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Agent Spotlight PATRICIA SANTELLA

Rising Star CATHERINE ZHANG

# Mary Beth Darcy

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Patricia Santella



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Cover photo courtesy of Pam Setchell.



Catherine Zhang



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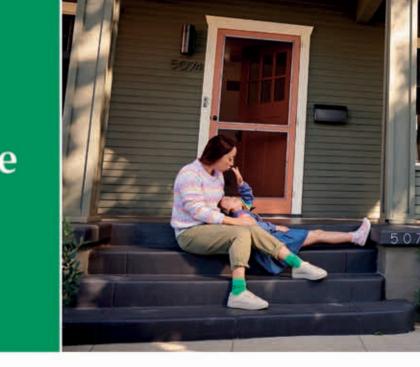
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#### Hello May, the Season of Growth!

As spring reaches its peak, May reminds us of the power of growth and gratitude. It's a time to celebrate how far we've come this year, embrace fresh opportunities, and intentionally invest in the connections that help us flourish both personally and professionally.

This season is about more than just blooming flowers — it's about blooming relationships, ideas, and experiences. And what better way to celebrate that spirit than by gathering together?

We're already looking ahead to one of our most anticipated events of the year — **the Summer Bash on June 5th**! Whether you're a longtime community



member or new to the Real Producers family, this event is the perfect opportunity to soak in the sunshine, celebrate with peers, and enjoy a relaxed, fun-filled atmosphere designed to spark authentic connection. Mark your calendars — we can't wait to share this summer moment with you!

Let's carry this reminder with us: "What we plant in the spring, we harvest in the fall."

Here's to a May filled with growth, inspiration, and momentum. Let's

keep building something meaningful — together.

#### Kristin Brindley

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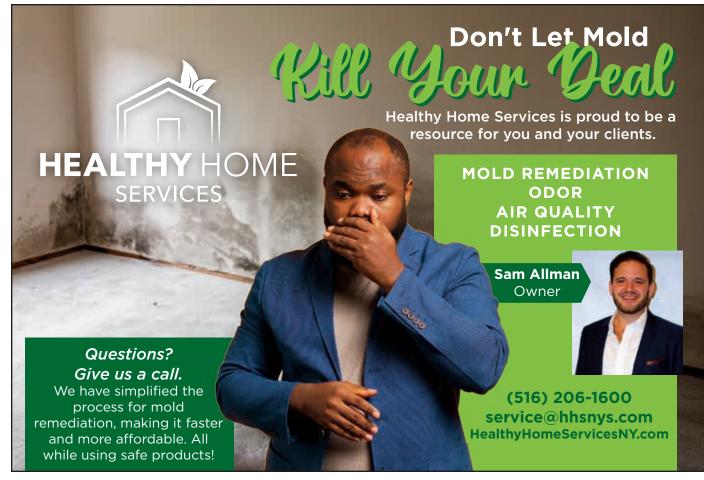
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# PATRICIA SANTELLA

#### CONFIDENT, DRIVEN, EMPOWERED

BY GEORGE PAUL THOMAS PHOTOS BY CHRIS AT DYNAMIC MEDIA SOLUTIONS

A personable, confident, and highly professional real estate agent, Patricia Santella brings a unique blend of financial expertise and community-driven passion to her work. As a seasoned real estate agent with Douglas Elliman, Patricia has built a thriving career by combining sharp analytical skills with a natural ability to connect with people. Whether guiding clients through transactions or supporting local initiatives, she approaches every endeavor with dedication and integrity. R

#### A Strong Foundation

NEVER QUIT – WINNERS ARE NOT PEOPLE WHO NEVER FAIL, BUT PEOPLE WHO NEVER QUIT."

Originally from Howell, New Jersey, Patricia earned her Bachelor of Science in Business before becoming a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Before stepping into real estate, she spent years in high-pressure roles at international financial firms, handling corporate finance, managing teams, and presenting audit findings to CEOs. These experiences refined her ability to stay patient under pressure, think strategically, and negotiate effectively.

"Working in finance taught me how to analyze and present numbers quickly and accurately, which has been invaluable in real estate," Patricia shares. "But just as importantly, it honed my ability to explain complex financial concepts in a way that people can easily understand."

Her background gives her a distinct advantage in the real estate world. Armed with market knowledge and a keen eye for value, Patricia provides her clients with insights that extend beyond just buying and selling homes.

#### A Career Built on Connection

Patricia officially launched her real estate career in 2010, but the seeds were planted long before. As an active member of her Long Island community, she was deeply involved in the PTA (as President), Girl Scouts, the Syosset Civic Association, Syosset Commerce, the local animal shelter, and the Long Island Road Running Club.

