



Jimmy Carter Library & Museum News Release

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For Immediate Release

Date: July 16, 2007

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Release: NEWS07-39

Two Special Author Readings & Book-Signings at Carter Library *Stephen L. Carter & Andrew Billingsley to Discuss New Works*

Atlanta, GA. - The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library Author Lecture Series is proud to host two distinguished authors next week for free lectures and book-signings. On Thursday, July 26th, Andrew Billingsley will read from his historical biography "**Yearning to Breathe Free: Robert Smalls of South Carolina and His Families.**" The following night, Friday, July 27th, Stephen L. Carter will read from his new, highly praised novel "**New England White.**"

The 7 p.m. readings are co-sponsored by the Georgia Center for the Book and are open to the public at no charge. Doors to the Carter Library open at 6:30 p.m.

Lawrence S. Rowland, professor emeritus of history, University of South Carolina Beaufort, praises "**Yearning to Breathe Free**" writing "*From his sensational escape with the Planter in 1862, through his combat service in the Civil War, to his bold and implacable political leadership in the face of threatening opposition in Reconstruction South Carolina, Robert Smalls was an American hero in the truest sense of the word. Billingsley's new biography goes beyond describing the dramatic events of Smalls' public life; it explains the remarkable character behind them. It is, therefore, an important contribution to the history of South Carolina and the history of the United States.*"

Stephen L. Carter also writes of the African-American experience, but in modern times. While Carter's book is fiction, the New York Times writes "*The plot of New England White is also sufficiently expansive to allow room for some serious thinking about the progress of "the darker nation" at a time when neither political party has much time for the intractable challenges of race and poverty, and when "as far as white America knew, nobody black ever had money or education before, say, affirmative action.*"

Barnes and Noble editors describes this follow-up to **The Emperor of Ocean Park**, "A well-crafted literary novel that grapples with serious social and ethical issues."

Copies of **Yearning to Breathe Free** and **New England White** will be for sale at each event. The authors will sign copies of their books following the readings.

No reservations are needed. Seating is first-come, first-seated. For more information, call 404-865-7109 or visit www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov.