

a perfect note

STATIONERY STANDOUTS FOR SPECIAL INVITES, WORDS OF THANKS, AND SEASONAL GREETINGS.

BY ELLE EICHINGER



NoteworthyNotes in Lakeview promises speedy turnaround on all holiday orders.

All She Wrote

Customers can flip through custom books or choose something more unique to be printed in-house, but for any kind of card, All She Wrote emphasizes etiquette: Its consultants will help with the proper wording for tricky situations like a holiday party to which guests' kids aren't invited.

**825 W. Armitage Ave.,
773-529-0100; allshewrote.com**

Dear Emily

Visiting Dear Emily's by-appointment studio is a treat in itself, with more than 100 albums of predesigned options and custom choices such as dimensions, ink colors, and types of ribbon to browse. With a background in event planning, proprietor Melissa Mizel can help plan your holiday party as well as the invitations.

**874 Green Bay Rd., Winnetka,
847-446-0907; dearemy.com**

Elizabeth Grace

Situated in a cozy and inviting Lincoln Park boutique, Elizabeth Grace has developed a loyal customer base, and owner Laura Manteuffel is proud to accompany clients through all of life's milestones, from weddings to births. For the holidays, this one-stop shop relieves a mountain of stress by addressing, stamping, and sending off invites or greetings for you.

**2438 N. Clark St.,
773-477-9830;
elizabethgrace.com**

Inside the Envelope

This custom pick may not have a brick-and-mortar studio, but owner/senior designer Nicole Midlowski stresses the importance of an in-person consultation. As a freelancer, she meets clients wherever is convenient for them to discuss their holiday-party invite options. She'll come up with three different options for each order and will complete any necessary revisions, and, after outsourcing the printing, completes a custom card in about two to three weeks.

630-205-6624; insidetheenvelope.net

Jane Weber, Ink!

Nestled in the 900 North Michigan Shops, Jane Weber, Ink! is a full-service company that even does its printing in-house. Whether a client is looking for a straightforward design or has something more intricate in mind, consultants can design a holiday greeting or invite around virtually any idea.

**900 N. Michigan Ave., 5th fl.
312-642-0747; janeweberink.com**

NoteworthyNotes

Although she's operated the showroom for 11 years and the website since 2004, NoteworthyNotes owner and president Cindy Rudman opened a brick-and-mortar shop in Lakeview just last year. Known for its speedy turnaround, this is the go-to shop for holiday procrastinators, but the fabulous custom designs are enough to draw in early birds as well.

**3629 N. Halsted St., 773-661-1333;
noteworthynotes.com**

Snow & Graham

Although local stationery line Snow & Graham no longer does custom invitations, one of its best-selling products is something clients can customize on their own. Imprintables are beautifully decorated flat cards compatible with at-home printers, so you can easily add your own greetings.

And as a bonus: Snow & Graham also does holiday gift wrap for certain items, which gives presents an extra-special boost.

**866-706-4227;
snowandgraham.com**

Squash U

Owner Sacha Krasney has been designing custom stationery for more than 10 years, and now runs three different sites: Be U Brides, Be U Weddings, and Squash U, an eco-friendly pick for your holiday greeting cards. Printed on high-end recycled card stock, each order comes with matching envelopes for a coordinated look.

312-265-0513; squashu.com

Suitor

You won't find any your-name-here cards at Suitor; instead, owner Jessica Murnane creates each order completely from scratch. Local clients should make an appointment at the Gold Coast studio to get a feel for the texture of different papers and see the slight variations among ink colors. Start early with Suitor, as the letterpressed designs can take up to a month to produce—but they're well worth the wait.

312-841-0236; suitorlife.com MA

DULY NOTED

Dear Emily proprietor Melissa Mizel on holiday card how-tos.



When should people start thinking about preparing holiday cards? As with anything in life, start early. If you plan in the fall, you can often take advantage of manufacturers' specials.

Any tips for people with large mailing lists? The average list has 100 to 150 names. Think about your needs: Can the card have a generic greeting, or are you specifically celebrating Christmas, for example? Decide what you want to accomplish and that will help you create something that is just right.



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