"I loved helping others and being part of something bigger," she explains. "A friend recognized my ability to connect with people and suggested real estate. It made perfect sense. I could continue to serve my community while building a business that worked for my family."





More than a decade later, that same spirit of service remains at the heart of her work. Patricia finds fulfillment in guiding her clients through major life transitions, ensuring they feel supported and informed every step of the way.

#### The Power of Expertise

What sets Patricia apart from other real estate professionals? Her financial background gives her a data-driven approach, helping clients make wellinformed decisions.

"I analyze properties with an investor's mindset," she explains. "Understanding financial trends, valuations, and ROI allows me to provide a more strategic perspective."

Her results speak for themselves. In 2024, Patricia closed 17 transactions totaling \$24 million, and she is on track to surpass \$30 million in 2025. Recognized as a Real Trends Top 1.5% Agent, she has also earned Douglas Elliman's Gold Award and ranked as the #15 agent in volume on Long Island for Elliman.

She holds several designations that further solidify her expertise, including Accredited Buyers Representative, Certified Residential Specialist, e-PRO, Luxury Marketing Specialist -GUILD, and Pricing Specialist. Though she operates as a solo agent, Patricia's family plays a key role in her business. Her two children, Lauren (24) and Peter (22), are licensed agents who assist at open houses, showings, walkthroughs, and client follow-ups.

#### A Life in Motion

While Patricia is a powerhouse in real estate, she is just as active outside of work. She and







her husband, Pete, along with their children and their beloved rescue dog, Fawn (who they initially fostered 11 years ago and adopted), enjoy spending time outdoors.

"We love walking, running, taking gym classes, and playing golf together," she says.

An avid runner, golfer, Pilates enthusiast, and weightlifter, Patricia stays committed to an active lifestyle. Her passion for fitness extends into community service, as she volunteers as a runner and coach for Girls On The Run.

If she weren't in real estate? Running an animal shelter

would be her dream. Her love for animals and advocacy for rescue organizations make this a natural alternative career choice.

Growth, Impact, and Legacy With over a decade of success behind her, Patricia is excited for the future. Her goals for the next five to ten years include expanding her business, increasing her community involvement, and mentoring the next generation of professionals.

"I want to continue growing, but more importantly, I want to keep making a difference," she says. "Helping people navigate one of the biggest financial decisions of their lives is a responsibility I take seriously."

partner every step of the way. "I don't just list homes—I strategize to sell them quickly and for the best possible price. I have a strategic marketing plan that is specific to the property. This includes a detailed digital market plan utilizing the newest technology. For buyers, I go beyond the MLS, leveraging my

66

I WANT TO CONTINUE GROWING, BUT MORE

IMPORTANTLY, I WANT

Her guiding philosophy? "Never Quit—Winners are not people who never fail, but people who

Patricia's clients know that when they work with her, they're getting a committed, hands-on

TO KEEP MAKING A

DIFFERENCE."

never quit."

network to find properties before they hit the market. My goal is to make every transaction as smooth and stress-free as possible." Her approach is built on

honesty, integrity, transparency, professionalism, and patiencevalues that have earned her a loyal client base and a steady stream of referrals.

For those looking to reach the top of the real estate industry, Patricia has simple but powerful advice.

"Keep going. Keep working and don't give up. The key is in the follow-up and communication. Work hard for your clients, and the success will follow."

As she continues to elevate her business and serve the Long Island community, one thing is clear. Patricia Santella isn't just selling homes—she's building relationships, shaping futures, and making an impact that lasts well beyond the closing table.



#### Contact Me: PATRICIA OLIVA (516) 840-9147

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Patricia and Pete's beloved rescue dog, Fawn, enjoying a chill day outdoor.

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#### FUELED BY GRIT, HEART, AND A DESIRE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BY GEORGE PAUL THOMAS PHOTOS BY CHRIS AT DYNAMIC MEDIA SOLUTIONS

Born in Qingdao, China, Catherine Zhang's journey to becoming a topproducing Realtor with Keller Williams Greater Nassau wasn't typical—but then again, she's never been one to take the easy path. A confident and responsible leader since childhood, Catherine grew up watching her parents extend compassion to others. That same sense of responsibility, determination, and empathy now drives every step of her career in real estate.

Her story as a new immigrant, reuniting with her father after ten years and adapting to life in New York, gave her resilience and purpose. "I learned to be a strong woman," she shares. "My mother raised me on her own for a decade, and I've never forgotten the

those around me."

#### From Law to Listings

Before she ever held a real estate license, Catherine spent ten years working as a paralegal in a Manhattan law firm. Her background in law sharpened her attention to detail and helped her develop a deep understanding of contracts and negotiations. But it wasn't until COVID changed everything that Catherine decided to go all in.

