

Complimentary

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*It's a Woman Thing*  
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*Happy  
Mother's  
Day*

the REAL  
DOLLS of  
**LOLLY ELLA**

on the cover

# The Real Dolls of *Lolly Ella*

The owners  
of Lolly Ella  
Jewelry  
charm us with  
glimpses into  
their lives

by *Elaine Perlin  
Crossley*



Clockwise from  
back left: Michelle, Erica,  
Pam and Danielle.

All jewelry from  
Lolly Ella, 248.851.3325,  
West Bloomfield

**I**t may not actually giggle and coo, but Lolly Ella Jewelry is undoubtedly the “baby” of its owners, the Strauch family. Since its birth in 2005, this award-winning niche with the curlicue sign has developed its own playful personality. And, its owners are as enchanting as their “come hither” West Bloomfield shop that glows with affordable fashion jewelry and accessories.

Janet Strauch co-owns the shop with her four grown daughters Erica, Michelle and Danielle (twins) and Pam. The gentleman in the mix is Janet’s husband Dan, retired electrician from I.B.E.W. Local 58, who is always “on call” to assist his brood. Janet and Pam run day-to-day operations, while the others, all with full-time jobs, help out often. The family is renowned for its customer service and philanthropy to women’s organizations.

## THE LADIES “DISH”

“Metro You” gleaned a few lesser-known details from the Strauch gals, and, as you’ll see, they’re not just pretty faces, but also smart, savvy, sentimental and stylish! So, let’s really meet them, one by one.

### JANET

Janet and Dan married in 1973 and have resided in Brighton since 1980. While raising their daughters, Janet notes, “I was a teacher’s aide in the reading program at the girls’ school, worked at various fashion shops and also sold specialty advertising at Trader Publishing.”

Recalling cherished memories, she shares, “I loved trips to Bob-Lo with my (late) mom and grandmother,” she says, “and, no matter where we went on our family summer vacations, Dan and I loved hearing the girls’ laughter. In 1998, I was thrilled to accompany my dad to Toronto to attend his college reunion. He was the oldest graduate from his Jesuit college in Baghdad, Iraq. He passed away later that year.”

Janet enjoys writing, inspirational reading, and she loves chunky jewelry. But her favorite piece is the sentimental LifeLinks bracelet (by jewelry artist Link Wachler) she received from her daughters when she recently underwent surgery.

### ERICA

Sweet and soft-spoken, Erica holds a degree in business. Her favorite memory centers on a family vacation in the area of the Cumberland Gap. She reminisces, “Michelle’s sandal fell into a river, and my instinct was to jump in to get it, so I did! The current was strong, and my dad had to pull me out.” Danielle chimes in, “Erica is the most selfless person I know, and in this case, to the extreme!”

Erica is marketing manager for Plymouth dentist Dr. James McHenry. She enjoys decorating, floral arranging, cooking and adores rings and “must-have” hoop earrings.

### MICHELLE

Bright as a button, Michelle (the “older” twin!) is a Walsh College graduate and now works as customer retention program manager for Cengage Learning, Gale Research.

An ardent reader, she also enjoys traveling and has a soft spot for Frank Sinatra songs. Her favorite fashion pieces are watches, gray pearls and wrap bracelets.



Dan and Janet Strauch

As for a wonderful memory, she shares, “My twin sister Danielle and I adored our Barbie dolls.” But where, oh where, was Ken? She answers, “On our 10th birthday, our dad brought home a brown paper bag he said he found on the road. To our surprise, there were two Ken dolls inside. We were ecstatic!”

### DANIELLE

Warm and delightful, Danielle is also a Walsh College alumna, and now holds the title of key account manager, Chrysler Team, R.L. Polk & Company.

Her standout memories include the sisters’ adored grandparents. She recalls, “I loved making pumpkin pie with our (late) Grandma Lolly Strauch and also pizza from Appian Way Pizza Mix. And, it was great fun driving to Crowley’s and Sanders in her big, turquoise Chrysler Newport. We laughed so much! Our grandparents were so important to us, as we were to them.”

Danielle loves shopping, movies, great scarves and fabulous statement necklaces.

### PAM

Pert, precious and a little edgy, Pam, the “little sis,” holds a Master of Fine Arts in fashion design and merchandising and has also taught on the college level.

She loves music, social media and an armful of eclectic bangles. She notes, “Mixing and matching is my specialty.”

A favorite memory is drawing and coloring with her artistic late grandmother Eleanor Mansoor. She adds, “And, we loved performing talent shows for her, choreographed by Erica!”

## ALL TOGETHER NOW!

The Strauch family shares a strong foundation, lots of love and humor, a charitable spirit and a strong faith that helps them through life. Dan reflects, “Our success has been a blessing.” And, as a man surrounded by a sea of women, he concludes, “I have never quite figured them out – but that’s what makes for the fun and keeps up the curiosity!”



# Linda Lanci's Favorites

In honor of Mother's Day, I would like to share what I find so amazing about my mom. She is the most beautiful woman I know, inside and out! She has a big heart, and it is so rare to come across people like her. I can always count on my mom. Always! She is there to listen when I'm having a bad day, and she is there to celebrate all of the joy in my life. She is caring, compassionate, strong, loving, and I am so proud to call her mom.

Happy Mother's Day Mom!

If you have some great ideas for Mother's Day gifts or some suggestions for my favorites in the future, email me at [linda@mymetroyou.com](mailto:linda@mymetroyou.com). I'd love to hear from you!

*Linda*



Who doesn't love to receive flowers? The **Organic Bouquet** allows you to give flowers that keep on giving. They are a mission-based company focused on responsible practices in every step of production. Over 60% of their employees are women, and they provide workers in underdeveloped countries everything from zero-interest loans, childcare, healthcare, education, environmental protection, supplies and more. And, their flowers are gorgeous!  
[www.organicbouquet.com](http://www.organicbouquet.com)



I love shopping at **Lolly Ella Jewelry**. Every time I visit, I find something new that I love. I am sure that you will find a great gift for your mom for Mother's Day and walk out with something for yourself as well. **Abstract Rhodium Plated Gold Tone CZ Hoops \$44.50**  
248.851.3325,  
West Bloomfield



Give your mom the gift she wants and needs! How about a gift certificate for a relaxing massage or facial? My mom lives in Florida, which is why I love **SpaFinder**. I can send her a gift certificate that is accepted at several spas in the Florida area as well as spas all over the world! Go to [www.spafinder.com](http://www.spafinder.com).

Make her feel like a queen for a day with a gift certificate for a house cleaning. If your mom lives close by, you can even be the maid for a day! For prices and locations near you, go to [www.maidbrigade.com](http://www.maidbrigade.com).



My mom loves to golf, so one year I sent her the **Ladies Tee Time Mother's Day Golf Gift Basket**. It's absolutely adorable! The delicious gourmet snacks and golf accessories come in a pink golf bag that doubles as a drink cooler. Available for \$69.99 at [www.gourmetgiftbaskets.com](http://www.gourmetgiftbaskets.com).

The **Bodum Bistro Juicer Set** is a terrific gift for Mother's Day or any occasion. My mom and dad love fresh orange juice in the morning. This machine actually pours the juice right into your individual cup! Available for \$69.99 at [www.macys.com](http://www.macys.com).



One year I took my mom to the world-famous **Zehnder's of Frankenmuth** restaurant. We worked up an appetite exploring all of the quaint shops in downtown Frankenmuth. We thoroughly enjoyed **Zehnder's** golden fried chicken and all of the trimmings! For reservations call **800.863.7999**.

