



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: Ismene Munch

Department: Quality and Accreditation

- **What is your country of origin or the country of origin of your ancestors?**
Both of my parents and their families were born in Latvia, which neighbors Lithuania and Estonia. When Latvia was occupied by the Soviet Union they were able to make their way to Germany and then to the US. I was a toddler.
- **What specific aspects from your culture or background that would you like to share?**
As a child I was exposed to all aspects of Latvian culture, including food, music, dancing, stories, and jewelry. Pierogi with bacon filling and amber jewelry are my favorites. I did not learn to speak English until I started kindergarten.
- **Are there specific days or times of the year that are considered special or sacred – if so, why?**
In Latvia, the celebration of one's name day is more significant than one's birthday. Names are assigned to a certain day of the year. Since I had a very odd name (even for Latvians), I never had a name day like everyone else in my family. Unfair!
- **Are there dietary preferences, special recipes or other traditions around food or food preparation, if so, please describe?**
I do have a few recipes such as for Latvian potato salad (it has herring) and Latvian hash but I wish I had gotten more from my mother.