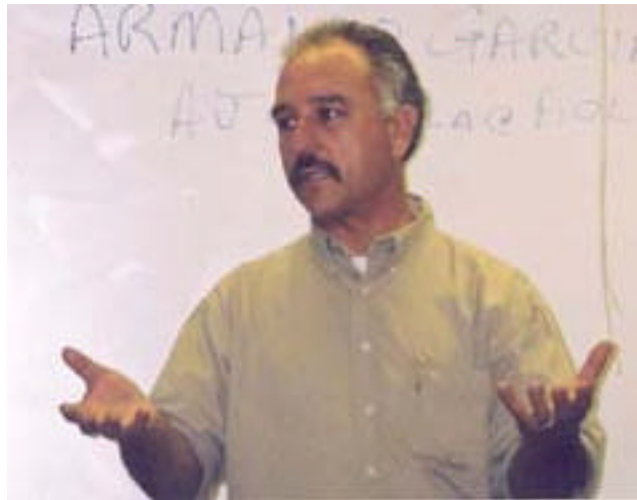


Armando Garcia Dávila
Biography, Photographs and Oral History Responses by the Students
In Ms. Claudine Gans-Rugebregt's Humanities Class

Armando Garcia Dávila was born in a town that was part in Mexico and part in Arizona called Negalis. Along with his six other brothers and sisters (one of them an identical twin), he spent time traveling with his family as they moved from farm to farm to pick crops as migrant laborers.

Armando's family is Mexican, but he had one grandparent who was Scottish, so he has a little lighter skin. After he finished high school in San Diego, he went into the Air Force. Later he studied at Sonoma State University with a double major; one in English and the other in Latin American History. After he graduated he became a landscape engineer. Now Armando also writes short stories and poetry. He just published a book. Armando gives back to the community as a volunteer, working with prisoners at San Quentin.



“The main thing, which I thought was most interesting, was when he spoke about the jail he worked at. He told us that he was one of the men who went into the jail to listen to and get answers from the prisoners. In my opinion, that is a scary job, and I would probably not want to deal with killers, rapists and thieves. Surprisingly, he even made friends with the prisoners, which really made me think twice about Armando. When he said he wrote letters to some of the criminals who hadn't received a letter from even family in 40 years. This made me get a certain respect for him that he would care for someone, when no one else did. Not to mention, he didn't even get paid for his services at the prison. After he told us about how he thought of the prisoners as not bad people, but just confused, it made me feel like I connected with some of his thoughts. For example, how he thought that the prisoners in jail were not evil, because why they did the things they did was because of the way they were brought up and raised.”

Hillary Ellis

“Armando said several things that he learned through his experiences growing up. He said that ‘If you win you get to tell the tale.’ This is why all the history books say that we are the ‘good guys’ because we usually win.”

Michael Matissek

“When questioned about the history of Mexico, he said, ‘The lighter the skin and the more money you have means less punishment with the government.’”

Tristan Thorne

“He claims that he prefers to hire Mexicans because he says that they work harder because they understand the saying ‘You don’t work, you don’t eat.’”

Holly Noll

“Armando is living a great life, but it was his past that let him have that.”

