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SAN LEANDRO • CALIFORNIA



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

King Inspires Young Orators

"The dream of Martin Luther King will happen in some far-off spring," quoted San Leandro student Alvin Wong. "And soul will dance and soul will sing and march with Martin Luther King."

Wong was reciting a poem by Myra Cohn Livingston and he did it with passion. Which is why he won the elementary school age division at the city's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. oratorical festival, held Monday at the senior community center.

Each year, on King's birthday, the city holds a "Remember the Dream" contest where elementary through high school students recite some of King's famous speeches and also perform their own original poems and prose.

This year, over 100 people gathered to celebrate King's life and message. There were also performances by the Ez-til Chichi "Strong Blood" Aztec Dancers and Kele Nioto & Friends.

In addition to Wong, the elementary school winners were Jose Gomez in second place and the duo of Jayla Johnson and Marvin Jaines in third.

Elliott Alvarez won the middle school division and Asiya Sulaiman and Matthew Winn came in first and second place in the high school contest.

Alvin Wong delivers his speech at the "Remember the Dream" speech contest on Monday.

MLK Day Forum Tackles Race And Police Work

By Amy Sylvestri
 San Leandro Times

Retired BART police Chief Kenton Rainey says that effective police work can only happen when police officers are a part of the community and the public can relate to them as fellow citizens.

"As a young officer, I thought that I should be out there writing as many tickets as possible and sending as many people to jail as possible," admitted Rainey.

He said only years of experience taught him that community oriented policing was better for everyone involved.

Rainey spoke Monday at a special forum organized by Unity in the Community which featured discussions of race, privilege, civility, and more in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Rainey was hired to be the BART police chief in the aftermath of the Oscar Grant shooting. He said that some police officers don't possess "cultural competency," meaning they struggle to engage with people from all walks of life who may be different.

community – a big topic coming off a year were police shootings and retaliation against police became a national conversation.

Leading that talk were speakers from the National Organization for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the National Black Leadership Initiative Project (NBLIP). *see FORUM, page 14*

Artists Kicked Out Of The Gate

By Amy Sylvestri
 San Leandro Times

As of the first of the year, a collective of artists known as Factory 510 are no longer working at the The Gate, the mixed use space on the second floor of the Westgate Center on Davis Street.

The Factory's main lease-holder and some artists have been asked to leave the space.