



NLV News and Notes

Fall 2021

nextlevelvision.org

Building networking partnership with our community leaders to share resources, inspire, 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.

Celebrating a Life and Legacy

Timothy Dawkins-EL (1988-2013), a community organizer whose life was cut short by a gunshot, is the inspiration for Next Level Vision. Over the course of three days in late August, NLV celebrated the young leader's life, marked his legacy, and looked forward to ways in which survivors are promoting his visions for the city he loved. Events included a film screening (see below), an afternoon of community engagement on addressing the roots of gun violence, and a brunch with opportunities for related sharing.

The Alliance of Concerned Men, an active part of NLV, said they were proud to have sponsor the three days of events. Find words from ACM's Tyrone Parker as part of the "His Legacy Continues" playlist on NLV's new YouTube channel.

Film Screening of "Black Butterfly"

A new film by Curtis C-Webb Mozie, about the life of Timothy Dawkins-EL premiered on Aug 27. The screening of Mozie's "Black Butterfly" (not to be confused with the 2017 fiction-mystery movie) was part of the weekend celebrating Timothy's life.

Stay tuned for information about future screenings and streaming opportunities.

Curtis Mozie has been documenting lives affected by gun violence in DC for decades through his Tale of the Tape project.

<https://www.instagram.com/dccwebb/>

NLV Non-Profit Status and Late Summer Grants

Next Level Vision received notification late this summer of our new status as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. This designation by the Internal Revenue Service expands the range of grants available to NLV and makes donations from individuals and commercial entities tax deductible.

In other funding news: NLV received \$5,000 from the Building Blocks DC Gun Prevention Mini-Grants as well as \$1,500 from Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense to support events and programs.

New YouTube Channel

The first videos on NLV's YouTube channel form a playlist of poetry, story, and personal narrative from the August 28 "His Legacy Continues" event honoring the memory of Timothy Dawkins-EL.

Here's the playlist:

- a story capturing the essence of NLV;
- Jo Patterson reads her poem, "Black Cotton";
- Dark Matters shares spoken word; and
- Michael Dawkins describes how Timothy Dawkins influenced his life choices

Please subscribe and share the link to Next Level Vision, Inc on YouTube and suggest content to help us build our channel.

NEXT NLV General MEETING: October 17th, 4 pm

All Welcome.

Virtual meeting via phone or video. Contact NextLevelVisiondc@gmail.com for Zoom link.
Guest Speaker: Theresa Gibson, MD/DC Realtor, MD Notary "Imagine Your Home Today"

Sisters Healing

Sisters Healing Garden and Sisters4Sisters joined in a September tree planting at the healing garden, supported by a Building Blocks DC Gun Prevention Mini-Grant.

The garden at 155 Ridge Road SE was established over 15 years ago by NLV's Dr. Carolyn White-Washington. The Sept 4 tree planting was part of holistic programming that works toward ending violence through healing trauma and restoring souls.

In addition, a Sept 18 Sisters4Sisters event focused on Suicide-Depression Awareness & Prevention -- with suicide causing more gun deaths than homicide each year.

Coming up on Oct 30: 16th Annual Domestic and Sexual Violence Prayer Breakfast and Fundraiser.



Sisters4Sisters offers regular gatherings, prayer calls and other activities, including mentoring for your women.

<https://www.sisters4sisters.org/> 301-552-7470



NLV Member: "Truth Seeker for Justice"

Melinda Robertson, author and radio host as well as chair of NLV's Social Injustice Committee, was the recipient of No More Graves Foundation's "Truth Seeker for Justice" award. Ms. Robertson was honored for her work in the community, including the radio program "NjustUs," which features guests personally experiencing injustice, and the organization Black Mothers for Justice.

No More Graves was founded in 2018 to combat the impact of violence and incarceration in our communities. At the Aug 7 ceremony, Ms. Robertson spoke about the need to "take households back" to keep young people from becoming involved in gun crimes.

<https://blackmothers4justice.com/>
<https://nomoregraves.org/>



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

NLV News and Notes:

News items and notes developed from NLV meetings or submitted by members.
Virginia Spatz, editor Contact: songeveryday@gmail.com

Media - Links and Address

Website: nextlevelvision.org **Facebook:** NextLevelVisionDC **Instagram:** @nextlevelvisiondc
Twitter: @NextLevelVisio1 **YouTube:** NextLevelVisioninc

Visit NLV's new blog
– <https://nextlevelvision.org/blog> –
for more updates and the latest on additional events this fall.

Mothers Incarcerated

DC Justice Lab, a participant in the NLV network, recently hosted a screening and discussion of the short film, "Oh, Mother of Mine," exploring the impact of a mother's incarceration on children as well as differences in resources available to women and men during incarceration and in support of re-entry.

FILM

The film was created by Anna Rawls. Learn more here at this link and consider arranging a screening --
<https://www.ohmotherofmine.com/>



The WIRE (Women Involved in Reentry Efforts)

Featured in the documentary are DC community members active in address some of the issues raised in the film. Learn about Lashonia Thompson-El and The WIRE --

<https://thewiredc.org/lashonia-thompson-el/>

BOLD YOGA

Charnel Chaney (daughter of Lashonia Thompson-El) works with yoga and other forms of trauma release. She is fund-raising to launch a healing center --

https://www.instagram.com/bold_yoga_llc/

LEGISLATION

DC Justice Lab is working on legislation to stop babies from being separated from incarcerated mothers. Learn more here about the organization --

<https://dcjusticelab.org/>

and learn about the proposed legislation here --

<https://tinyurl.com/ne6w4bjw>

DC residents in support of keeping mothers and babies together are encouraged to sign in support BY OCT 28.

Gun Violence Memorial Project

Pastor Jackie Jackson, from Moms Demand Action/Everytown Gun Sense, spoke at the Sept NLV meeting about the Gun Violence Memorial Project, previously introduced at an NLV meeting and Spring newsletter.



The project creates a space of remembrance and healing for individuals impacted by gun violence and is intended to become a permanent national memorial.

In the U.S., approximately 700 people are killed by guns each week. To help visualize this, MASS Design created four glass houses made of 700 transparent bricks each. Each brick will hold an item that belonged to, or represents, someone lost to guns.

Individuals are encouraged to submit a small item. Items can be permanent gifts or loan, depending on the donor's preference. At present, the memorial is traveling and collecting items for the memorial.

Exact details have not been posted yet, but Pastor Jackson reports that a collection site is planned for Baltimore in November. It is hoped that another collection will be organized for DC itself. Items were gathered here earlier in the year when the memorial was at the National Building Museum in the spring.

MASS is partnering with conceptual artist Hank Willis Thomas, and gun violence prevention organizations Purpose Over Pain and Everytown for Gun Safety on this project.

<https://www.gunviolencememorialproject.org/>

March for Our Lives

Alysha Orbach, "State" Director for DC with the student-founded and youth-led March for Our Lives, reminded NLV that the organization is eager to join local gun violence prevention work.

<https://marchforourlives.com/>

Credible Messengers

Terrance Staley, from the Alliance of Concerned Men DC, reported at the NLV Sept meeting that that 23 youths are currently assigned to be mentored as Credible Messengers through ACM. The project is working to bring together groups who would otherwise not meet and helping various parties to learn and practice conflict resolution.

For more information, contact Program Coordinator for Credible Messengers
202-913-6347
TerranceStaley@acmdc.org