



NLV News and Notes

Late Spring 2021

www.nextlevelvision.org

Building networking partnership with our community leaders to share resources, inspire and encourage, organize, strategize and mobilize. Seeking to change the culture of our community from gun violence to love. Sharing the responsibility of taking our generation to the **next level vision**.

Bullet Melting Demonstration

Stephanie Mercedes, local artist and chair of NLV's Resource Development Committee, led a demonstration of bullet melting on May 15. Mercedes is known for her work transforming weapons in artistic, sometimes musical, sculpture. The event was held at Oxon Run park, near previous installations supported by NLV. Learn more about [the artist's work](#).

DC Trauma Break with Yoga

Organized by Brenda Richardson through partnership of Friends of Oxon Run and Bold Yoga. First gathering in May. NEW MONTHLY EVENT. See page 3 for June registration.

NLV and DC's New Gun Violence Prevention Director

DeShola Dawkins, NLV's chief executive director, was guest speaker at the monthly meeting of DC's new Gun Violence Prevention Emergency Operations Center on May 14. The center was launched in February 2021 with Linda Harllee Harper as the center's first director.

Ms. Dawkins reports that Ms. Harper was interested to learn about and work with NLV, especially the Red Flag committee. This committee works to help getting guns out of homes, with a focus on Extreme Risk Protection Orders, mothers' concerns, ghost guns, gun buy backs, and Guns 4 Jobs/Opportunities.

See also Memorial Tree Planting, p. 2

End Gun Violence Citywide Conference, June 1, 12 - 5 pm

Organized by the TRIGGER Project and DC Moms Demand Action, co-sponsored by NLV and other partners.

EVERYONE is encouraged to attend and help address the long-standing challenge of gun violence in the District.

[FREE Registration thru EventBrite](#)



MORE UPCOMING EVENTS, page 3

Tree Dedication Ceremony

Alliance for Concerned Men, with support from NLV, organized a tree-planting ceremony May 8 in memory of Christopher Brown (02/06/2003 – 08/09/202) and Clarence Venable (11/28/1978 – 11/25/2019), victims of gun violence. The event included pouring of libations and remarks from community members.



NLV's DeShola Dawkins, speaking at May 8 Tree Planting



Tyrone Parker, of NLV and ACM, speaking at May 8 Tree Planting



NLV member Luci Murphy leading Tree Planting gathering in song

NLV has organized a number of tree-plantings as long-lasting, community-supporting memorials. Artist Stephanie Mercedes (see p.1) has provided plaques with gun victims' names.



photos this page: Clarence Miles

Follow NLV on Facebook, Twitter, and/or Instagram
Visit <https://nextlevelvision.org> for all links and more about activities.

All are welcome to join email list and get involved. Contact NextLevelVisiondc@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Tuesday, following the General Meeting.

DC Trauma Break with Friends of Oxon Run Park, June 5, 11 a.m.

Join us in the park (at amphitheater) for some yoga and meditation, and take a break from trauma! Thank you to Friends of Oxon Run and Bold Yoga for partnering and leading this monthly event. RSVP to brendarichardson724@gmail.com

National Gun Violence Awareness Day and Wear Orange weekend. June 4-6

DC and VA [virtual Wear Orange](#)

Saturday, June 5, 7:30 p.m.

Wear Orange June 12. 10:30 a.m. Oxon Run Park

Family-friendly event with music, live performances, special guests and more! Moms Demand Action DC and Students Demand Action survivor and volunteer leaders in collaboration with local community partners and the are bringing together everyone who believes we can end gun violence. [Event Registration](#) link

Gun Violence Memorial Project, National Building Museum

The memorial seeks to preserve individual memories and communicate the magnitude of gun losses in built space, fostering a national healing process that begins with a recognition of the collective loss and its impact on society. Installations in Chicago and the District are the first steps to recognizing the great need for a national, permanent memorial to gun violence victims.

The memorial is now open at the National Building Museum in DC. There are two object collection events in conjunction with the DC installation on [June 5](#) and [June 6](#).

DC area people are invited to submit an item (on loan or permanent gift) -- to reflect the life of a loved one lost to guns. Please pass the word.



More on this project at

[Gun Violence Memorial Project](#)

Next Level Vision

Executive Committee

Chief Executive Director: DeShola Dawkins
Executive Director: Tyrone C. Parker
Exec. Secretary: Rachel Usdan
Navigator: Beverly A. Smith
Treasurer: Volunteer Needed

Committees and Chairs:

Community Unity, Frank Malone
Public Profile, Clarence Miles
Red Flag, Jennifer Massey
Resource Development, Stephanie Mercedes
Social Injustice: Melinda Robertson
Street Justice, Pastor Delonte Gholston

Media - Links and Address

Website: nextlevelvision.org
Facebook: [NextLevelVisionDC](https://www.facebook.com/NextLevelVisionDC)
Instagram: [@nextlevelvisiondc](https://www.instagram.com/nextlevelvisiondc)
Twitter: [@NextLevelVisio1](https://twitter.com/NextLevelVisio1)

NLV News and Notes: Virginia Spatz, editor
News items and notes are drawn from NLV meetings
Contact songeveryday@gmail.com with corrections or additional news by Tuesday following general meeting.

NEXT NLV General MEETING, June 27, 4 p.m. (virtual)

Speaker for June's Meeting: Terrance Staley, Conflict Resolution/Alliance of Concerned Men. Join virtual meeting, via phone or video. Contact NextLevelVisiondc@gmail.com for Zoom link.

**"We're going to instill the right kind of confidence in our people
and take our community back square mile by square mile"**

- Timothy Dawkins-El, 2013

NLV's vision is to change the culture of our community from gun violence to love. We are working with all organizations who are willing to work in unity and share the responsibility of taking our generation to the next level vision.

Our mission is to build a networking partnership with our community leaders. To form and inform our families of available resources and programs. We want to inspire and encourage leaders to organize, strategize and mobilize in unity and love.

NLV has been the inspiration and creation of this organization to honor the life and legacy of Timothy D. Dawkins-EL and many other families that have loss children to gun violence. Timothy was 24 years young at the time of his transition and full of life and love for his family, friends and community. Regrettably, his life was stolen from us on August 21st, 2013 ten days before his 25th birthday. Timothy was murdered in Southeast DC by a stray bullet (9mm Glock) as he walked home to charge his cell phone with a friend.



**NLV
and Partner
Organizations**

**All interested
individuals and
organizations
are urged to
join the effort.**

**For information
or to join, contact:**

NextLevelVisiondc@gmail.com