

# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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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