

Kayaking Provides New Perspective



Dan and Susan Thaler enjoy a day of kayaking on the Hudson River.

Submitted by Susan and Dan Thaler

Are you looking for a new experience that has the potential to inspire you, to soothe you, to challenge you, to provide camaraderie and to help you get in shape? In the summer of 2008, Susan and Dan Thaler signed up for a short guided kayak trip on the Hudson near Peekskill.

They were hooked.

Soon after, they bought a pair of plastic 13-foot recreational kayaks, but before long, they found they needed something more substantial. Dan built his first wooden sea kayak in the winter of 2009/10, then another for Susan the following year. He has now built a flotilla of wooden kayaks (and a canoe) and has turned his hobby into a thriving small business, Moonlight Marine, Inc.

Building and repairing kayaks keeps Dan busy over the winter, but during the warmer months, you're more likely to find both of them out on the Hudson River, or another body of water, whether in the Hudson Valley, the Jersey Shore or the Great Northwest. Kayaking provides them unrivaled opportunities to experience the beauty of the natural world.

"We also get a new perspective on city life by paddling in urban areas – like the Yonkers waterfront, where we paddle with fellow mem-

unbeatable."

If you're considering trying kayaking or other paddlesports, remember that there are risks involved. Always be sure to use proper safety gear, depending on the conditions; and get good training from certified instructors, including rescue training. The Hudson River is a prime example of an unpredictable paddling environment. After all, its original Lenape name was "Muhheakantuck," or "the river that flows two ways."

Tide, currents and wind can result in rapid changes in conditions, so take every needed precaution. That said, there really is nothing like being out on the water. Because it's an activity that requires your full attention, time stands still. You feel part of the landscape, and also part of a long and unbroken tradition of humanpowered navigation. Being so close to the water you can touch gives you a deep understanding of why we need to be good stewards of our waterways.

Kayaking the Hudson near Yonkers is especially varied and rewarding.

The views include the ever-changing waterfront, the eerie ruins of the Glenwood power plant and the majestic palisades. Yonkers is fortunate to have the Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club, an active and welcoming organization

Luncheon Raises \$200K For My Sisters' Place



MSP Community Partner Award recipient The Links, Inc., Greater Hudson Valley with MSP CEO Karen Cheeks-Lomax, Esq.

The My Sisters' Place fall luncheon, "Still Behind Closed Doors," held Oct. 29 at Brae Burn Country Club, raised more than \$200,000.

In addition to highlighting survivors' journeys from fear to hope through the critical programs of My Sisters' Place, the event featured a public service announcement from the New York Giants for MSP and honored Community Partner Award recipients The Links, Inc., Greater Hudson Valley and Lisi Gheewalla.

During lunch, MSP staff conveyed compelling survivor experiences. The stories of a human trafficking survivor, a woman whose abuser was also her husband and pastor and a teenager trying to cope with everyday life while witnessing his mother repeatedly experience intimate partner violence captured a room of close to 300 guests.

Tickets to the event were sold at \$175 per person, and additional funds were raised from donations and a silent auction. Popular items included an in-home, four-course prefix dinner for six prepared by Brett Portier, co-owner of The Smokehouse of NY, and Alan Dancyger, chef of Got Thyme, co-owner of Got Thyme and executive chef of the Ritz Carlton Battery Park; Gi-

ants home game tickets (parking included) with a book and jersey signed by linebacker Mark Herzlich; and two house seats to the Tony Award winning musical "An American in Paris".

Event sponsors included Casabella – Next Generation, Clifford Chance, Connie Curran, Julia A. Domonoski and Daniel Leffell, Entergy, Ernst and Young, Eileen and Steve Farbman, Mitzi and Warren Eisenberg, Rebecca and Martin Eisenberg, Ilisa and Robert Gheewalla, Jay T. Glassman, Mindy Heyer, J&R Realty, Julia B. Fee Sotheby's, Judy and Bruce Kaminstein, Leslye and Gary Katz, Michael Koester, Kohl Industrial Park LLC, Susan A. Landolt, Sara G. and Kieran Mahoney;

Susan and John McDonnell, Mercedes Benz of White Plains, Patricia and Mark Moores, Nardello and Co., Kate S. Niehaus, the NY Giants, Lisa and Buster Olney, Barbara G. Raho, Joan and Seth Rosen, Barbara G. Michael Satow, President Thomas J. Schwarz of the Purchase College Foundation, Terri Simon and Eric Levine, Laura and Dan Stone, The Fascitelli Family Foundation, UE Systems Foundation Inc., Mindy and Gregory White, and Eileen Fisher.