She had worked part-time as a real estate assistant, and when that position was no longer needed, she took it as a sign. "I got my license in August 2020

# CATHERINE

#### **RISING STAR**



#### sacrifices she made. It pushed me to succeed—not just for myself, but for





and haven't looked back," she says. Her timing may have seemed risky to some, but Catherine saw opportunity and seized it.

Catherine approaches real estate as a long-term relationship, not a onetime transaction. "Almost all of my clients become my friends," she says. "Whether it's reminding them of tax deadlines or connecting them with local services, I'm always here to help—even years after closing."

She speaks both English and Mandarin and prides herself on acting quickly. "I don't wait. I respond. I work. I show up." That proactive mindset has helped her achieve over \$30 million in sales volume in 2024 alone. And while she doesn't fixate on awards, the recognition has followed: Diamond Awards from KW, top solo agent in her Market Center, and top agent in sales volume across Brooklyn and Long Island among KW's Core Six Market Centers.

#### More Than a Career—A Calling

For Catherine, real estate has never just been about houses—it's about creating better lives. "Three years after I

became a Realtor, I was able to move my family into a better community and a slightly larger home," she says. "Helping hundreds of families do the same—it's the most rewarding part of what I do."

Whether she's working with local clients or those abroad, Catherine sees her work as a chance to make dreams come true. Her long-term goal is to help both domestic and international buyers find homes throughout New York—and possibly beyond.

#### **Family First**

Catherine's husband, Brian, is her rock. "He's very supportive and allows me to pursue any dream," she says. Together, they're raising two active boys, ages 12 and 11, and make the most of family time—whether it's watching hockey games, traveling, or biking through all five boroughs of New York.

The couple's shared values—hard work, integrity, and resilience—shape the home they've created. "Family means everything to me," Catherine says. "At the end of the day, they're the reason I do what I do."

When she isn't selling homes or managing family life, she's often found at the gym, trying different local food, or singing-a hobby she's mastered with passion. In fact, she once won a KW





singing competition for her powerful rendition of "My Heart Will Go On."

Her creative talents are matched only by her commitment to service. She's a Community Church Trustee and serves as the Chinese Vice President of Roslyn, where she focuses on outreach and connection.

**Looking Ahead** Catherine's goals for the next 5–10 years are both personal and

professional. She hopes to support her children through their university years and dreams of forming a choir to perform regularly. On the business side, she envisions running her own organization and becoming an online and offline influencer in real estate.

Her advice to aspiring top producers? "Be yourself. Treat others how you want to be treated. And use social media to show people who you really are."



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# R AL Closing Deals, Opening Doors

I lolle seeing my clients fixing up their homes, going for a walk, or shopping locally. It's a full-circle moment when I help the next generation buy or sell their home."

66

BY GEORGE PAUL THOMAS PHOTOS BY PAM SETCHELL

Mary Beth Darcy is a confident, outgoing, and assertive real estate professional who brings honesty and dedication to every transaction. As a REALTOR® with Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty, she has built a thriving business based on relationships, community ties, and a strong work ethic. Whether working with first-time buyers, growing families, or downsizers, Mary Beth's hands-on approach ensures that each client receives the same level of attention and care. Her ability to connect with people, combined with deep market knowledge, has made her a trusted name in Rockville Centre and beyond.





# **66** This company is like a family, and the relationships I've built here are invaluable."

#### **A Natural Transition**

Born and raised in Rockville Centre (RVC), Mary Beth grew up watching her mother build a successful career in real estate. "I remember sitting outside homes during showings and listening to countless client conversations," she recalls. "Real estate was different back then—no MLS, no computers—it was all about private listings and relationships."

Mary Beth attended St. Agnes Elementary School in RVC before moving on to Sacred Heart Academy, Niagara University for her undergraduate degree, and Adelphi University for a Master's in Education. After college, she became an elementary school teacher, working with grades K-2. "I loved teaching children, organizing events, and bringing parents into the process. I've always been a people person," she says.

When she had her first child, Mary Beth decided to stay home, a choice that led her to years of deep community involvement. She volunteered in multiple activities around RVC and in her children's schools, building relationships that would later become

the foundation of her real estate business. "Those years at home built my sphere of influence, which I use every single day. It's incredible to now sell homes to kids I once taught!" she shares.

Once her youngest child started kindergarten, Mary Beth immediately pursued her real estate license. "I had my first listing before I even passed the test—and the rest is history," she says with a smile.

