

## HIGH-CONVERTING DIRECT MAIL **STRATEGIES**

High Level Strategy and Detailed Tactics for Winning with Mailers

### **Judy** Michaelis





# At a **GLANCE**

If direct mail is one of your lead gen pillars, sending a few nice postcards a month won't cut it. You need to be playing on a larger scale, running strategic mail campaigns to a large yet targeted audience. That's what Judy Michaelis does – and it's why she's achieved such incredible success.







### PREVIOUS PRODUCTION STATS

TRANSACTIONS

\$48,000,000

**SALES VOLUME** 

\$1,085,000

CORE CLIENTELE

√ Rightsizing sellers

PRODUCTION

**10% | 90%**Buyers | Sellers

TEAM STRUCTURE

✓ Solo agent✓ 3 staff members

## Judy ON COACHING





My coach is an integral part of my business. He has given me the courage and confidence to 'play big' and invest in my business, and the payoff has been lifechanging. Our sessions have accelerated my approach to marketing and thereby my business results. The 'I see you everywhere' mantra has really started to pay off, and my brand awareness has gone through an incredible evolution since I began coaching.



25%

Of business is attributed to direct mail campaigns

8.5"x 11"

Standard mailer size

10,000

Homes in geo farm

10,000

Mailers sent to farm monthly

1,000

Mailers sent for each listing campaign

\$0.19

Cost per mailer delivered

\$4,500

Monthly budget for mailers





Before Judy Michaelis entered real estate and began dominating with her direct mail campaigns, she was in the world of finance. With a master's degree in taxation and experience as a CPA, she'd already built up the financial acumen that would empower her later career, but it wasn't until she underwent the process of purchasing her own home that Judy understood the potential of this industry. Right away, she knew that she could thrive here.

Initially, Judy embarked on her journey by collaborating with builders and new construction developers to secure listings. Instead of waiting for the market, she actively sought out opportunities – a strategy that proved fruitful. Before long, she diversified her efforts to encompass various resale avenues, continually expanding her horizons as her business grew. As a mother with younger children, Judy balanced her endeavors mostly on a part-time basis during this phase.

However, it was in 2014 that Judy fully immersed herself in the world of direct mail campaigns – and completely turned the tides of her career. She joined Tom Ferry (a decision that proved pivotal), and it was during this time that she encountered Josh Rubin, a staunch advocate of direct mail marketing. Intrigued by his success, Judy decided to test the waters in her own market. The notion gained additional resonance when her adult daughter, residing in New York, forwarded one of Josh's mailers to her. Judy found it immensely effective on her and knew that her own mailers could have the same effect on others.

She began modestly, targeting specific localities within her town, only to evolve and encompass a broader area over time. Central to her strategy was a consistent investment and reinvestment, gradually fine-tuning her approach. The initial year saw results, albeit on a smaller scale, with calls from interested parties. Although the branding wasn't as polished as her current standards, it marked the beginning of her direct mail journey. During the following years, 2016 and 2017, she decided to escalate by launching a full-fledged 10,000-mailer campaign. This phase demanded meticulous refining of the mailer design and a focused optimization of the messaging. Judy recognizes that direct mailers are an ongoing project, constantly evolving and improving as she gauges their effectiveness.



Judy attests that the impact of direct mail campaigns are cumulative, maintaining her presence in the minds of potential sellers. This consistent exposure engenders a sense of trust and reliability. By capitalizing on the psychology of familiarity, she can confidently generate valuable seller leads when the time is ripe. Remaining top of mind is a cornerstone of her strategy, amplifying brand exposure and frequently eliciting the remark, "I see you everywhere."



#### **MAILER CAMPAIGNS**

- Form a strategic rhythm with a focus on consistency and relevance.
- Each month, Judy sends out a meticulously crafted mailer to her expansive farm of 10,000 individuals.
- Harmonize mailers with online efforts such as Instagram and YouTube.
  - Use targeted ads on these social platforms which synchronize with mailer themes.
- Always avoid generic content. Focus on personalized, trending topics.
  - Every mailer should have a point to convey.
- Plan up to three months in advance in order to cover the spectrum of themed campaigns such as market updates and the origins of buyers (which helps cultivate understanding).
  - Campaigns should always extend beyond sales and offer value.
  - Narrow in target audiences, such as downsizers or those looking to move within the same market.
- Adjust themes as market dynamics shift.
  - Judy is now catering to the post-peak market era.
- Showcase social proof while prompting homeowners to assess their property's worth in order to build trust and relevance.
- Offer a "home equity checkup" as part of an initiative to promote financial awareness in homeownership.
- Employ creative formats for mailers.
  - The "map mailer" offers visual insights into local real estate trends.
  - The "Who Do You Know?" campaign showcases voice and taps into personal connections.
  - "Just Sold" mailers celebrate achievements while emphasizing the process.

#### STAY CONSISTENT

- Consistency is key when it comes to direct mail.
- During the onset of the COVID pandemic, Judy temporarily faltered in upholding this crucial practice, resulting in a dip in production.
- Be unwaveringly committed to the investment it will require before showing results, even in a sluggish market.
- When the market slows down, most agents will be inclined to retract
  their efforts. But as Judy puts it: "When others choose to pivot left, I opt
  to pivot right." She fully believes that the long-term benefits of
  maintaining presence outweigh the costs.



