



TT PATTON's artful stationery displays complement its high-end papers, such as the Brookfield line (below, right).



Brookfield
is the story of four friends collaborating
and of two great New England towns.
These work and pleasure is to create
colorful patterns (Dahabach), to create
the old way (Dahabach), to create
you (Dahabach), and bring them
together and create. The most working
stationery and business cards.
Why do these products make people
love? They're great because they're
handmade, they're made by people
who care about their work. The
paper we use is made from recycled
paper and heavy construction paper.
This is our promise to you.

I've Been to a Marvelous Party 2121 N. Clybourn Ave., 773-404-9400. The size of a warehouse but well organized and festive, this shop really feels like a marvelous party. It's stocked with every item needed for grown-up or kiddie affairs. Find balloons and decorations; custom and boxed invitations; scrapbook supplies; a huge selection of paper plates, cups, and napkins; goody bags; and gifts. Calligraphy and in-house printing services are also offered.

Jane Weber, Ink! 900 N. Michigan Ave., 312-642-0747. Whether it's witty stationery or clever baby announcements you need, Jane Weber probably has it. She also carries conventional lines such as William Arthur and Crane & Co., and exclusive papers from Thornwillow Press and Britain's Wren Press. Weber also sells photo albums, desk accessories, and picture frames.

Original Expressions 845 W. Armitage Ave., 773-975-2010. The front window here is filled with scary jack-o'-lanterns, jolly Santas, or fluffy bunnies, as the season dictates; inside you'll find cards, old-fashioned candy, invitations, announcements to order, personalized baby items, and zany gifts, such as a giant talking Pez dispenser.

Paper Boy 1351 W. Belmont Ave., 773-388-8811. Cards here are from designers all over the globe, including Chicago's own Jack and Lulu and Snow & Graham. Albums, journals, wrapping paper, and jewelry are among the other treasures lining the walls. Custom printing is available. A small gallery in the back features work by local artists.

Paper Doll 2048 W. Division St., 773-227-6950. This shop recently left its former digs for a larger location, offering an expanded selection of stationery and novelty goods: finger puppets, paper maracas, tiny candles in more than 40 scents, and other fun gift ideas, along with boxed and custom stationery for baby and wedding events. Greeting cards are by Egg Press and Snow & Graham, among others.

Paper Source 232 W. Chicago Ave., 312-337-0798; plus other area locations; www.paper-source.com. Paper Source carries beautiful wrapping papers (\$2-\$5 a sheet), as well as handmade and specialty papers (up to \$40 per sheet). Create your own invitations or take advantage of custom design services. The shop sells supplies for bookbinding, card making, and calligraphy, and holds one-day workshops in those and other crafts. There's also a good selection of rubber stamps, ribbons, and more to help decorate your paper creations.

Paper Trail 5309 N. Clark St., 773-275-2191. From invitations to birthday cards to gift enclosures, if you need something to write on, you can find it at this cheerful shop. Funny, hip, and even raunchy gifts are shelved among journals, desk accessories, and baby books.

Papyrus Water Tower Place, 835 N. Michigan Ave., 312-266-9945; plus other area locations; www.papyrusonline.com. For the com-

pulsive note writer, these stores carry invitations, fine paper, boxed cards, guest books, and journals. They also stock picture frames, wrapping paper, and wedding planning and etiquette books.

The Shop at Jenny Sweeney Designs 627 N. Second St., Libertyville, 847-816-8387; www.jennysweeneydesigns.com. Designer Jenny Sweeney, a Libertyville resident, sells her hand-glittered cards, invitations, and paper goods in 1,500 stores worldwide. But this, her first freestanding boutique, showcases her designs alongside T-shirts for women and girls, French-milled soaps, body lotion, trendy handbags, and vintage embellished boxes. Look for greeting cards for expectant mothers that say, "You Grow, Girl!" Workshops are offered once or twice monthly on everything from photo album-making to glittering.

NEW TT Patton Ice House Mall, 200 Applebee St., Barrington, 847-277-0073; www.ttpatton.com. Find elegant writing instruments, handmade papers, leather journals, and all manner of stationery for the well-appointed desk. Beautiful rollerball pens from Acme (\$56) come in designs like the "Robie House," and Caran d'Ache pens come in silver-plated or rosewood designs (\$89 to \$800). Also find Japanese paper journals from Bari Zaki (\$80), and Italian leather journals from Epicia, as well as colorful and textured stationery in sizes ranging from small note cards to printer paper. Leather picture frames and photo albums in sleek black or kicky pastels make great wedding gifts.

