

Employee Spotlight



Working at GCCCD we don't often realize that we get to work with people from all walks of life. We are a melting pot of cultures and background.

Share a little or as much as you like about your customs, culture, and background to let us know about YOU!!

Have fun and support learning!

Name:

Dept:

About this picture:

This is a picture of me at a street fair in Dusseldorf, Germany, enjoying some regional food and drink. I visited Germany Summer of 2012 in celebration of my 10 year wedding anniversary. My husband and I come from a strong German ancestry.

Where I come from:

Born in San Diego and raised in El Cajon, I grew up celebrating German culture and traditions. My married name Althaus, means Old house in German. My maiden name Gestiehr is a conjunction of German and French.

Interesting facts about my culture:

Germans do like their food and drink. When I visited Germany it was clear that the country was engineered with order and efficiency in mind. However the people were friendly and enjoyed their downtime. They celebrated life, tradition, and nature. They are known for their wood carvings, glass blowing, ceramics and other arts. However rich pastries and good beer tend to come to mind when people think of Germany.

Misconceptions:

That people of German decent have Nazi ancestors. My Great grandparents emigrated to America after World War I as war refugees, the area of the Alsace (an area fought over between German and France for centuries) was given to France in the Treaty of Versailles. Germans in the area had to adopt French language, culture and names, so my family moved to America after the spelling of our last name was changed to be more French.

What I would like you to know:

I grew up in a German household and my family was members of The German American Society of El Cajon. I have enjoyed going to the El Cajon Oktoberfest since I was kid. Most people think Oktoberfest is a celebration of beer but it is a tradition from a wedding celebration in 1810 when Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese were married. The common people were invited to join the festivities and it is said the people rejoiced so much it lasted weeks. The people enjoyed themselves so much they decided to make it an annual celebration.