



Marianne Kilkenny
Trailblazer, Coach, Consultant, Speaker
Women for Living in Community
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MARIANNE KILKENNY

Community Consultant for Boomer Women, Educator, and “The Grand Nudge”

Marianne works with Boomer women across the U.S. who are looking for socially and financially sustainable housing models for living and aging in community. Her expertise helps people find their ideal setting, whether it's a shared “Golden Girls” home or a community on a neighborhood scale. Marianne founded the Women for Living in Community Network in 2007 and [website](#) to provide information, resources and guidance to help Boomer women take the helm and choose the alternative living model that's right for them.

She has been nationally recognized as an expert on the growing trend of Boomer women who are creating new housing models for the financial, safety and social benefits afforded by this innovative lifestyle. Marianne has been interviewed on **NBC Nightly News**, **CBS Early Show**, **ABC News** and **NPR**, featured in print articles in *Reuters*, *Smart Money* and *AARP Magazine*, and she has given numerous interviews for radio programs, books and magazines articles and blog sites.

Marianne founded and led the Kick Off Event for Boomer women held in Sarasota, FL in 2010 and spoke at the conference the following year in 2011. She has given numerous workshops throughout the U.S. on new models for living in community, including presentations at the Positive Aging Conference (Eckard College, FL), the North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement, and the Coalition of Asheville Neighborhoods. In addition, she founded and serves as the primary facilitator for the Asheville Communities Network.

Her expertise in alternative living designs for Boomer women stems from her own experience in successfully creating and living in a collaborative “Golden Girls” home in Asheville, NC with four other people. After taking more than five years to create her own living arrangement, Marianne decided to help others learn from her circuitous route and make their path much easier and faster than her own. She provides in-person and phone consulting, organizes conferences, hosts workshops, and gives speaking engagements to nudge Boomer women to consider and choose one of the myriad of options available, as compared to living alone.

In addition to her experience with creating shared homes, Marianne is knowledgeable about intentional neighborhood models, such as cohousing communities. She is a Certified Senior Cohousing Facilitator & Trainer (Nevada City, CA), has completed training in the Cohousing Development Process from the Elder Cohousing Network (Boulder, CO) and worked with the ElderSpirit Extension Program (Abingdon, VA), a model for affordable senior rental cohousing neighborhoods.

Prior to her work on innovative housing solutions, Marianne worked for 25 years in Human Resources where she was an HR Director for Hi Tech companies in Silicon Valley, CA from 1980 to 2005. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Management from California State University at Chico.

Marianne currently lives in Asheville, NC where she regularly hosts a Meet Up group at her shared house. She gives free information and resources to individuals and forming groups through her Women for Living in Community website www.womenlivingincommunity.com. Her website, blog, and newsletter provide Boomer women with guidance, inspiration, real life stories, and levity on their path to a new way of gracefully aging in community.

Speaking Topics

A humorous and popular presenter, Marianne inspires women to take action. Speaking topics include **Creating Community for the Second Half of Life & How to Get There**, **Live the Zesty Life (like the Golden Girls)**, **Aging in a Caring Community You Create**, **Community – A Solution to Bag Lady Fear Syndrome (B.L.F.S.)** and **Women – There's No Time to Wait – Create Your Ideal Housing Arrangement Now!**

To arrange a speaking engagement, please contact Marianne directly at **828-230-2093** or mek28803@gmail.com.