



## Faces of Marianjoy

Marianjoy is comprised of associates that come from many varied cultures, backgrounds and experiences. We value these differences as we firmly believe it makes us stronger as an organization.

**Associate Name:** Jane Aruin

**Department:** Medical Library

- **What is your country of origin or the country of origin of your ancestors?**  
My family (my husband and I, and our two sons) were born in Moscow, Russia
- **What specific aspects from your culture or background that would you like to share?**  
I come from a large family – I am the first of three children (my 2 brothers were twins). Growing up in Russia soon after WWII, we did not have material things and a lot of food. Our mothers and grandmothers did a lot of cooking (as you call it from scratch) and saved the best for holidays when whole family (one of my grandfathers had 13 brothers and sisters) got together.
- **Are there specific days or times of the year that are considered special or sacred – if so, why?**  
New Year Eve was always very special. Religion was not part of our lives when I grew up but we always had Christmas tree and whole family celebrated that day with a lot of food, laugh, and presents.
- **What are some of your family customs that you recall from your childhood (or from current times)?**  
When we were young every summer my family went to “dacha” – a summerhouse that our parents rented to take children to the river or forest. Our best time there was picking mushrooms and wild berries and swimming in the Moscow River.
- **Are there dietary preferences, special recipes or other traditions around food or food preparation, if so, please describe?**  
Women in our family are the very good cooks. Our best pirogi is always filled with meet, mushrooms, cabbage, or apples. In spring we have a special holiday when we bake blini (known here as pancakes or crepes) that we eat with smoke salmon, caviar, hearing, or sour cream.
- **What languages are spoken or written?**  
Russian, English
- **Is there anything else you would like to share that you feel is important in order to attain a better understanding of your culture?**  
Russian people are known for their hospitality. There are no bears on streets of Moscow! Russia is famous for its artists, composers and musicians, do not forget our hockey!