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NEWS

Are women's communities a thing of the past?

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Residents of the Southwest Florida area have a number of options for a female-only lifestyle. Clockwise from top left: Women in the Pink in Cape Coral; Sisters Indy in Fort Myers; Sisterhood of Southwest Florida; and The Hotel Carolina Women's Club in Fort Myers. | Photos: Patricia Borns, Photo Provided, Photo Provided, Photo Provided

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Gina Rosini and her partner were taking a break, traveling the country by RV, when they found a place they could call home.

Tired of a life in Massachusetts, where they felt judged by the gym dress code at a RV-manufactured home community called the Pueblo – for three months.

"We didn't like the dress," Rosini explained.

But the couple did like the concept of a community of women, who were identifying as lesbian, sharing the same lifestyle and, most importantly, living in a safe space. Rosini, with real estate in her blood and family in Fort Myers, Florida, found an secluded acres and donated her land for a RV lifestyle.

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On the other, "It leaves us in our 60s and 70s feeling like, 'what did we do all this for?'"

Women are still reaching for life-affirming spaces, says Hong. It's a generational question.

"Where do I go to be heard, to find community and be as fulfilled as I possibly can? I don't believe that goes away after a certain age," she said. "If anything it becomes more pronounced."

New Women Space seems to fill a void for women in their 20s, post-university, to congregate with others working on the issues they care about. After two years, the business model is holding its own financially.

"Like the Parkland students, there is a quantum leap in the way we think about things," Hong said, "but we're just part of the continuum. We wouldn't exist if those before us hadn't."

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