



**Snohomish County**  
**Office of the Executive**  
**Aaron Reardon**  
*County Executive*

## **Media Advisory – February 14, 2008**

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### **Honored author highlights Black History Month**

Snohomish County's Diversity Council, along with honorary host County Executive Aaron Reardon, will sponsor an evening with award-winning author and journalist Jack Hamann in observance of Black History Month.

On the evening of Feb. 28, Hamann, a resident of Seattle, will discuss his book "On American Soil: How Justice Became a Casualty of World War II," a nonfiction investigative account of one of the largest and most controversial events in American civil rights history.

The event will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the New Everett Theatre, 2911 Colby Ave., Everett, and includes a performance by the Second Baptist Church Youth Choir. Second Baptist is one of the oldest African American churches in Everett.

Admission is free, but seating is limited.

"On American Soil" was selected as the outstanding investigative book of 2005 by Investigative Reporters and Editors. The book was directly responsible for an Oct. 26, 2007, decision by the U.S. Army Board for Correction of Military Records to overturn the verdicts of the African American soldiers in the infamous 1944 Fort Lawton court-martial.

On Aug. 15, 1944, two U.S. Army military policemen discovered the body of Guglielmo Olivotto, an Italian prisoner of war. Olivotto had been held at Fort Lawton, located just north of downtown Seattle.

Three months later, 43 African American soldiers were accused of rioting in connection with the death, and three of the soldiers were charged with Olivotto's murder.

Hamann's career spans 27 years, including a decade as a network correspondent and documentary producer for CNN and PBS. His work has earned dozens of journalism honors including 10 regional Emmy awards.

Kim Henderson, a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student at Mariner High School, also will read her essay, which recently won the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest conducted at schools throughout Snohomish County.



Author and journalist Jack Hamann