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MIT Historian to Receive Prestigious Award for Excellence in American History

The Friends of the Concord Free Public Library have selected award-winning author Pauline Maier to receive the 2011 Ruth Ratner Miller Award for Excellence in American History. Maier is the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of American History at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Maier will accept the prize and speak at the Main Library, 129 Main Street, Concord, on Saturday, October 22, 2011, at 7:30 p.m.

Maier's historical work centers on the American Revolution, the preceding era and post-revolutionary United States. She is the author of *Ratification: The People Debate the Constitution, 1787-1788*, which was awarded the 2011 George Washington Book Prize, and *American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence* and *From Resistance to Revolution: Colonial Radicals and the Development of American Opposition to Britain, 1765-1776*.

According to Rob Mitchell, a member of the Miller Award Committee, "Pauline Maier is an original thinker and captivating storyteller about the creation of our founding documents: the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution." Her work on the highly charged, partisan debates about the Constitution held by famous and forgotten people in American towns, civic groups and religious meetings conveys "the popular excitement of politics" at the time. Maier observes "...politics was in a real sense the first national game."

The Ruth Ratner Miller Memorial Award for Excellence in American History was established in 1998 by Richard Miller to honor the life of his mother. Ruth Ratner Miller was an original member of the Holocaust Commission and a founding trustee of the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC. Past winners of the award include Stephen Ambrose, Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., David Halberstam and Doris Kearns Goodwin.

Ticket sales for the Miller Award lecture benefit the Friends of the Concord Free Public Library (\$15 adults, students free). Tickets are available at the Concord Free Public Library, 129 Main Street, and the Concord Bookshop, 65 Main Street. For more information, visit www.concordlibrary.org.