

Northern Virginia (NOVA) Family Church hosts International Cultural Evening

William Selig
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The Northern Virginia (NOVA) Family Church hosted an International Cultural Evening featuring lively dances, musical performances and scrumptious delicacies from around the world on Saturday, October 20.

"We have a very diverse community. People in Fairfax County are from many different countries around the world," said the program's coordinator, Michiko Yokoyama.

Approximately 55 guests attended the event. Some wore attire representing their countries of origin; colorful Indian sarees, Nepalese costumes and traditional Mexican clothing. An exhibition of arts and crafts from Africa, Oceania, Asia and the Americas was organized by Rhonda Williams, a local art teacher.

Dinner included authentic international dishes – Indian, African, Guyanese, Japanese, Thai and

American. Everyone agreed that the universal language of food brings different cultures closer together. Emmanuel Ossok, co-emcee for the evening said, "Tasting the different foods, I felt like I traveled around the world in one evening."

Judith Lejeune, coordinator for the Blessing and Family Ministry of NOVA Family Church said, "When we have love, we have joy, excitement and creativity. Our church champions family, peace and unification."

The entertainment featured traditional folk dances from Thailand, Africa, Mexico, a lively hip-hop performance from America, and melodic songs from Korea and Nepal.

The evening concluded with a Blessing toast honoring the importance of family and universal values, and lastly a group songfest featuring, "Let There be Peace on Earth."