#### MAILERS FOR EVERY LISTING

- Employ a strategic mail approach for every listing, utilizing "Just Listed" and "Just Sold" mailers.
  - This has a dual impact of maintaining seller satisfaction while also spreading the word.
  - "Just Listed" mailers are the centerpiece of Judy's marketing arsenal. For these, be sure all contents revolve around the core objective.
  - The "Just Sold" mailer serves as a post-sale triumph. Judy uses these to market herself and her own success.
- Target postal codes surrounding the listing.
- Send between 500 and 1,000 mailers within the vicinity of the property to ensure the message reaches the right audience.

#### **MAILER SIZE AND QUALITY MATTER**

- Judy uses "Every Door Direct" which brings her cost to just 19 cents per delivery across all markets and regardless of the mailer's size.
- The quality and size of each mailer are carefully curated for optimal engagement.
  - 8.5 X 11 inches
  - The larger format is more visually appealing and more likely to be remembered. Smaller mail pieces can be easily dismissed.
  - Good quality card stock with glossy sheen.
- Clarity and simplicity are key.
  - Use white space to ensure a clean and uncluttered layout.
- Timeliness is crucial. Each mailer must have a timely and topical piece of information

# Judy's 3 Action Items FOR SUCCESS

Be patient. Make sure you have enough resources to do it for a year without any leads.

Don't neglect the importance of saturation. Judy started with 2,500 homes, which was a sizable dent of the marketplace.

Pay attention to turnover rate. Make sure it makes financial sense – the general rule of thumb is that your turnover rate should be between 6-7%, depending on your sales price.

# 6 Things Judy Will Do MOVING FORWARD

- Increase use of her seller-centric "Just-Listed" card.
  - Develop a brand-centric "Just-Sold" card.
    - Target Westport homeowners who've lived in their homes 30+ years with geo-farming and follow-up letters going after downsizers with the intention of owning the downsizing market.
    - Expansion: Target Fairfield County (towns surrounding Westport) homeowners in areas she hasn't targeted yet that have lived in their homes for 30+ years.
  - Focus more on drip mail, more CTA home valuation mailers.
  - Work with her Tom Ferry coach to help keep her accountable and implement these ideas!



# Judy's **TOOLKIT**

### **Home Value Mailers**

Examples of Judy Michaelis' Home Value mailers

### **Year-End Mailer**

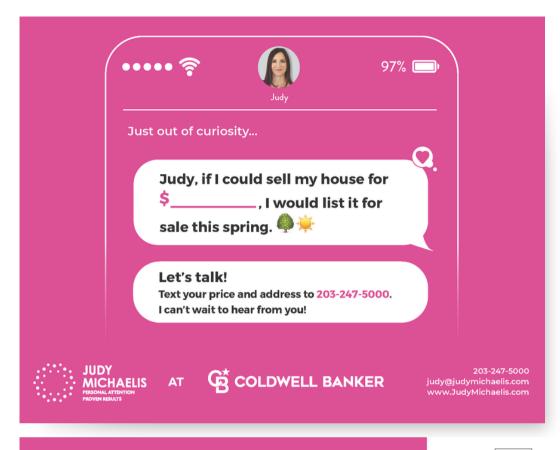
An example of Judy's year-end mailer.

### **Just Listed and Just Sold Mailers**

Examples of Judy's Just Listed and Just Sold mailers

### **Informative Mailers**

A collection of some of Judy's information forward mailers.





### WHAT'S YOUR HOME WORTH?









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What would a buyer pay for your home?

scan and find out!



According to latest MLS (Multiple Listing Services) figures.

203-247-5000 · JUDY@JUDYMICHAELIS.COM · JUDYMICHAELIS.COM









### NO MATTER THE MARKET, WHO YOU WORK WITH MATTERS.



3 CHARBETH, WESTPORT NYC BUYERS \$1,500,000



CALIFORNIA BUYERS



**NEW JERSEY BUYERS** \$1,050,000



64 OLD HILL, WESTPO IN-TOWN BUYERS Listed: \$2,200,00 Sold: \$2,200,00



OOD, WESTPORT NYC BUYERS Listed: \$2,599,000 Sold: \$2,700.000



NYC BUYERS



IN-TOWN BUYERS



IN-TOWN BUYERS



CALIFORNIA BUYERS



15 OAK STREET, WESTP IN-TOWN RENTER



TEXAS BUYERS



39 SPICED BOAD, WESTBORT NYC BUYERS



NYC BUYERS



IN-TOWN BUYERS



37 BERMUDA, WESTPORT NORTHERN CT BUYER Listed: \$3,999,999



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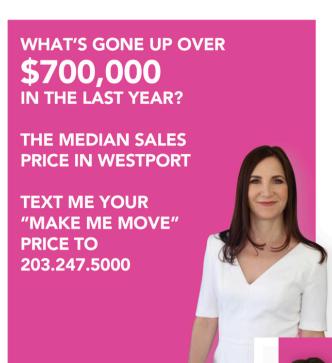


SHINE A SPOTLIGHT € ON YOUR HOME • GET AHEAD OF THE MARKET • SELL FASTER





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AT COLDWELL BANKER

JUDY MICHAELIS



PRIVILEGE TO TOUR
YOUR HOME AND
MAP OUT A PLAN
WITH YOU TO MOVE
YOU ON TO YOUR
NEXT CHAPTER.







Judy Michaelis Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage 355 Riverside Avenue Westport, CT 06880



### HOME EQUITY CHECKUP



#### **CONSIDER THESE SIX QUESTIONS...**



