

**TWEET IT:** Minnijean Brown Trickey, Mo’Ne Davis & other inspirational women to join 2014 [#NCCLibertyMedal](https://hootsuite.com/dashboard) ceremony on Tues., October 21. @[MalalaFund](http://twitter.com/malalafund%22%20%5Co%20%22MalalaFund)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER’S 2014 LIBERTY MEDAL CEREMONY**

**A POWERFUL TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM, EDUCATION, AND THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY FOR YOUNG WOMEN WORLDWIDE**

***Remarks and performances by Minnijean Brown Trickey of the Little Rock Nine, Mo’ne Davis and other inspirational young women from the region,***

***First Lady of Pennsylvania Susan Corbett, Mayor Michael Nutter***

 ***and Daughter Olivia, Dr. Amy Gutmann, Martha Raddatz,***

***and the Pennsylvania Girlchoir***

Philadelphia, PA (October 20, 2014) – A stellar lineup of inspirational women, politicians, and performers will participate in the National Constitution Center’s **2014 Liberty Medal** ceremony, recognizing **Malala Yousafzai** for her continued demonstration of courage and resilience in the face of adversity. The event will take place at the National Constitution Center on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at 7 p.m., and will be recorded for broadcast on WPVI-TV/6abc. The ceremony will be streamed live on <6abc.com>.

A powerful voice for those who have been denied their basic human rights, **Minnijean Brown Trickey** of the Little Rock Nine will speak about bravery in spite of opposition. In 1957, at the age of 16, Brown Trickey faced down an angry mob and overcame threats from those who fought against desegregation of Little Rock Central High School. Today, she continues to work on behalf of youth leadership, diversity education, and gender and social justice.

In addition, a group of remarkable young women will participate in the ceremony by reading a selection of Malala’s blog entries.

**Nikki Adeli**, 17, is a junior at the Science Leadership Academy in Philadelphia. An active Philadelphia citizen and passionate advocate for quality public education, Adeliserves as Youth Commissioner to Mayor Michael A. Nutter as well as Vice President of the School District of Philadelphia’s Student Government. Adeli is a Duke of Edinburgh Award winner and enjoys mentoring other youth medalists in Philadelphia. She has brought her passion for education overseas, teaching English at schools in developing countries. She has also served as a national spokesperson for the in-school youth health program, Fuel Up to Play 60. (Twitter @nikkiadeli)

**Mo'ne Ikea Davis**, 13, is a female Little League Baseball pitcher from Philadelphia. She was one of two girls to play in the 2014 Little League World Series and the first to earn a win and to pitch a shutout in Series history. She is the fourth American girl to play in the Little League World Series, the 18th girl overall to play, and the sixth to get a hit. She was the first Little League baseball player to appear on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*. She recently was named one of *TIME* magazine’s 25 Most Influential Teens of 2014. (Twitter @Monedavis11)

**Niayla Dia-Murray**, 17, is a junior at Constitution High School in Philadelphia. She was a participant in the Ballard Spahr mentoring program and a summer intern at the firm. Recently, Dia-Murray was a finalist in the National History Day Fair for her website about the role of education in Philadelphia schools and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. She is actively involved in her school’s mock trial team and was a participant in the 2014 Ballard Spahr’s Women Forum, “A Conversation with Justice Sandra Day O’Connor: The Importance of Civic Education.”

**Colleen McBride**, 17, is the senior class president at Mount Saint Joseph Academy, an all-girls high school in Flourtown, PA. McBride led a social media campaign asking Malala to visit her school.

**Melissa Shang**, 12, is a sixth grader at Tredyffrin Easttown Middle School in Berwyn, PA. Born with a form of muscular dystrophy called Charcot-Marie-Tooth, Shang is a disability advocate and an American Girl fan. With the help of her sister Eva, Shang launched a petition asking American Girl to release a “Girl of the Year” doll in a wheelchair. Her campaign was featured in *Cosmopolitan*, *USA Today*, CBS, HLN, and other major news outlets, raising public attention to disability representation in children’s toys. Currently, Shang is working on a web platform for teens and preteens with disabilities. (Twitter @shang\_melissa)

The ceremony also will feature a stirring rendition of Sara Bareilles’ “Brave,” performed by the **Pennsylvania Girlchoir**. Founded in 2004, the Pennsylvania Girlchoir offers excellent choral music education and performance opportunities to singers from diverse economic and racial-ethnic backgrounds, while nurturing leadership skills, building character, and encouraging self-discipline.

ABC News’ Chief Global Affairs Correspondent **Martha Raddatz** will host the event, which will include additional presentations by:

* **First Lady of Pennsylvania Susan Corbett**
* Philadelphia **Mayor Michael A. Nutter** and his **daughter Olivia**
* President of the University of Pennsylvania **Dr. Amy Gutmann**
* National Constitution Center President and CEO **Jeffrey Rosen**

**Governor Jeb Bush**, Chairman of the National Constitution Center, will deliver taped remarks.

The ceremony will conclude with remarks by Ms. Yousafzai.

About Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai came to international attention at the age of 11 by writing for the BBC about life under the Taliban in her native Pakistan. In October 2012, she was the target of an assassination plot by the Taliban and shot in the head as she was returning from school on a bus. She miraculously survived and, undeterred by the continued threats to her life and the lives of her family members, continued to campaign for universal access to education through the Malala Fund (<malalafund.org>), a nonprofit organization that empowers girls through education to achieve their potential and change their communities. Yousafzai recently became the youngest person ever to win a Nobel Peace Prize.

About the Liberty Medal

The Liberty Medal was established in 1988 to commemorate the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. Given annually, the medal honors men and women of courage and conviction who strive to secure the blessings of liberty to people around the globe. Six recipients of the Medal subsequently have won the Nobel Peace Prize. For more information, visit [constitutioncenter.org/libertymedal](https://mail2.constitutioncenter.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=wGXivMhj3ESS4QW-FD_ZI_kGoK1BudEIovd_akkvzw-vd6OUgaGDiWhAFukci17fCbH_x83Psyg.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.constitutioncenter.org%2flibertymedal).

About the National Constitution Center

The [National Constitution Center](https://mail2.constitutioncenter.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=wGXivMhj3ESS4QW-FD_ZI_kGoK1BudEIovd_akkvzw-vd6OUgaGDiWhAFukci17fCbH_x83Psyg.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fconstitutioncenter.org%2f) in Philadelphia is the Museum of We the People, America’s Town Hall, and a Headquarters for Civic Education. As the **Museum of We the People**, the National Constitution Center brings the United States Constitution to life for visitors of all ages and inspires active citizenship by celebrating the American constitutional tradition. The museum features interactive exhibits, engaging theatrical performances, and original documents of freedom. As the only institution established by Congress to “disseminate information about the United States Constitution on a non-partisan basis,” the National Constitution Center serves as a **Headquarters for Civic Education**—offering cutting-edge learning resources including the premier online Interactive Constitution. As **America’s Town Hall**, the National Constitution Center hosts timely constitutional conversations uniting distinguished leaders, scholars, authors, and journalists from across the political spectrum. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit [constitutioncenter.org](https://mail2.constitutioncenter.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=wGXivMhj3ESS4QW-FD_ZI_kGoK1BudEIovd_akkvzw-vd6OUgaGDiWhAFukci17fCbH_x83Psyg.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.constitutioncenter.org%2f).

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