and Human Rights has selected Angela Brindley, Joanne Fisher and Debra Marcus to receive the 2015 Trailblazer Award. The award is presented annually to women who have made outstanding contributions to the Oneonta Community through her profession and/or professional organization or as a Community volunteer.

Angela Brindley was nominated in the Under-25 Category. Ms. Brindley is a senior at Oneonta High School, where she has followed a rigorous academic program and has also participated in extracurricular activities, including Link Crew peer mentoring, as well as many school clubs and organizations. She represents the student body by attending Board of Education meetings and presenting on issues facing students. Angela was chosen to represent Oneonta High School at the Rotary Youth Leadership Conference, and she is active in the school's SADD chapter.

Joanne Fisher was nominated in the Over-25 category. Mrs. Fisher has worked and lived in Oneonta for many years and has been active in the Oneonta Area NAACP, holding



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various positions within this organization. Joanne is instrumental in organizing the annual community picnic sponsored by NAACP. Each year she helps organize the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration in Oneonta. She also has worked with the City Commission on Community Relations and Human Rights and SUNY Oneonta to make the community a better place. She is on the NAACP Education/Scholarship Committee and has helped to improve relations between the schools and community. Despite facing adversity and racism as an African American, Joanne has always exemplified what we all wish to be in a human being; she is a kind soul who wishes that not just African Americans, but all members of our community have a voice and receive the social justice that they deserve.

Debra Marcus was nominated in the Over-25 category. Ms. Marcus has served as Chief Executive Officer for Family Planning of South Central New York, formerly Planned Parenthood of Delaware and Otsego Counties for 25 years. She led the agency to expand in innovative new directions, including extensive outpatient gynecology, cancer screening, and services to males, while assuring that lack of income or insurance would never be an obstacle to obtaining high quality health care. She sustained and expanded a commitment to education, including a focus on teen services and adolescent pregnancy prevention, as well as professional trainings, college and community programs, and one-on-one education to families, couples and individuals. Debra has also been active in community activities as a volunteer at the Lord's Table, a long-time member of the



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Bugbee Children’s Center Board of Directors, a member of the Advisory Council of Building Healthy Families at Opportunities for Otsego, a member of the Otsego County Opiate Task Force and a member of the Temple Beth El Board of Directors.

There will be a public reception beginning at 6:30 pm., prior to the 7:00 p.m. Common Council meeting at City Hall on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Acting Mayor Russ Southard will present proclamations to the Trailblazer Award honorees during the reception.

For more information on the award and this year’s recipients please call Ms. Joyce Miller, Chair, Commission on Community Relations and Human Rights at 432-8751.

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