



## Jimmy Carter Library & Museum News Release

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### TIBET, THE DALAI LAMA, CHINA, AND THE OLYMPICS

*AUTHORS TO SPEAK TUESDAY AT CARTER LIBRARY*

**ATLANTA, GA.-** With China preparing to host the 2008 Olympics, world attention is again focused on its relations with Tibet. There have been protests and demonstrations in recent weeks.

You will be able to get a firsthand look at the situation in Tibet as two author/scholars come to the Carter Presidential Library on Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

Thomas Laird, author of “The Story of Tibet: Conversations with the Dalai Lama,” and Robert Thurman, author of “Why the Dalai Lama Matters,” will make a rare, joint appearance for this special lecture/book signing event.

Publishers Weekly praised Laird’s book saying, “*In a tenderly crafted study that is equal parts love letter, traditional history and oral history, Laird chronicles the development of Tibet from its mythic origins to its takeover by Communist China in 1950. Weaving historical research with interviews with the Dalai Lama, Tibet’s exiled leader, veteran journalist Laird (Into Tibet: The CIA’s First Atomic Spy and His Secret Expedition to Lhasa) offers insight into the triumphs and failures of the country.*”

There is equal praise in Publishers Weekly’s description of Thurman’s work. “*Tibetan scholar Thurman paints a splendid portrait of the Dalai Lama and masterfully elucidates the 50-year-old conflict between Tibet and China in this timely analysis. The author presents an eloquent introduction to Buddhism and the Tibetan concept of the Dalai Lama before focusing on the current “living embodiment of the Buddha”—a man born as Tenzin Gyatso—the 14th Dalai Lama.*”

Co-sponsored by the Georgia Center for the Book, this special evening is free and open to the public. Wordsmiths Books of Decatur will be selling copies of “The Story of Tibet” and “Why the Dalai Lama Matters” at the lecture and both authors will sign their books after their joint talk.

For more information, call 404-865-7109.