

## FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TBILISI YMCA

**December 24. This is the date when the Tbilisi YMCA was established. This day is loved by everyone. Thanks to the administration of the Restaurant Dzveli Sakhli (Old House), who made it possible to celebrate this day in a warm and joyful atmosphere.**



Leaders and the shelter house children

One of the most prestigious restaurants in Tbilisi, Dzveli Sakhli (Old House) hosted the Fourth Anniversary

of Tbilisi YMCA. Local and international volunteers, members and honorable members, children from the Avlabari shelter house and other distinguished guests attended the official dinner, which was held in the traditional Georgian style with a traditional Georgian dancing and music.

Everybody had fun. Lots of dancing, music and different games were held at the party.

But a birthday is not a birthday without a birthday cake. Suddenly the lights in the hall went out and the waitress brought a

wonderful birthday cake with four burning candles on it. This ceremony was accompanied with a happy birthday song and lots of applause. All the guests blown the candles and the first piece was cut by our wonderful secretary Tiko Gamrekeli.

By the end of the party, Santa Clause with a large bag of presents appeared in the hall. This was very much unexpected by the children and they became even happier than before. Celebrations concluded with the distributed of presents to the kids.



Santa Clause with the kids

**Everybody had fun and enjoyed the party. This wonderful and memorable party will not be soon forgotten.**



*We wish you and yours a beautiful holiday season filled with the warmth of friends and loved ones, and with a promise of a Happy New Year*

Tbilisi YMCA  
www.tbilisiymca.ge



## Tbilisi YMCA Distributed Humanitarian Aid Among the Socially Excluded Citizens

Through the generous support of Georgian Train and Equip Program (GTEP), the Tbilisi YMCA was delighted to distribute over a 130 kgs of frozen duck to single parents, veterans of war, the disabled and the

shelter house "Sparrows". The Tbilisi YMCA is very pleased to participate in this distribution and looks forward to continuing to cooperate with GTEP-Georgia in the future.

## The Council Of Europe Information Office In Georgia And The Tbilisi YMCA Cooperate For The Presidential Elections



By the end of December 2004 The Tbilisi YMCA was honored to hear that they have been selected as a successful candidate for the COE pre-elections educational flyers ("Information For Voters") distribution campaign. The leaflets have been distributed in ten towns in Georgia and the children from the Avlabari Shelter House assisted with the distribution and received payment for the work they did.

## Successful Candidate For The Counterpart Inc. Competition



By the end of November 2003 the Tbilisi YMCA was delighted to hear that they have been selected as a successful candidate for the furniture competition sponsored by the Counterpart International in Tbilisi, Georgia.

In total, the Tbilisi YMCA has received four brand new bookcases, three arm-chairs and a table. This gift was received with much gratitude as they make a wonderful addition to the office, and look forward to working with the Counterpart in the future.

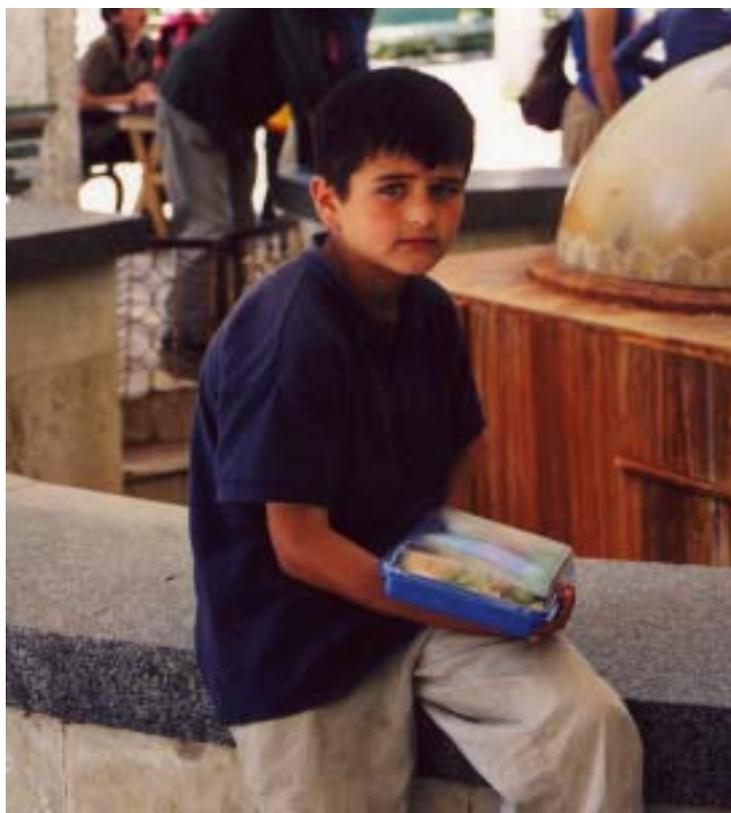
# Picture of the year of 2003

### Editorial board:

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Tengiz Gogotishvili  
Roy Mason  
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### Tbilisi YMCA

