

# Customers young and old treated with respect at Yannakis restaurant

The pink balloons hanging over the counter are the first sign that something's up with Chris and George Yannakis, the husband and wife team who have been getting up at 6:30 in the morning for the past nine years to run the Stouffville Jumbo Burger restaurant.

Sure enough, the popular pair have been blessed with their first grandchild, a bouncing baby girl born to son Louie and his wife Suzanne this past Monday.

The balloons, presented to the couple by a nearby florist, hang next to a special poem and card commemorating the 80th birthday of a regular patron at the Main Street fast food restaurant.

According to Chris, it's not the first time she and George have been treated by their customers. Four years ago on their 25th wedding anniversary, the Greek-born twosome were surprised to see a host of their established cus-



From Where I Live

Bruce Stapley

tomers show up at the restaurant en masse with a cake.

To Chris, the secret to success in business, as in life itself, is to be an optimist who enjoys people. She's the first to admit to life's difficulties and tragedies and is aware that there are some young people out there who

involve themselves in questionable, even dangerous activities. But that's all the more reason to reach out to her customers, she said, be they kids or octogenarians, to exchange pleasantries or share confidantialities. We all have our problems, but there's no point dwelling on them, she'll tell you.

As for the kids, Chris can't say enough about them. Some of them even call her Mom, she said with a proud smile. She invariably hangs a big sign in the window at the end of each school year wishing them a happy, safe summer. Seniors, she feels, are often ignored in a world hung up on youthful values. She gives them hugs to go with their cof-

fee when they come in to pass the time. They all know where the coffee machine is located and many are quite at home helping themselves.

Chris has never known the good life. Maybe that's why she can relate so well to the wide variety of people who come through the doors to partake of their fare and their friendly banter. She left her native Greece after finishing high school at the age of 19 to seek the opportunities she heard were available in Canada. After working for a year in a Toronto-area small appliances factory, she and George opened up their first fast food restaurant in Pickering. They moved the operation to Markham before eventually settling into the Stouffville location.

Chris and George put in working days as long as 15 hours, with but one day a week off to tend to household chores and recharge the batteries for the week ahead. Sunday includes a trip to their Greek Orthodox church, something Chris considers vital in today's fast-paced world.

While Chris has nothing but positive things to say about the customers who provide her and George with their hard earned living, she is less than generous with her praise of government at all levels in terms of support for small business. She resents the hours of work involved in collecting and submitting the various taxes required.

If she could ask one thing from the new provincial government elected Thursday, it would be for a lessening of the load of paperwork expected from small business owners. But as much of an optimist as she is, she said she's not holding out much hope for that wish to come true.

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**ONE UP**  
BY BRYANT WHITE / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

**ACROSS**

- 1 Ticks off
- 7 Gunlock catch
- 11 Pythias's friend
- 16 Half of a Samoan port
- 20 1950's terrorist
- 21 Cankerous
- 23 Ran "Ran," e.g.
- 24 Viscera
- 25 "Cat's Eye" novelist?
- 27 Sugar suffix
- 28 Pupil watcher
- 30 Showoffs
- 31 Ale holder
- 32 One of a dozen
- 33 Treebeard and others of Middle-earth
- 34 Kapow!
- 35 Pope Paul II's successor?
- 41 1971 Fonda-Sutherland thriller
- 42 Hanoi holidays
- 43 Land of Evangeline
- 49 Straight, to Stradivari
- 52 Dweller along the Platte
- 54 Roman rhetorician who wrote "Institutio Oratoria"
- 55 "I'm c-c-c-cold!"
- 56 Slaves of the Morlocks, in fiction
- 57 Normandy department
- 58 Timeless, in poesy

**DOWN**

- 1 Hawley Tariff Act of 1930
- 2 Foot segment
- 3 Four-time Pulitzer-winning playwright?
- 4 Spock's org.
- 5 Corrida luminary
- 6 Film genre
- 7 Japanese entertainment
- 8 Susa was its capital
- 9 Israel's Bay of
- 10 Mil. unit
- 11 "Spish Splash" hitmaker of 1958
- 12 Controversial explosion
- 13 Gumshoe's hands
- 14 Genetic lab materials
- 15 Willem I's land. Abbr.
- 16 Temporary lodgings. Var.
- 17 Of a liquid's specific gravity.
- 18 Mercator's field. Abbr.
- 19 Tout's concern
- 22 Exceptional
- 23 Onetime British Prime Minister?
- 26 Quite a joke
- 29 Jigger of rum, e.g.
- 36 Queen of the Adriatic
- 37 Citer's end word
- 38 Deteriorated, as relations
- 39 Slow climbers
- 40 Ryder rental
- 41 See 45-Down
- 44 Jeanne d'Arc, e.g. Abbr.
- 45 Classic 1941 film, with 41-Down
- 46 British secondary school exam
- 47 They thrive on inflation
- 48 Actor Holm et al.
- 50 Sulky contest
- 51 Items for the disposal
- 52 Rigatoni sauce
- 53 Soothe
- 57 Pilot's decision
- 61 Best Actor of 1955?
- 64 Crimson crawler
- 67 "I am dead, \_\_\_\_\_ Wretched queen, adieu!"
- 68 Star-studded altar
- 69 \_\_\_\_\_ Mongolia
- 72 Chemical conclusion
- 73 Take up new residence at
- 74 Interpret wrongly
- 75 1960 World Series hero?
- 76 Demand
- 77 Mercury, e.g.
- 78 Bar supply
- 79 \_\_\_\_\_ fat (diet phrase)
- 80 Verified
- 82 Lil
- 83 Poke with a pike
- 84 Aymara is spoken here
- 85 Elizabeth I's mother
- 86 Small concession
- 87 Circus Maximus V.I.P.
- 90 Tag info
- 91 Numbskull
- 96 Commercial prefix with star
- 97 "Frasier" and "Maude," e.g.
- 98 Follower
- 103 Pick up
- 105 Ending with beat or peace
- 106 Kind of plate
- 108 Puerto Rico's third-largest city
- 109 Pressed upon
- 110 Careful
- 111 Bow, e.g.
- 114 Singers Bill and Jimmy
- 115 Ending with centi- or milli-
- 116 Swan genus
- 117 Basil, for one
- 119 Chow
- 120 Even, to Yvonne
- 121 Crown
- 122 Used binoculars
- 125 Tray material
- 127 European mil. grp.

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**Answers are on page 17**