

OJAI VALLEY NEWS

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January 19, 2010 - Rain moves annual event from Libbey Park to Chaparral

By Sondra Murphy

Where can one find herself shaking hands with Julie Tumamait and Julie Christensen? At an Ojai event that celebrates cultural diversity in all its forms.

The dramatic weather did little to daunt the Ojai Valley Youth Foundation's annual celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. In fact, moving the event into Chaparral Auditorium allowed keynote

speaker Toni-Mokjaetji Humber to incorporate images via PowerPoint into her address.

Colorfully adorned with artwork from local students, the hall was rocking previous to Humber's time from **Gill Sotu's** music. **Sotu** is an Ojai MLK regular and uses powerful music with audience participation to connect with the diverse audiences who attend the event. **Sotu's** verses of "We shall" and "Overcome" were echoed by the crowd, on its feet and clapping in time before guitarist D-Flox ended the set with some impressive footwork of his own. "We always look forward to coming here," said D-Flox as he stepped down from the stage. "This is the whole essence of what **Gill Sotu** does: unity. The power of music to change things, we live it."

Source: <http://ovnblog.com/?p=2429>