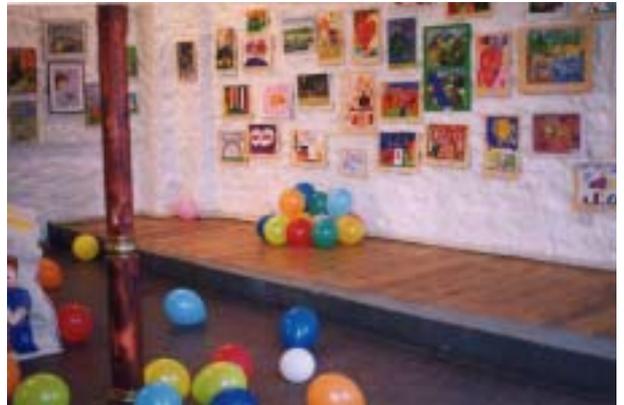
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**This picture was taken by the Tbilisi YMCA volunteer, Manana Sopromadze during the Borjomi Day Trip May 2003. In the picture you see a child from the Avlabari Shelter House, sitting on the edge of Borjomi warm spring with his lunch in his hands.**

# Tbilisi YMCA Celebrates November 19 - The World Day For The Prevention Of Child Abuse

Since 1999, a coalition of NGOs from all over the world has recognized November 19th as the "World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse." Worldwide, this day has been administered by the Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) based in Geneva, Switzerland. The Tbilisi YMCA became the member of this coalition in 2002 and since that time has launched various activities throughout the city. This year, this day was recognized with an international children's pictures exhibition at the Chardin Gallery located at 12, Chardin Street, Tbilisi, Georgia. The event was held in cooperation with a local NGO – NGG and with the support of Students Union of the Georgian Technical University.



Exhibition hall before the opening

The purpose the exhibition was to provide children an opportunity to express their views in a creative way. To share with their view of life and to show society how they, the children,

in the event. We also received over 50 pictures from Armenia, Macedonia, Bangladesh and Somali. All paintings were united under one theme: "The childhood of my dream." Many thanks to the organizations who sent us the pictures and supported us this day. The event was highlighted on local TV and press.

The doors of the gallery opened at 3 PM to a crowd of guests. Opening ceremonies began with keynote speeches from the organizers and the representatives of various NGOs, who underlined

the importance of taking a day to acknowledge how widespread and seriousness the problem of Child Abuse has become. The primary objective of this exhibition was to remind all people that Child Abuse continues to be one of the most cruel and devastating problems today; not

for only Georgian children, but children worldwide. It should be noted that while children represent the future, they alone cannot build it. It is the responsibility of adults to create a healthy environment that will protect, support and encourage youth to become productive members of society and create a more stable future.

Colored Balloons, festive hats, banners and children's happy faces filled the hall and created a warm and inviting atmosphere. Children and adults alike commented on the works of art and how much they enjoyed the event. Based on the positive turnout and overwhelming support of both the local and international community, the organizers have decided to make exhibition an annual event. If you feel that your child or school would like to participate in this event next year, please contact us and send us a picture. We will be more than happy to display it at the exhibition.



Exhibition hall

want to see their childhood and how they want to live.

Preparations for the event began several months in advance to create a spectacular display of creativity and ingenuity. Over a 150 children from local schools and institutions took part



The youngest painter, 2 years Luka

## THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS PARTICIPATED IN THIS EVENT:

### Tbilisi, Georgia

Secondary School 23  
Secondary School 126  
School of Tomorrow  
School "Mtsignobari"  
Italian School "Tsiskari"  
Private School "Ritori"  
School "A-Z"