The Watermark 109 E. Oak St., 312-337-5353. Handcrafted cards are the draw at this pretty boutique, the real highlight of which is an on-site calligraphy machine. Leather gift items include wallets, photo albums, and journals. Don't miss the handmade ribbons and wrapping papers or the nice selection of paper-related antiques.

SPORTING GOODS

Chicago Soccer 4839 N. Western Ave., 773-271-2255; plus other area locations; www.chicago-soccer.net. A poll by USSoccer.com, the Web site of the U.S. Soccer Foundation, named this 10,000-square-foot shop the top soccer store in the nation. Its savvy and super-responsive staff steers you toward all manner of game gear, including shoes, shin guards, balls, and instructional videos. The best part? Official shorts (around \$40) and jerseys (around \$75) from teams worldwide.

Chicago Tennis & Golf Company 3365 N. Drake Ave., 773-588-8884; www.chicago-tennisgolf.com. This shop carries complete lines of tennis and golf apparel and equipment. Try out racquets and clubs at the store's tennis lane and digital golf simulator. Serious players should check out the membership program. For \$55 a year, households of up to four get discounts on all merchandise.

Fleet Feet 210 W. North Ave., 312-587-3338; 4555 N. Lincoln Ave., 773-271-3338; 124 E.

Shiller St., Elmhurst, 630-559-3338; www.fleetfeetchicago.com. Customers are provided with a diagnostic shoe and asked to run on the in-store treadmill or in a designated area so the staff can determine which shoe is most appropriate for their gait. Prices for running shoes range from \$75 to \$250. Check the Web site for the list of free seminars about everything from injury prevention to healthy eating.

Kozy's Cyclery 1451 W. Webster Ave., 773-528-2700; plus other area locations; www.kozy.com. Kozy's stocks clothing, accessories, and a wide range of bikes (up to \$3,000 for racing models). The shops also carry baby joggers, hybrid bikes, and Burley tandem and recumbent bikes.

Momentum 2001 N. Clybourn Ave., 773-525-7866; www.momentumchicago.com. Owner Will Bridge, formerly the manager of Vertel's, has reshaped the space and the business to focus on sports of human propulsion: running, swimming, and triathlon (minus the bikes). Men's and women's shoes and apparel are offered, with an emphasis on fit and function. You can also buy wetsuits, goggles, heart-rate monitors, and other gear. Check the Web site for special events, such as the Pi Run (run 3.14 miles, then eat pie!).

The North Face 875 N. Michigan Ave., 312-337-7200; www.thenorthface.com. The famous North Face Sierra parka became the outdoor person's uniform in the 1970s, and a descendant of that jacket is still a staple for both adventurers and urbanites. At the flagship store, you'll find two floors of high-performance clothing, equipment, and footwear for men and women.

Orvis 142 E. Ontario St., 312-440-0662; www.orvis.com. This specialty retailer is a fly fisherman's dream. The experienced staff will tell you about the closest streams and help you select a casting line. Orvis has rods, vests, and waders as well as lures and fly-tying materials. Also find distinctive country apparel for men and women.

Proline Golf 925 W. Chicago Ave., 312-738-2427; 268 E. Golf Rd., Arlington Heights, 847-640-1770; www.eprolinegolf.com. Golfers who wanted to create their dream store founded this place, which has been in Arlington Heights for nine years and two years ago opened in a downtown building that once held a microbrewery. Find all the major brands—Titleist, Callaway, TaylorMade—in clubs, clothes, and accessories. The 7,500-square-foot Chicago Avenue space has a country club atmosphere minus the stuffiness.

Uncle Dan's 2440 N. Lincoln Ave., 773-477-1918; 700 Church St., Evanston, 847-475-7100; 1847 Second St., Highland Park, 847-266-8600; www.uncledansonline.com. Uncle Dan's stores started out as army-navy surplus places before they became adventure sports outfitters. Get shirts that go from camping to skiing, warm- and cold-weather cargo pants, and back-to-school bags (\$25-\$100) and sleeping bags (from \$40). Stock up on kids' gear and clothing for summer camp here, too.