

## REPORT

## THE Y.C.Z.A. GOLDEN JU

The Y.C.Z.A. (Young Collegians' Zoroastrian Association) celebrated its Golden Jubilee by a Jashan, brief flashbacks on its past 50 years' activities and its future concerns, followed by a largely attended dinner.

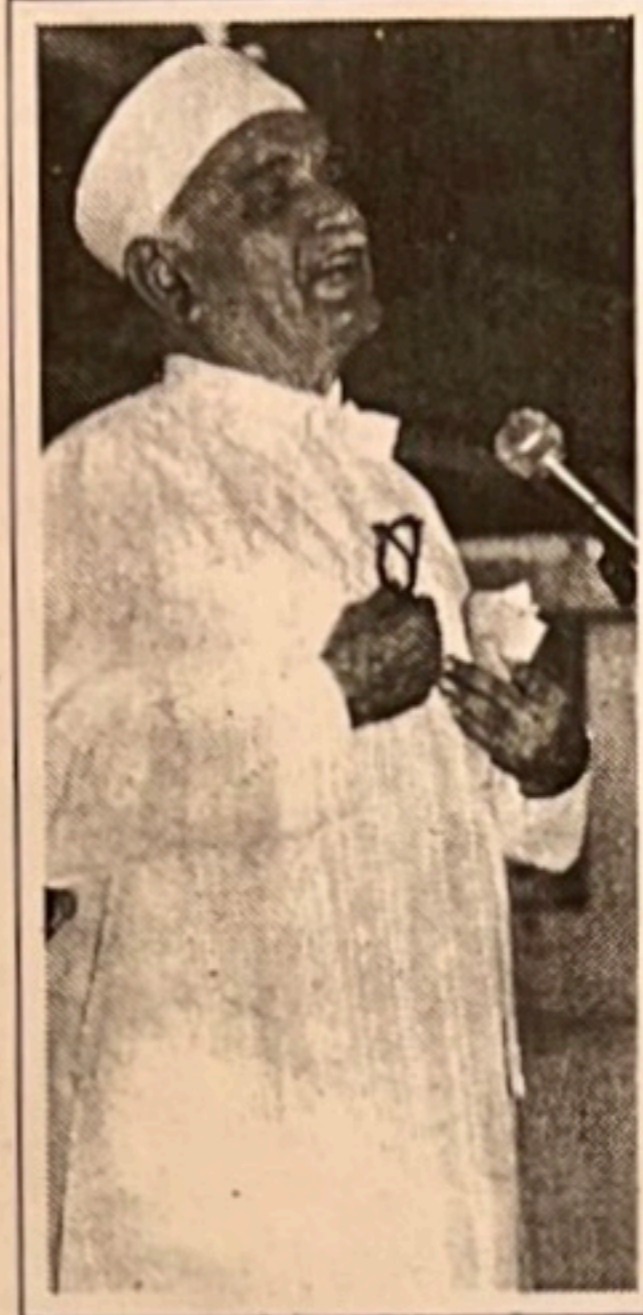
Good company, good cheer and good food marked the occasion. The nearly 1000 strong crowd was vibrant with good humour and zestful fellow feeling. One could sense the general feeling that "The days of our youth are the days of our glory."

The function was organised by Zarine and Kersi Commissariat.

The function started appropriately with a Jashan Ceremony beautifully performed by Ervad Saheb

After the Jashan and the chashni the large gathering was regaled by a beautiful rendering of an old well-known Parsi Monajat "O Dadgaar, O Davar O Parvardegar" by a small Choral group of the Avabai Petit Girls' High-School led by Mrs. Yaasmin Charna, Superintendent, who is herself an old Y.C.Z.A. - ite. The Avabai Petit Group did their school proud and sang with emotional intensity balanced by professional competence.

After the 'Monajat' the crowd was first addressed by Prof. Khurshed C. Sheriar who briefly narrated how the Association was started in the Jai Hind College in 1952 with the joint efforts of himself and



Vice-Chairman Prof. Khurshed Sheriar - "Down Memory Lane".



Mr. Bakhtiar S. Bhesania, Trustee speaking on "Humour In YCZA".



Participants at the YCZA Golden Jubilee function.

Hormuz Aspandiar Dadachanji and other young Mobed Sahebs who are themselves members of the Y.C.Z.A. That their own Jashans are performed by their own members is part of the tradition of the Y.C.Z.A. The Jashan was performed under the watchful eyes of the two Co-Founders of the Y.C.Z.A., Ervad Prof. Khurshed Sheriar and Ervad Prof. Nadir Modi who were in their white priestly turbans and still, after 50 years, giving their time, attention and energy for the welfare of the community and its youth.

Several Trustees of the Parsi Punchayet like Mr. Rustom Tirandaz, Mr. and Mrs. Dinshaw Mehta, Mrs. Silloo Kavarana and Mr. and Mrs. Dadi Engineer and other community leaders and notables including Dr. Freddie and Mrs. Ketil Mehta, Mr. and Mrs. Eruch Desai, Mr. and Mrs. Zarir Bhatena and Principals of several schools graced the function.

Ervad Prof. Nadir Ardeshir Modi and how the Y.C.Z.A. then spread to various other colleges.

