

## PERSIAN FEST

The Untermyer Gardens Conservancy presented its inaugural Samuel Untermyer Award to British-Iranian journalist Christiane Amanpour – host of PBS’ newsmagazine “Amanpour and Company” – on Sept. 16, during its annual celebration of Mehregan, the ancient Persian harvest festival. Traditional Persian music performed by Amir Vahab filled the air as guests clinked late-afternoon cocktails and savored Persian cuisine in an open tent with spectacular views of the Hudson River. Vartan Gregorian – president of the Carnegie Corp. and, like Amanpour, also Iranian-born – presented the award to her. Violin prodigy Oliver Hakim dazzled the crowd of 250 with his performance in the Temple of the Sky against the night sky as guests threw esphand seeds into the ceremonial fire pits to ward off the evil eye. The event culminated in a performance by the Vancouver Pars National Ballet in the temple, which is the gardens’ outdoor amphitheater. Designed by Yonkers-based sculptor Jacqueline Lorio, the Samuel Untermyer Award replicates in miniature key design elements of the Persian garden. The award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated bravery and shined a light on important issues of the day. The event raised funds to support the conservancy’s efforts to restore Untermyer Gardens and its once grand, now ruined Persian Pool. *Photographs by Ralph Gabriner, Jessica Norman and Rebecca Smeyne.*

1. Steve Byrns
2. Shahram Razman, MD, Kimia Karian, Mitra Razman, MD and Michael Razman
3. Susan Sahim and Betty Emamian
4. Tom Lollar, Dan Wolk, Ann Carmel, Maroakh Sakhai, Nazeem Moinian, Kamran Hakim and Parviz Shakiban
5. Sofia Din and Loveleen Sood
6. Christiane Amanpour
7. Michael Bakwin and Kathryn Buckley
8. Vartan Gregorian
9. Vancouver Pars National Ballet in the Temple of the Sky
10. Batya Gorin, MD and Howard Feldman
11. Vancouver Pars National Ballet
12. Beth Fitzgerald, James Blanchard, Richard Fitzgerald and Susan James
13. Pierre and Jenny du Pont
14. Oliver Hakim in the Temple of the Sky

