

From the President



Dear Members,

If I was not convinced before, I am convinced now: "Unser Herrgott is a Schwob". After seeing the ominous black clouds above the Austrian Park suddenly dissipate the day of our picnic, I knew that the many prayers of our committee had not been in vain. HE had heard us!

Yes, our first Big Picknick turned out to be a great event and brought the German community together. There had been so many pros and cons voiced before the event, but as I said when discussing this with you, "We have to try something new." The time had come!

I shall never forget the comment made by Agnes Neumann when she spoke with me at the Park: "Annemarie, I am so glad you left the commercialized festivals at Freedom Hill and came here, because every penny spent and collected today stays within the German community." I never quite thought of it that way before, but Agnes, you are right. The German community must gather its forces, stick together, and support itself. Our numbers are slowly shrinking!

Although the workload was much lighter this year, I still need to thank all the good people who did not let us down and pulled together to make it happen.

- Thank you to 1st VP Ron Blasius for chairing the meetings in June and July and for his coordinating efforts with the work leaders, adjusting the entertainment schedule, putting up signs, and decorating (with the help of Willie Grotloh).

- A great big thank you to our Hans Steiner and his House Committee for taking care of the park grounds: power spraying the tables and benches, spraying for mosquitoes, keeping up with the trash removal, and cleaning the entire grounds again on Monday morning.

- Thank you Adam Medel for planning and purchasing all the food items, convincing the kitchen ladies to make Schnitzel, potato salad and the Sauerkraut. You were also the dependable liaison between all committee members.

- Thank you Rosa, Anna and all kitchen ladies. Your support was greatly appreciated.

- Thank you to Willie Grotloh, Joe Mayer and all

their helpers for the variety of beer, wine, and pop served. I must also commend the four "old-time" bartenders for volunteering their time and jumping in whenever a hand was needed - be that in front or behind the bar.

- Thank you Resi Olsavsky and Anna Ess (her right hand), for organizing the "labor force" in the Wurstbude. The hard-working choir members served all guests with a smile and could even be heard humming and singing between customer "rushes". Resi, how can I ever thank you for such a fine job!

- Thank you Jakob Keil and Georg Olsavsky for transporting and setting up the grills in the Wurstbude. It was great to see "Jakschi" in action among us again!

- Thank you Stefanie Schultz for organizing all the ladies in the kitchen and coffee & cake section. We can always count on our Stefi and her Frauengruppe. The ladies had the "Hottest Spot" in the kitchen until the exhaust fan began operating and more fans were added to bring some relief. All the ladies had "aarich roti Backe" - that's how hot it was! Thanks Stefi, not only for working so hard, but for "keeping your cool".

- Thank you to each and every one of our ladies for baking and bringing the vast assortment of delicious Torten & cakes. The finest bakery could not hold a candle to that scrumptious display! I cruised that area a lot just to look at the many fine creations.

- Thank you to 2nd VP Mike Talan, for cutting short his vacation and coming to the hall on Saturday morning (with his Van) to help us haul things out to the park and again haul them back on Monday morning.

- Thank you to our treasurer Karin Schwalbe and her untiring Trustees, who were pretty much tied to one spot from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thank you for being there!

- Thank you to Annemarie Tittjung and Karen Beattie for attending the first two meetings and helping in the planning before going on vacation.

- Many, many thanks go to our Youthgroup for manning their own booth and raising a little money for their California trip. Here I must thank Adam Medel again for "guesstimating" and purchasing the pretzels, balloons, and arranging for the clown, etc. It seems Adam is always expected to use his 6th sense in projecting the right quantity, the marketability, and overall success of each product being offered!

- Thank you to our Blondine Klimach for pulling the program and the announcements together so beautifully. Out there, the sound seemed to bounce around the pavilion and announcers/speakers could not be understood clearly (I personally gave up after just a few words).

continued on page 4...