The Y.C.Z.A.'s aim has been to keep the young people of the community together. This has been done by having a vast range of activities, both serious and light-hearted ranging from debates to dancing, Shahnameh recitals to socials and every group activity in which young people are interested, both in and out of Mumbai.

The Y.C.Z.A. has been managing a large Book Fund from which hundreds of students have been loaned their textbooks in Arts, Science, Commerce, Law, Medical and Engineering subjects. Almost every year, for 50 years, there have been one or two pilgrimage trips to all the Atash Behrams of India.

The Y.C.Z.A. has established through its own efforts a Charity Trust with a present corpus of over Rs.50 Lacs from which

annually aid is given to deserving students to the tune of Rs.3 to 4 Lacs. The concern of the Y.C.Z.A. for Zoroastrian youth is shown by the fact that all the Trustees make it a point to meet each applicant before sanctioning payments.

Prof. Sheriar further said that continuous contact at Y.C.Z.A. function had led

to a large number of marriages among the members and that Y.C.Z.A. can legitimately claim at the end of 50 years not only that it had aggregated thousands of annual memberships, but that its members were spread throughout India and also all over the Zoroastrian world.



Monajat led by Yasmin Charna and the choir group of School. At left, compere Zarine Commissariat.

# JUBILEE FUNCTION



Chairman Prof. Nadir A. Modi delivering the key note address on "What Next?"

Summing up the achievements of the Y.C.Z.A. and what the community has gained, Prof. Sheriar said:

(i) that the continued active existence of any organisation for a long span of 50 years is by itself an achievement;

(ii) that the Y.C.Z.A. had ensured that our Zoroastrian youth became and remained aware and proud of their "Parsi-panoo"; and

(iii) that the Y.C.Z.A. enthused in many Zoroastrian young people the desire for selfless service in the interests of the community.

Mrs. Zarine Kersi Commissariat, a well-known compere in the business, professional and social circuits, and who was the Compere of the function, pointed out how she and her husband, Mr. Kersi Commissariat a well-known Chartered Accountant and

social worker, had met each other in the Y.C.Z.A. She also pointed out how the Y.C.Z.A. had brought them together as a happy couple and groomed their organisational and leadership skills.

Mr. Bakhtiar S. Bhesania, a leading Solicitor and Partner of M/s Mulla and Mulla and Craige, Blunt and Caroe and one of the founder members of the Y.C.Z.A., next regaled the audience with some old-time amusing anecdotes. Mr. Bhesania stressed how the Y.C.Z.A. had enabled the growth of leadership qualities and organisational ability and the ability to deal with human beings, which qualities are so essential for success in life.

The next speaker Dr. Keki Mistry the nationally and internationally known, acclaimed and honoured Orthodontist started with a beautiful Gujarati prayer invoking God's blessings and recalled his young days in the Y.C.Z.A. and how much it had added to his life and given him a circle of friends who had remained with him over the years.

The next charming speaker Mrs. Gool Kotwal, well-known lady lawyer and Partner of M/s. Tyabji Dahyabhai & Co., recalled her young days in the Y.C.Z.A. and the hiking, trekking and camping activities that she had particularly enjoyed. Mrs. Kotwal recalled the contribution of Prof. Nariman Mistry, who was present, to the outdoor activities of the Y.C.Z.A.

Mrs. Gool Kotwal was followed by Mr. Jimmy Khan, a Chartered

Accountant and a leading social worker who also movingly recounted how he had benefitted in various ways by participating in the Y.C.Z.A. work and activities over the years.

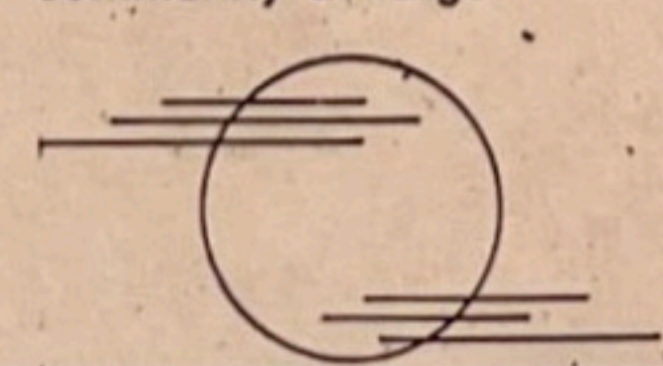
The last speaker was Ervad Prof. Nadir Modi who dealt with what the Y.C.Z.A. and other groups like it could be expected to do for the welfare of the community in the future.

Prof. Modi's Talk was followed by a very spirited rendering of "Chhaiye Hame Zarthoshti" by Mrs. Yaasmin Charna and her Avabai Petit Girls' High School Choral Group in which a standing audience joined in heartily. At the end of it many in the audience really felt that our Parsi Zarthoshti community "Kayem ruhi jalavje/shoobh tooj no jom!"

Thereafter socialising interspersed with some skits was followed by a sumptuous subsidised dinner for all members, invitees and their guests catered by Tanaz Godiwalla.

It was good to see so much vitality and vibrancy in our Parsi community.

For the future quantitative and qualitative growth of our community more beneficial work from organisations like the Young Collegians' Zoroastrian Association can be expected if they are continued to be appropriately appreciated and solidly supported by the community at large.



Avabai Petit Youth of the community enjoying themselves. (Photographs: Bomi Patel of Superstar).