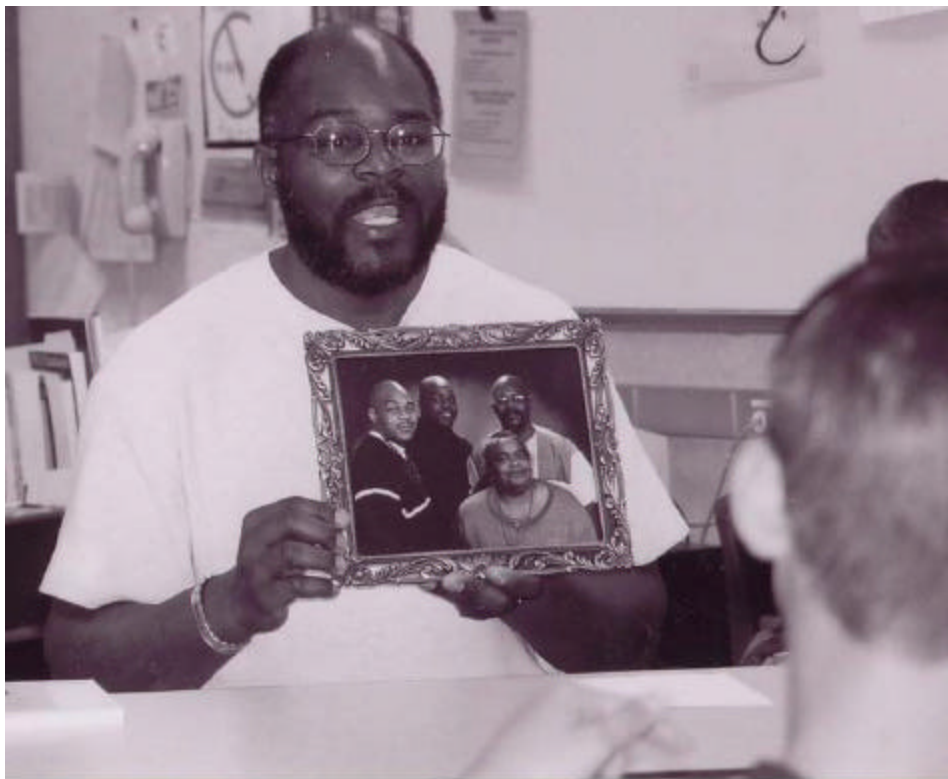
Evan Erlendson



Morris Turner
Biography, Photographs and Oral History Responses by the Students
in Mr. Ken Emery's Humanities Class

Morris Turner lives in Rohnert Park. Morris is a historian, although when he was growing up he hated history. He also works with kids in various youth groups. Morris is 51 and has a wife, Phyllis, and two sons, Malcolm and Quasie. His sons are now grown up and have graduated from college.

Morris' parents put high priority on education and common decency. They taught him the importance of helping in their family, learning about his culture and that to do well in school you would do well in life. Even though Morris' parents felt this way, his main focus in high school was to have fun. They never forced him to do well, but merely encouraged him to do so. For that reason Morris thought he owed it to his parents to attend college and become a college graduate. His parents are proud of him, for he is the only one in their family who has graduated from college.



“My mind is always thinking, looking and investigating,” said Morris.

In high school Morris was an outstanding athlete. His coach deprived him of a big athletic award because of his race. Today Morris and his former coach have started talking again. Morris experienced a long period of hatred toward the coach, but realized that when the coach wanted to be his friend, he was sincere and Morris has forgiven him.



Morris has done well in his life, but there have been many times where he and his family have been segregated and prejudged because of their race. When he was eight, his parents were denied a house because of their race. He has lost jobs, but also gained jobs, just because of his skin tone.

