

You got this newsletter because:

- you're a member of No Kidding!
- you're not a member of No Kidding!
- you attended a No Kidding! event
- someone thought you might like it and gave it to you
- it was left lying around and you found it
- you are my sunshine, my only sunshine
- you make me happy when skies are grey

Childfree News Network snippets:

No Kidding club founder 'loves' kids—kind of (Now)



Jerry Steinberg (with Tilley hat)

No Kidding's founding non-father Jerry Steinberg (who is well known for his Tilley hat) was interviewed by Brooke Larsen of the *Now* newspaper (Surrey) in mid-April. The article was published on 17 April.

Readers got a peek behind the scenes of how Steinberg publicized the club he founded—by chatting with bus drivers, handing out flyers, and sometimes, having a lively argument with another passenger on his weekday commute from South Surrey to Vancouver on the 351 bus.

"I've been taking the bus to Vancouver now for 10 years, and probably met 40 to 50 new members that way. Several of our new members are bus drivers", said Steinberg.

No Kidding! was founded after Steinberg noticed his pool of friends shrinking, as more and more of them began having children.

"The moment they had kids—poof. They never had time to call. If I called them, it was never the right time. They were always in the middle of something."

Even the occasions when Steinberg and his friends did manage to chat, those conversations would be constantly interrupted by the demands of children needing attention. Steinberg began looking for other child-free people and a club for them, "but there was nothing. So I started one of my own."

A common belief is that child-free people dislike or even

hate kids. This is true for for some child-free people, but certainly not all of them, and not Jerry Steinberg.

"I love kids. They're full of energy and curiosity and enthusiasm."

His reasons for not having kids of his own are varied. With more than one younger sibling, he learned at an early age how much work child-raising can be, having "changed a thousand diapers before I was ten". In addition, he has been a teacher for 37 years, and has also put in plenty of time as a camp counsellor and a babysitter, and he thinks that as great as kids are, he already spends enough time around them, and has no desire to have them around 24/7.

Steinberg also pointed out that often, people have children because it's expected of them, not because they want them. Many people don't even think about the huge responsibility of parents to their child before they start having babies.

"It should be automatic. ... Kids are too precious to be created on a whim."

The Now article is available online at

<http://www.thenownewspaper.com/issues06/043106/news/043106nn1.html>

Warning signs about unattended children

First in a series



—Bonanza Books and Comics in Modesto, California

<http://www.modbee.com/local/story/11559042p-12293467c.html>

Back in mid-2004, a Chicago cafe, A Taste of Heaven, put up on its door a sign that read "Children of all ages have to behave and use their indoor voices when they come to A Taste of Heaven". Following coverage of the sign in local publications and later by the *New York Times*, a storm of outrage broke out, with many furious parents calling for a boycott of the cafe. However, owner Dan McCauley also

received far more support and praise for his stand against noisy children, and saw his business triple following the controversy.

(This story was covered in our February 2006 issue; see the "About this newsletter" section below about obtaining back issues.)

One has to wonder how the people who got upset at McCauley's sign would react to the sign in Bonanza Books and Comics and other, even more pointed, signs reminding parents to mind their kids.

(*More signs coming up in the June and July issues of No Kidding! News.*)

Coming activities

(Why not mark your calendar?)

Sat 6 May, 11:30 am—Wine-making in Coquitlam. (*Details on Activities List.*)

Sat 13 May, 6:30 pm—Second Saturday Supper
Moldovanos Greek Restaurant, 3701 Hastings Street (at Boundary), Burnaby. Restaurant's website and menu:
<http://moldovanos.com/restaurant.html>

Sat 10 June, 6:30 pm—Second Saturday Supper
Taste of Punjab Fine Indian Cuisine, 10009-136A Street (corner of 136A Street & 100 Avenue, 1 block from King George Skytrain station). Restaurant's website and menu:
<http://tasteofpunjab.ca/>

Last month:

Second Saturday Supper at the Sapporo Restaurant in New Westminster, a members-only **Games Night** in a member's home, and a **tour of Granville Island Brewing** followed by lunch and browsing.

