

WASHINGTON DATELINE

BY TRUDE B. FELDMAN
ISRAELITE'S WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

**Reagan Receives
Brotherhood Medal**

Ronald Reagan became the first incumbent president of the United States to receive the Charles Evans Hughes Gold Medal for "Courageous Leadership in Governmental, Civic and Humanitarian Affairs" from the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

The prestigious award -- the organization's 17th -- was presented to President Reagan by Henry A. Kissinger, at a glittering ceremony in the New York Hilton.

While some 10,000 demonstrators protested the President's economic programs outside the Hilton, Mr. Reagan's acceptance remarks in the Grand Ballroom was a defense of his programs, as well as an appeal for genuine brotherhood and human dignity for all citizens. In addition to waxing philosophical in his idealism, the President recalled George Washington's letter to a Jewish Congregation and concluded with a 38-year-old quotation from Anne Frank's diary.

Emphasizing the recent observance of Brotherhood Week, the President said: "For Brotherhood Week to take on its fullest meaning, it must live the year around in the heart of every citizen....and the fact that generation after generation, Americans have sacrificed to bring the ideal closer to reality says something good about the national spirit."

"Hatred, envy and bigotry are as old as the human race itself, as too many tragic passages in our history bear witness. What is new, daring and encouraging about the American experiment is that, from the beginning, men and women strove mightily to undo these evils and to overcome the prejudice and injustice of the old world in the virgin soil of the new."

The President noted that Roger Williams struggled for freedom of conscience in New England before the Declaration of Independence and likened a free society to a ship in which Catholics, Protestants, Jews and Moslems sailed together -- subject to the same tides, winds, dangers and responsibilities, but each free to worship God in his own way; for, according to the Bible: "Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us?"

Reagan added that the first president of the United States, in a letter to the Jewish Congregation of Newport, committed our newborn Nation to a road that "gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance."

Mr. Reagan said that even though we have come a long way down the road to a just society, the battle against discrimination still goes on and that much remains to be done. "A courageous American, Martin Luther King, organized a struggle for racial equality that led to historic changes in our society," Reagan stressed. "He walked in the footsteps of other martyred Americans of other races and other ages. The

sacrifice he made brings tears of sorrow. But the good he did brings tears of gratitude and a message of hope. He warned: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," and his message helped guide us to a freer, more just society.

"The struggle goes on. To be alive and to be human is to struggle for what is right and against what is not. Our Nation today is engaged in a serious and, at times, even acrimonious, debate over what policies will best serve the interests of America and a troubled world," the President continued. "At home, there are wide differences over how best to divide the responsibilities between the Federal Government and State governments and between the public and private sectors, in our constitutional duty to 'promote the general welfare'."

The President said he is indeed concerned about criticism that he is trying to destroy government's commitment to compassion and to the needy. "I'm not trying to destroy what is best in our system of humane, free government," he said. "I'm doing everything I can to save it: to slow down the destructive rate of growth in taxes and spending; to prune non-essential programs so that enough resources will be left to meet the requirements of the truly needy."

There is more to brotherhood than government-administered charity, Reagan said, adding that too many people tend to forget that government cannot substitute for the helping hand of a neighbor. "And in trying to do so, government has to a great extent, brought on the economic distress that mires us down in recession," he said. "Out of this economic distress, however, can come opportunity -- the opportunity to remember our heritage of brotherhood, our responsibility to care for each other not through impersonal government programs alone but through the giving of ourselves with love and compassion."

Stating that the spirit of brotherhood also extends to our policies in foreign nations, he pointed to the Middle East. "A strong, credible America remains the best guarantor of Israel's integrity and survival as a free nation," he said. "A strong, credible America is also an indispensable incentive for a peaceful resolution of differences between Israel and her neighbors. America has never flinched from its commitment to the State of Israel -- a commitment which remains unshakable. But for our commitment to be taken seriously, American strength and integrity must also be taken seriously -- by friends and potential foes alike. Restoring both our strength and our credibility

is a major objective of this Administration, and it deserves the support of those who share concern not only for our country's security, but also for the security of our friends and allies."

The President recalled that in one of the most poignant entries in her diary -- and in a far more tragic context than anything we face today -- Anne Frank wrote on July 15, 1944: "In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart."

The President concluded: "To those who see only the problems and shortcomings of American society, I say: In spite of everything, our land and people are not only good, but strong of heart."

The National Conference of Christians and Jews is a non-profit human relations organization engaged in a nationwide program of intergroup education to eliminate prejudice and discrimination. Founded in 1928, the NCCJ works to build bridges of understanding among all groups, to bring forces of enlightenment and education to bear upon racial and religious prejudice, and to achieve implementation of moral law; giving to others the same rights and respect we desire for ourselves. It enlists those, who without compromise of conscience or of their distinctive commitments, work to build better relationships, among persons of all religions, races and nationalities.

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**SCOTT NARTER
HAS BAR MITZVAH**

Scott Narter, son of Mr. & Mrs. Neil Narter, was called to the Torah to become a Bar Mitzvah during services at Temple Beth Shalom, 1600 E. Oakey Blvd., on Saturday morning, April 10, 1982.

Cantor Simon Bergman officiated and chanted the liturgy.

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