#### A Career Rooted in Relationships

Mary Beth's real estate career is defined by her ability to connect with people and build lasting relationships. She works with clients across generations, often helping families she has known for years. "I love seeing my clients fixing up their homes, going for a walk, or shopping locally. It's a full-circle moment when I help the next generation buy or sell their home," she says.

Her passion for real estate started early, inspired by her mother's career. "I'll never forget the first open house I helped my mom with at 16. That house has since come full circle—I've sold it again!" she recalls. Over the years, many of her mother's clients have come to Mary Beth for resale, further proving that real estate is about trust and longterm relationships.

While technology has changed the industry, she believes the heart of real estate remains the same. "It all comes down to relationships," she says. "The people, the time I spend with them, and the journey we take together those are the things that make this career so fulfilling."

Each day in real estate brings something new, which is part of what Mary Beth loves most. "I wake up, check the MLS, and never know where the day will take me. A new listing, a call from a past client, or a last-minute showing—every day is different, and I thrive on that energy," she says.

Mary Beth's dedication to her clients has led to impressive results. In 2024 alone, she closed \$32 million in volume across 31 transactions, with a strong focus on listings (21 sellers and 10 buyers). She has consistently been ranked #1 in Listings, Units, and Volume in the RVC office for the past nine years and is among the Top 20 agents at Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty company-wide.

Beyond sales, she is an active member of the real estate community, participating in company events like the Daniel Gale Gold Circle Trip, where top producers gather to network and celebrate their achievements. "This company is like a family, and the relationships I've built here are invaluable," she says.

She also gives back through the Daniel Gale Foundation, supporting local charities through events like the Polar Bear Plunge, golf outings, and bowling fundraisers. "Raising money for local causes is important to me—it's about giving back to the community that has given me so much," she says.

#### Life Beyond Real Estate

Outside of work, Mary Beth's world revolves around her three children. Living in Point Lookout, the family



spends as much time as possible at the beach. "There's nothing better than a Sunday full of open houses, ending with a sunset at Ted's with my kids," she says.

Her children have inherited her strong work ethic, spending summers as Town of Hempstead Ocean Lifeguards. Her oldest, Jack (24), works in private wealth management for Merrill Lynch in Washington, D.C., after graduating from Catholic University. Caroline (22) is set to graduate from Fairfield University with a nursing degree and is eager to return home by the beach. Her youngest, Elizabeth (19), is a freshman at the University of Richmond, balancing academics with her lacrosse career. "Spring will be crazy with travel for her games, but I'm a pro at managing schedules!" Mary Beth laughs.

When not working, she enjoys earlymorning walks and workouts before diving into her busy real estate schedule. She also loves entertaining at home, biking into town for dinner, and hosting friends and family for BBQs. "Real estate has allowed me to spend quality time with my kids while running a full-time business—I wouldn't trade it for anything," she says.

#### A Lifelong Passion for Real Estate

Mary Beth can't imagine doing anything else. "Real estate is in my blood. The

she says.

Her approach is based on honesty and integrity, ensuring her clients make well-informed decisions. "I don't just tell sellers what they want to hear—I show them the data, discuss what buyers are looking for, and work with them as a team. Trust is everything," she explains.

That trust has paid off, with many clients placing their full confidence in her expertise. "Whatever you say, Mary Beth!" is a phrase she hears often—a testament to the guidance and reassurance she provides throughout the buying and selling process.

For Mary Beth, maintaining a strong mindset is just as important as market knowledge. She lives by the quote, "You can't always have good days, but you can always face a bad day with a good attitude." In an industry that can be unpredictable, she believes positivity, adaptability, and continuous learning are the keys to long-term success.

That same mindset shapes the advice she gives to aspiring top producers. "Work your sphere! If you can't sell to your family and friends, who can you sell to?" she says. "Let people know you're a Realtor—be their





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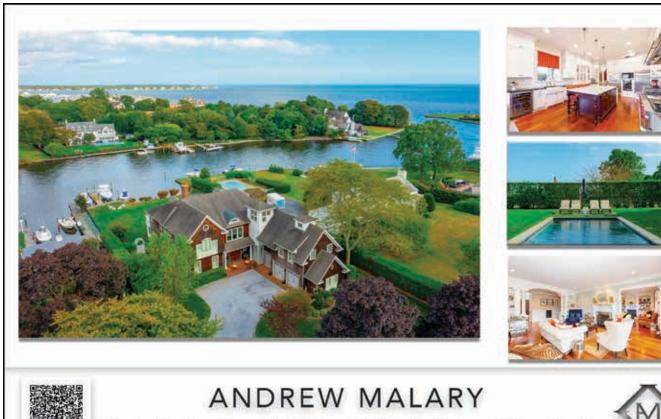




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