

# CHANGE the WORLD

## michael gold

### Happy Birthday, Morning Freiheit

IN A green picnic park and in the golden sunshine of California we celebrated another birthday of the Morning Freiheit, the Jewish journal of socialism in America. Each of its years has been a year of crisis, bank-



ruptcy, slander, sorrow and even the boils of Job, probably. But the flag of the human hope still flies as proudly from the masthead as when its first editor, the unforgettable Olgin, raised it there. Is that in itself not a victory? The Freiheit still believes that the human race has a future.

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I SAW many greyheads whom I can remember as fiery young marchers on the picketlines of New York, the "sweatshop intellectuals" as they were called, a vanguard of trade unionism and proletarian culture. Their hearts still beat warmly and youthfully with human hope. After all the shocks and confusion of the past 35 years, they are morally alive, and so is their paper.

Is this not a form of genius, to remain true to social principle through so many years of cynicism and confusion? I salute you, gallant vanguard of America and the world!

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IT WAS obvious on seeing this gathering of 700 Freiheit readers that Los Angeles has now acquired a large Jewish population. Congratulations, Los Angeles! Wherever Jews are present, I have found rebellion, art, a living place for culture, a battle ground for new ideas.

Romain Rolland once called the Jews "the bees of thought." They are also bearers of the grand tradition of social justice. It is in their history; it is in their bones.

What makes a Jew? Not only a common language, not a common native religion, culture or race. The Jews are a mixture of all the varieties of human existence. What alone united them in a common feeling is their history, their tragic and heroic struggle for survival through the ages, exiled again and again, exterminated in Hitler furnaces and the fires of the Inquisition, deprived of every human right, slandered, lynched, degraded—yet still surviving, still contributing great minds, great hearts, to the human symphony.

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A DEEPLY rooted hunger for social justice has been planted in the Jew as a result of his historic experience. Wherever a fight for human justice is going on, you will find Jews in the vanguard. There were Jews with Washington and with John Brown and Lincoln. They died fighting Franco fascism in Spain. And Heinrich Heine was a great poet and a Jew proudest of being a "soldier of liberation," as was Emma Lazarus here in America. The father of world socialism was Karl Marx, a Jew.

It is Marx, rather than Barney Baruch, the cunning Wall Street speculator, who best embodies the tradition of Moses the liberator who wrote the first laws against slavery.

It is Albert Einstein, the world's foremost scientist, a lover of world peace, and friend to socialism, who carries on the social passion of the Prophets. Not Walter Winchell or Rabbi Schultz. Not the Jewish newspaper, the Forward, that for almost 40 years has preached war against the Soviet Union.

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WE LIVE in the most dangerous hour of all human history. Survival is no longer the main Jewish problem; it is the main problem of all mankind. The H-bomb war hangs over us with fiery cloud of poison, ready to end the human race. We will all die, or we will find a way of making peace.

A blind zoological hatred of the Soviet Union alone prevents such a peace. It has long been spreading from the Wall Street swamps. The monopoly of all means of public communication has prevented any honest debate on the matter.

But journals like the Forward will not give up their war-making. They overlook the historic facts, and try to make this tragic accident serve a greater crime—the H-bomb war on the Soviet Union, on the United States, on all the human race, including the Jews.

Never was a journal like the Freiheit more needed than today, to expose the war-makers of every camp, and to save the human race from total death by fire, poison and capitalism.