

# Sweetness and life

A survivor of Dachau and a fledgling candy maker combine their talents  
and come up with a recipe for lasting friendship

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**B**ROOKLINE — She was a struggling candy maker trying to make ends meet. He was a retired candy maker taking care of a wife with Alzheimer's. She called and asked if she could buy some of his old recipes. Later, he said, I'll come by later.

A year passed. His wife had gotten worse. But he never forgot his promise. At 11:15 one morning, he dashed into her tiny shop in Brookline, took off his jacket, rolled up his sleeves, and said, "I have till noon." Noon was when he fed his wife lunch every day.

Who was this crazy person, she wondered. And then he did what no one had ever done before for Nur Kilic: He made her the perfect truffle. "Her Viennese three-layer truffles weren't sticking together," says William Federer. "She wasn't using the right ingredients."

From that day on, Kilic's truffles have stuck together perfectly.

"And so have we," she adds, placing her hand over his. It's an unlikely love story, this friendship between an 83-year-old concentration camp survivor and a 39-year-old American of Turkish descent. That one cooking class a decade ago in her store expanded into several sessions in her home kitchen — and a relationship that has affected both profoundly.

He gave her the business he had run for almost 50 years: the name "Serenade," the recipes, the equipment, the candy scales, the refrigerator, lots of tools, a giant marble slab . . .

"And himself," Kilic interjects.

She gave him the family he and his wife weren't able to have. Kilic is his surrogate daughter and she calls him "Uncle Bill." Her two children have become like his grandkids. Federer, a former member of the Vienna Boys Choir who adores classical music, takes Kilic's 9-year-old daughter, Ruth, to Symphony Hall and makes candy with her 6-year-old son, Kent.

His wife, Rose, died four years ago and he spends most of the holidays with Kilic and her husband, Jonathan Wiederecht. Every May, the family throws a big birth-

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GLOBE STAFF PHOTOS / JOANNE RATHE

William Federer and Nur Kilic at Serenade Chocolates in Brookline. He gave her his expertise and she, in turn, invited "Uncle Bill" to be part of her family. At top: Two of their specialties: cinnamon melt-a-ways (left) and coffee creams.

