Jimmy Carter Library & Museum **News Release**

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For Immediate Release
Date: February 2, 2007
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Release: NEWS07-09

Jewish Storyteller/Soccer Mom shares message of Middle East Peace at Carter Library

Performances Set for Presidents' Month

(Atlanta)- "What kind of people straps bombs to young men and women and sends them to blow up bakeries … What kind of country drops one-ton bombs on apartments where men, women and children are sleeping?" With these words, storyteller/soccer mom Audrey Galex begins her one-woman show "On the Eve of Peace" debuting this month every Wednesday at the Carter Museum and Library.

"It was a difficult piece to write," admits Galex, who has participated in a number of interfaith storytelling projects, including, "Tapestry: An Arab-Jewish Storytelling Dialogue" and "Winter's Light," an annual interfaith storytelling and musical event. "I wrote as the war raged in Lebanon and Israel last summer. I wrote as debate raged about Mr. Carter's book on Israel and the Palestinian territories hit the bookstores, and I continue to shape its contents as events in the Middle East unfold and explode."

While the performance reflects on the current efforts to manage and end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, most of the program focuses on the late 1970s, and the Camp David Accords. "I had the good fortune to live in Cairo when the Accords were signed. I have also lived and worked in Israel. I have friends who live and travel there frequently. It's a subject that's near and dear to my heart, and my heart aches because people of good-will on both sides suffer tremendously."

The performance was commissioned last year, long before the controversy erupted over the former president's book on Israel and the Palestinian territories was published.

"In light of the passionate conversations the book has sparked, I trust audiences will have many questions," Galex said. "I'm not sure I can answer their questions, but I will suggest that people educate themselves, read extensively, and, if possible, travel to the Middle East and talk with people from all sides, and then try to 'walk a mile in the other's moccasins,'" she said, quoting a phrase that has guided her, in storytelling, story gathering and dialogue as a way to understand another's perspective.