



# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF SCHENECTADY  
NEW YORK

Gary R. McCarthy  
Mayor

City Hall, 105 Jay Street, Rm 111  
Schenectady, N.Y. 12305-1938  
(518) 382-5000  
Fax: (518) 382-5272  
[gmcCarthy@schenectadny.gov](mailto:gmcCarthy@schenectadny.gov)

**For Release: Immediate**  
**Date: May 2, 2014**

## **CONFIDENTIAL**

## **PRESS ADVISORY**

### ***MAYOR McCARTHY TO PRESENT PATROON AWARD TO MIRIAM BUTZEL***

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 3, 2014

**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Schenectady High School Auditorium prior to student performance of *Hairspray*

**DETAILS:** Mayor McCarthy will be naming Miriam "Mim" Butzel a Patroon. In naming Miriam a Schenectady Patroon, Mayor Gary McCarthy noted that she loves kids; especially the arts students at the Blue Roses Theatre Company of Schenectady High School where she can often be found attending rehearsals, plays (every production usually), arts exhibitions, or musical performances. She has supported these activities financially and with her personal love and concern for the students she meets. This diminutive woman cares deeply about the students who are seven decades or more younger than she and is a wonderful role model for them. Schenectady is so lucky to have Mim's commitment and personal concern for our students."

She formed the Henry M. Butzel Family Foundation in 1996 to support the community and public school programs. Besides supporting Blue Roses, she has several generous scholarships for those pursuing arts at the High School. In recognition of Mim's and the Foundation's commitment to supporting the arts in Schenectady's public schools, the gallery space at Schenectady High School where local visual arts students display their work and study that of other regional artists is known as the Henry M. Butzel Family Foundation and Miriam Butzel Gallery.

The YWCA of Northeastern NY honored Miriam Butzel with the Katherine S. Rozendaal Award in 2009. The annual award is given to an individual “whose volunteer leadership and activities have had a positive impact on the Schenectady community.”

Mim’s involvement in the local community began early. While raising her children, she was an active member of the Friends of the Schenectady Museum, particularly during the museum’s transition to its Nott Terrace location. She was a board member and volunteer instructor at the Hamilton Hill Arts Center, led by Margaret Cunningham. She joined the newly formed Designer Crafts Council (then affiliated with the Schenectady Museum) and has participated in many DCC activities over the years.

Mim served for 18 years as a member of the Parsons Child and Family Center\* Board of Directors and was inducted into the Lifetime Board at the end of her sixth three-year term. While serving on the agency Board, she volunteered in multiple agency settings, assisting most notably in the creation of the agency’s Early Family Support Center on Bigelow Avenue in Schenectady. She served on Bigelow as a member of the Early Head Start program and provided hands-on assistance in the post-natal and early intervention services there. She continued to support various programs well after her formal board service ended, and continues to this day to participate as an active volunteer.

Parsons was pleased in 2001 to name its new Community Residence “Miriam House” in honor of Ms. Butzel’s long and continuing contributions. Miriam House is the only one of seven agency residential facilities to be named after a board member.

Miriam (Weisman) Butzel was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. She graduated with a Master’s Degree in Fine Arts from the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. She moved to Schenectady with her husband, Henry M. Butzel Jr., a professor of biological sciences at Union College.

Mim Butzel is recognized as a Patron for her service to Schenectady, to youth and families for many, many years.

**PLEASE EMBARGO UNTIL EVENT**

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