

Celebrating Cultural Connections



Africa



Cuba, India and Greece



Denmark



India



Ireland

It was December 11 in South Nassau's Conference Center, One Healthy Way, Oceanside, N.Y. Yet you could have easily thought you were in Russia or the Ukraine or Ireland or Italy or ...

At South Nassau's Cultural Diversity Day celebration, more than 50 employees, some dressed in their native garb, cooked or catered foods representing their ethnic origin. Sixteen tables represented countries from Australia and China to Finland and Greece to India and Nigeria and Israel and the Philippines.

More than 500 employees sampled such dishes as pork lechon, bliny sikroy, chicken biryani, empanadas de carne, bruschetta, dolmades and noodle kugel while YouTube music videos filled the Conference Center with ethnic tunes.

The first Cultural Diversity Day observance was held in 2003. The 2009 event, which was the hospital's third celebration, was launched by the Cultural Initiatives Committee headed by Sheila D'Nodal, M.D., vice president of ambulatory services and chief diversity officer. Nancy Feder, R.N., a long-standing member of the committee, headed up the event.



Russia and the Ukraine



China

The committee's mission is to help the organization understand and articulate the value of patient-centered cultural sensitivity and promote diversity through the workforce by cultivating a climate of inclusion and respect. Composed of nearly 20 South Nassau employees from Finance to Human Resources and Nursing, the committee works to ensure that the provision of health services will not vary in quality due to race, ethnic background, linguistic competence, gender, sexual orientation, disability, geographic location or socioeconomic status.

"It is such a wonderful celebration that brings together South Nassau employees from all corners of the globe, highlighting our common values and celebrating our cultural differences," said Dr. D'Nodal, who added that the event will be held annually.