Join our Activities List

Our weekly e-mailed Activities List is our main information source for coming activities. If you're interested in finding out what activities have been planned, please e-mail our Activities List Coordinator Mike at Mike@nokidding.net and ask to be put on the e-mail list.

If you don't have e-mail, visit your local branch of the public library, get on a computer, and set up a free e-mail account with Hotmail (<http://hotmail.com/>) or Yahoo (<http://mail.yahoo.ca/>). Library staff will be very happy to help if necessary.

About this newsletter (What you're reading right now)

No Kidding! News is a monthly newsletter of the Vancouver-area chapter of No Kidding!, containing things like recent childfree-related news stories, write-ups of recent No Kidding! events, reminders of coming events, interesting photos or essays by members, and perhaps (if members are willing) short bios of members and their interests.

The editor is Keith. The editor appreciates any ideas, articles, or help. E-mail Keith at keithlim@pobox.com if you would like to contribute anything, even just encouragement.

Past issues of No Kidding! News are online at <http://members.shaw.ca/nokiddingchapterone/NKN.htm>

(They are in PDF format, ready for printing, and can be read on-screen using Acrobat Reader, from Adobe. Mac users using OS X can also read them using Preview.)

About No Kidding! The fine print; some gory details

What is No Kidding! all about?

No Kidding! is an all-volunteer, non-profit social club for adult couples and singles who, for whatever reason, have never had children.

more info: <http://members.shaw.ca/nokiddingchapterone/01.htm>

Who can be a NO KIDDING! member?

Membership is open to any adult who has never parented—regardless of gender, age, color, race, ethnicity, cultural or linguistic background, marital, social or economic status, political, sexual or religious orientation, or physical or mental ability.

more info: <http://members.shaw.ca/nokiddingchapterone/02.htm>

What kinds of activities does NO KIDDING! have?

Our members and non-members organize several social activities a month, such as dinners, hikes, or games nights, where we talk about careers, books, pets, studies, movies, travels, recipes, interests, our jobs, current events, sex, politics, and religion—but rarely, if ever, about children.

more info: <http://members.shaw.ca/nokiddingchapterone/03.htm>

Membership required?, or Do I have to join No Kidding! in order to attend No Kidding! activities?

Answer: No. In the Vancouver chapter, prospective members are welcome to come to as many open functions as they like as non-members (for a nominal function fee of \$4, equivalent to one month's membership).

more info: <http://members.shaw.ca/nokiddingchapterone/04.htm>

Membership details (for 2006):

\$48 per person per calendar year, prorated. You pay for the remainder of the year (at \$4 per month), and you don't pay for the month in which you join. 25% discount (\$3/month) if you join or renew in the first quarter (31 March or earlier). If you join or renew in the fourth quarter (1 October or later), we ask you to pay for the following year as well as the remainder of the year.

Here are the exact amounts to pay in the month of joining:

Jan: \$33 Feb: \$30 Mar: \$27 Apr: \$32 May: \$28 Jun: \$24
Jul: \$20 Aug: \$16 Sep: \$12 Oct: \$8* Nov: \$4* Dec: \$0*

*plus the fee for the following year, to be determined
Make the cheque to **No Kidding!**, and mail it to

Box 2802, Vancouver, BC, V6B 3X2.

Contact No Kidding!

Our website is <http://nokidding.net/> It contains much information, including a list of Frequently Asked Questions, plus lists of resources and links. Do have a look through. The information you seek or the answer to your question may already be there.

There are three ways to contact No Kidding! (We appreciate not getting just a bare-bones general request for info; why not tell us a little bit about yourself and why you're interested in No Kidding!)

- E-mail info@nokidding.net (ask your questions)
- Call info line **604-538-7736** (24 hours; leave a message)
- Write to **No Kidding! PO Box 2802, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 3X2**