

Parenting, explained

Astoria business owner featured in new book

BY ZOË BUCHLI

Sometimes parenting means forgiving yourself and being confident to say “No, not happening” when necessary.

This is the theme behind Portland author Karen Karbo’s new book, “Yeah, No, Not Happening,” which was released in May. The book features a variety of sources, including Diana Kirk, who owns the Workers Tavern in Astoria.

Connecting online

Karbo became interested in interviewing Kirk after watching Kirk parent her three boys through social media.

Karbo encouraged Kirk to write her own book about parenting based on her unique approaches to raising her boys, Kirk said.

“This is my journey. Parenting is very personal and it should be,” Kirk said.

Born in San Francisco, Kirk moved to Portland as an adult. She lived there for 20 years before relocating to Astoria and buying the tavern in 2017.

Kirk had always admired Karbo’s work. The two connected over social media after Kirk became an author. The two then bonded over their shared love of writing and disdain for kale.

“I made a post about how I’m really tired of kale and people talking about kale and this white middle class bowing down to it. She thought that was really funny and we started talking more,” Kirk said.

Their friendship evolved, eventually leading to Karbo interviewing Kirk for the book.

“I have alternative ways I’ve raised my kids based on society and what I think is important versus what schools think is important,” Kirk said. “But I’m not against schools in the slightest bit. I just wanted my children to do more and I require them to do more in this world.”

Parenting strategies

Kirk describes her divergent ways of parenting as “launching.” She says it’s different than graduating in the sense that launching gives her kids, now 20, 16 and 13, opportunities to grow beyond what

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Diana Kirk



Kirk and her three sons during a trip to San Diego, California.