### Yerevan, Armenia

Zartok-98

### Skopje, Macedonia

Novinari Za Prava Na Zeni I Deca I  
Zastita Na Zivotnata Sredina

### Jhenaidah, Bangladesh

Pasa

### Mogadishu, Somalia

Somali Child Protection and  
Development

# BOOK OF THE SEASON:

## *Pure as the Lily* by Catherine Cookson

### Book Details:

- Paperback; 384 pages
- Published in 1993
- Publisher: Corgi
- ISBN: 0552140732
- Fiction

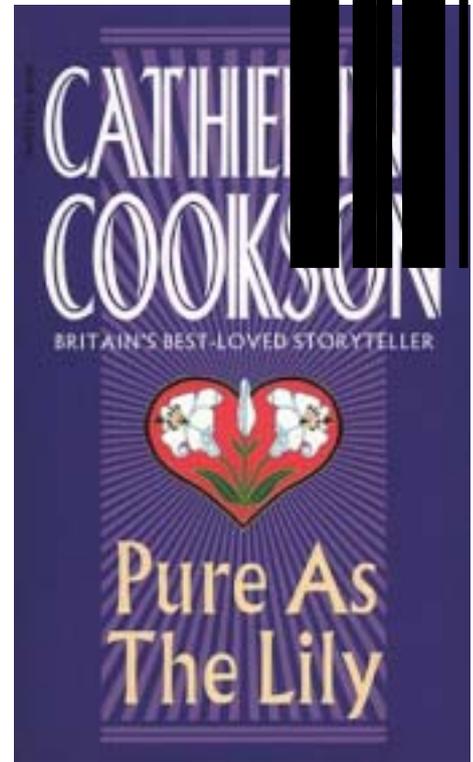
### From the Back Cover

Mary Walton was the apple of her Da's eye. For long now he had been out of work, and Mary was his only comfort during those dark years of the Depression, when unemployment and a nagging, ambitious wife gnawed away at his self-respect. Once he was a man who had held his head high with Geordie pride; now his only hope was that Mary would escape from the grinding poverty of the Tyneside slums that had held him prisoner for so many years. But then something happened to Mary that shattered all his dreams of her future - an event that was to split the

family and influence its members for generations to follow...

### About the Author

Catherine Cookson was born in Tyne Dock, the illegitimate daughter of a poverty-stricken woman, Kate, whom she believed to be her older sister. She began work in service but eventually moved south to Hastings, where she met and married Tom Cookson, a local grammar-school master. Although she was originally acclaimed as a regional writer - her novel *The Round Tower* won the Winifred Holtby Award for the best regional novel of 1968 - her readership quickly spread throughout the world, and her many best-selling novels established her as one of the most popular of contemporary women novelists. After receiving an OBE in 1985, Catherine Cookson was created a Dame of the



British Empire in 1993. She was appointed an Honorary Fellow of St. Hilda's College, Oxford, in 1997. For many years she lived near Newcastle upon Tyne. She died shortly before her ninety-second birthday, in June 1998.

Source: [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

**THIS BOOK IS AVAILABLE AT THE TBILISI YMCA LIBRARY AND MIGHT BE BORROWED BY THE LIBRARY MEMBERS FOR THE PERIOD OF 14 DAYS WITH A POSSIBILITY FOR FUTURE RENEWAL**

Relax with us:

## PUZZLE

number 3, wore green. The person who wore number 2 finished first whereas Harry came last. The person who finished second wore green, Barry wore yellow and the person wearing red beat the person wearing blue.

**Can you work out who finished where, the number and colour they wore?**

Puzzle devised by © Kevin Stone: [[www.brainbashers.com](http://www.brainbashers.com)]

Four friends were competing in the internationally renowned BrainBashers™ Bog Snorkelling competition. As usual, the judges were a little careless and once again, they managed to lose the results. Luckily, a number of spectators were able to remember the following snippets of information:

*Only one person wore the same number as the position they finished. Gary, who didn't wear green, beat Barry. Larry beat the person who wore yellow. The person who wore*

ANSWER:  
# Name Wore Colour  
1 Gary 2 red  
2 Larry 3 green  
3 Barry 1 yellow  
4 Harry 4 blue

## Tbilisi YMCA Is Looking For International Volunteers

- If your English is so good that you can teach English and you have an experience in teaching English,
- if you want to explore Georgia and the Georgian way of life,
- if you feel that you want to volunteer with us,
- then what are you waiting for?

Contact us at [info@tbilisiymca.ge](mailto:info@tbilisiymca.ge) and request the application form

***We would be very happy to hear your comments, ideas and suggestions concerning this newspaper and our activities. Please write to us. Your comments are greatly appreciated.***