

Vermont Law and Graduate School Presents a  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

## **The Friendship of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Thich Nhat Hanh**



**Tuesday, January 21**

**12:45 to 2 p.m. ET**

**Jonathon B. Chase Community Center  
and Virtual**



# Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

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### WELCOME

**SHIRLEY A. JEFFERSON JD'86**

Vice President of Community Engagement and Government Relations and Professor of Law

### MUSICAL SELECTION

**"WE SHALL OVERCOME"**

*Hymn by Charles Albert Tindley. Please stand and join hands.*

**ACCOMPANIED BY JOHN STOCKHAM JD/MERL'26**

### REFLECTIONS

**NAKYSHIA FRALIN JD'26**

President, VLGS Black Law Students Association (BLSA)

### INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKERS

**RODNEY A. SMOLLA**

President, Vermont Law and Graduate School

### GUEST SPEAKERS

**DR. RAYMOND CHIN AND JOHN GREEN**

"The Friendship of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Thich Nhat Hanh"

### PRESENTATION OF APPRECIATION

**KAYA MARK JD'26**

President, VLGS Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA)

### MUSICAL SELECTION

**"LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING"**

*African American National Anthem by James Weldon Johnson. Please stand.*

**ACCOMPANIED BY JOHN STOCKHAM JD/MERL'26**

## Guest Speakers

# Dr. Ray Chin and John Green



**Raymond J. Chin, PhD, MFA**, is a semi-retired child and family clinical psychologist. He received his training at Michigan State University and Harvard. He currently is the co-director of Deer Creek Psychological Associates, located in the Upper Valley. He specializes in the treatment of neurodevelopmental disorders such as Autism, Executive Function disorders, and trauma. He has consulted with many schools in VT and NH over the past 38 years. He is assisted by his partner Dasher, a lab-husky therapy dog.

Before becoming a psychologist, Dr. Chin earned a Master of Fine Arts in printmaking from the Rhode Island School of Design, where he met John Green, his best friend of fifty years. In his spare time, he teaches Kyudo (Japanese archery) as meditation, and volunteers with the Hartford Restorative Justice Center. He is also a member of Tsuru for Solidarity, founded by descendants of Japanese-Americans incarcerated during WWII, whose mission is to end the mistreatment of immigrants in America. He is a practicing Buddhist-Christian, having been raised by a Buddhist father and a Catholic mother. He is happily married and has two sons and four grandchildren.



**John Green** is 73 years old. He is originally from Louisville, Kentucky. Both of his parents were born a year apart, in the mid-1920s in Selma, Alabama. They had actually been sharecroppers in their youth. In 1974, he arrived in Providence, Rhode Island, to earn an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. While there, he would meet his best friend, who just happens to be Raymond Chin. John is now retired from a long career in health care. Since 1982, he's been happily married to his wife, Nancy. They have one child and one feral housecat. John now spends his time putting together a collection of model kits he's accumulated over the years. He also spends some time volunteering, exercising, meditating, working, writing, and speaking out on behalf of racial, social, and political justice and matters of equality. In doing so, he feels he's not just giving voice to his own, but also of his parents' most deeply held convictions.

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event successful, especially:

**LAURA ATAA AGYEKUMHENE LLM'25**

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**BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION**

**BILL BONN**, AV Technician

**DANIEL BROMBERG**, Dean, Vermont Graduate School

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS TEAM**

**MICHELLE CAMPBELL**, Food Service Director, **EBEN BROCK**, Executive Chef, and the **VLGS CAFÉ TEAM**

**DR. RAYMOND CHIN**

**MAGGIE DAKIN**, Executive Assistant to the Vice Dean of Students

**SUE FOLGER**, Chief of Staff, Office of the President

**NAKYSHIA L. FRALIN JD'26**, President, Black Law Students Association (BLSA)

**ISAIAH GONZALES JD'25**, President, Student Bar Association (SBA)

**JOHN GREEN**

**SHIRLEY A. JEFFERSON JD'86**, Vice President, Community Engagement and Government Relations

**THERESA JOHNSON**, Assistant Director, Student Affairs

**BROOKE KNUDSEN**, Community Relations, Housing, and Emergency Services Coordinator

**KAYA MARK JD'26**, President, Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA)

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**RODNEY A. SMOLLA**, President, Vermont Law and Graduate School

**EMILY STAROBIN JD'25**

**JOHN STOCKHAM JD/MERL'26**

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**WHITE RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL**

**ASHLEY ZIAI**, Director, Student Affairs