

Timeline

Samuel Untermyer is born into a German-Jewish family in Lynchburg, Virginia.	1858	
		1878 Untermyer graduates at the age of twenty from Columbia Law School, having previously graduated from City College.
The legal firm of Guggenheimer and Untermyer is founded, in time becoming the most successful Jewish law firm in the United States with a major corporate practice. Untermyer marries Minnie Carl, a Christian.	1883	
		1899 Untermyer purchases Greystone, the Yonkers estate of Samuel J. Tilden, a former New York governor.
Minnie Untermyer plays an influential role in bringing Gustav Mahler to the New York Philharmonic as music director.	1909	
		1909 Minnie Untermyer joins the women's suffrage cause in New York State, noting that her husband has always been a suffragist. Samuel Untermyer becomes a founding member of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage the next year.
Samuel Untermyer is named the chief prosecutor of the Pujo Committee, which investigates the formation and power of monopolies in the U.S. economy and results in the establishment of the Federal Reserve System.	1912	
		1915 Minnie Untermyer entertains more than 200 guests at Greystone for the Poetry Society of America.
The architect William Welles Bosworth is commissioned to design Greystone's garden.	1916	
		1917 The completed garden is unveiled.
Samuel Untermyer is head of the New York welcoming committee for Albert Einstein on his first visit to the United States, and they begin a long friendship.	1921	
		1922 The Baltimore American declares Untermyer Gardens "America's Most Spectacular Garden." Untermyer becomes president of the Keren Hayesod and is a leading Zionist.
The Isadora Duncan Dancers perform in the amphitheater.	1923	
		1924 The Untermyers host a garden party for 1,800 Democratic National Convention delegates during a massive storm, and Eddie Cantor performs in the amphitheater. Minnie Untermyer dies on August 16.
Samuel Untermyer and his partner Louis Marshall represent Herman Bernstein in charges of anti-Semitism against Henry Ford.	1927	
		1929 Untermyer is the leading defender of the nickel subway fare.
After denouncing Adolf Hitler in a fiery address, Untermyer leads the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League and is called "Hitler's Bitterest Foe" by the British press.	1933	
		1939 Thirty thousand people visit the garden in a single day. At its height, the garden was maintained by 60 gardeners using 60 greenhouses.
Untermyer dies on March 16. His bequest of the property as a public park is rejected by New York State, Westchester County, and the City of Yonkers due to the financial burden.	1940	
		1946 The City of Yonkers acquires 16 acres of the original 150-acre estate as a public park but lacks sufficient funds to maintain it.
Under Mayors Alfred DelBello and Angelo Martinelli, the City of Yonkers undertakes a significant restoration of the Walled Garden.	1970	
		1974 Untermyer Gardens is added to the National Register of Historic Places.
The City of Yonkers suffers a financial crisis, and Untermyer Gardens again endures a period of severe decline and vandalism.	1978	
		1988 Stephen F. Byrns visits Untermyer Gardens and joins the efforts to preserve it.
Community leaders protect an additional 27-acre parcel from commercial development, and the garden expands to its present size of 43 acres.	1996	
		2010 Following a decade of improvements by the City of Yonkers, the Walled Garden's fountains are turned on after decades of disuse, which attract the return of Byrns after an eleven-year absence.
Byrns founds the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy.	2011	