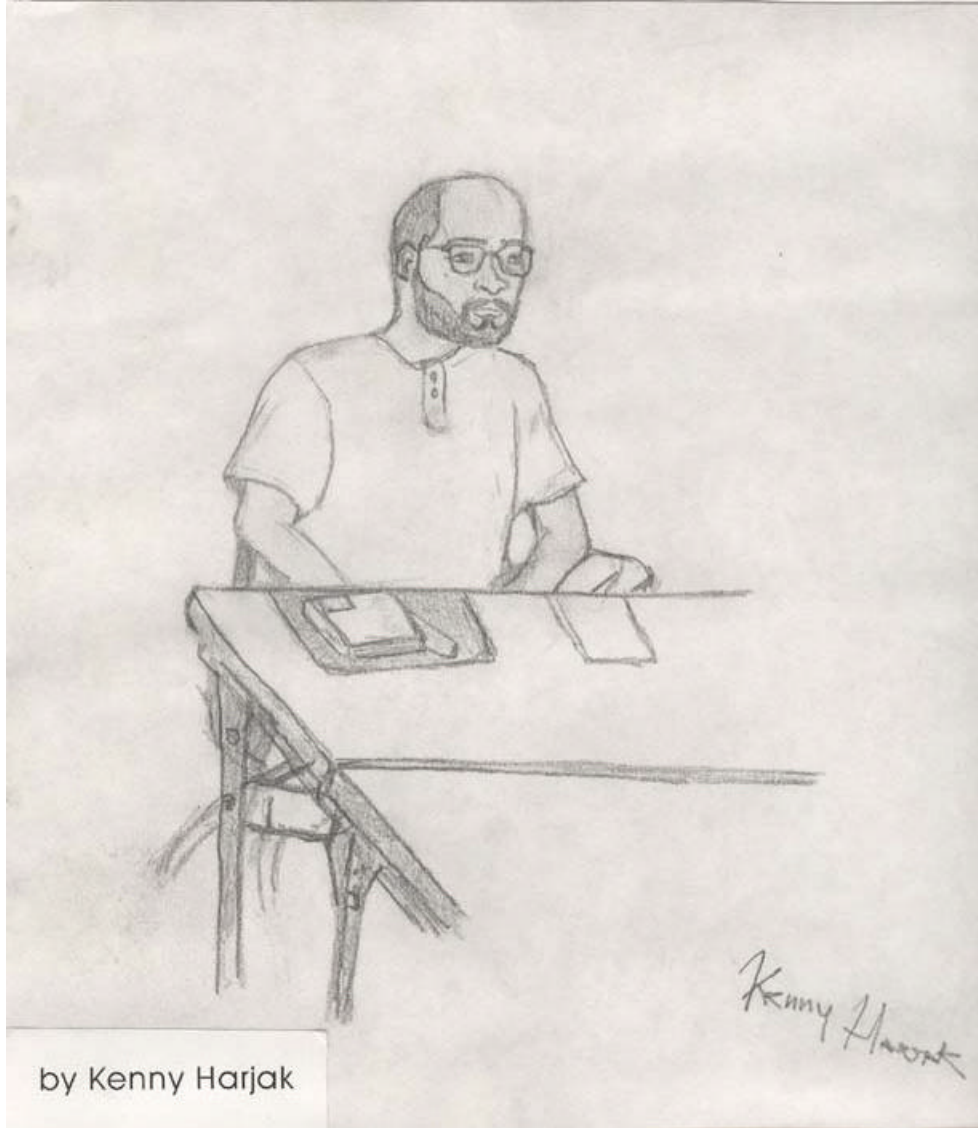
Morris Turner encourages everyone to love what they do and love to learn. "In order to enjoy subjects, you must find something within you that makes you relate to it." One of his loves is helping others to find their passions and succeed in what they love doing.

Morris feels that some of the African-American culture is getting lost in America. "When you have more so-called opportunities, diversity and that sort of thing, there's always a cost," Morris told us. "I encourage you to stay open to new information... remain open to other cultures."



It occurred to him that he knew nothing about towns established by African-Americans. This was the beginning of Morris' journey into finding his passion for life. Morris' goal was to find 50 towns in California settled by African-Americans. By the end of the trip he had discovered 214. African Americans settled all of these towns; sometimes with the help of Caucasians or Native Americans. He said he found so many towns because of other African-Americans who spoke to him.

Morris is curious, smart and decent. He is always there for people in need. Most of all, he feels there is a great importance in knowing and appreciating each and every culture. "It's a whole new day, life is just the beginning."



“If you notice them (African-Americans), you see them, they’re always like, ‘Hey! What’s up? How ya’ doin’?’ and they don’t even know each other... that is part of the African-American tradition. We are all one family... If you don’t speak, then it’s really rude. It’s like you don’t recognize your family,” said Morris.

“The key to happiness is finding your passion... follow your passion in life... and remember that happiness is not money.”

Nancy Wang
Biography, Photographs and Oral History Responses by the Students
in Ms. Dorothy Patch Kennedy's Humanities Class

Nancy Wang is an American citizen, a wife, a mother of three and an active member of her community. What makes her different from other citizens of the United States? For one, Nancy Wang is a Chinese-American and immigrated to the United States in the eighties to join her husband, then fiancé. Since then, Nancy has learned to speak English and raise her children to be proud of their heritage by teaching them both languages and celebrating holidays native to both the United States and China.

Nancy's parents fled Communist China and moved to Taiwan where she was born. Nancy's schooling included war history and army training.

Nancy has also lived in Japan and speaks Japanese as well as Mandarin Chinese. Part of her philosophy is that if you are going to live in another county it is proper to learn their way of life.

Nancy is president of the Redwood Chinese Association. She is also a tennis player and a member of the USTA women's team. Nancy spends volunteer time helping others immigrate to the U.S. and those who need support services in our community.



"It's hard for me sometimes to have to adjust to little things, but I can only imagine what it would be like to have to adjust to a whole new county."

Taylor Williams

"...racist comments like 'Go back to China' surprised me. I thought racism pretty much ended in the 60's."

Lindsey Lucia



“There was one thing that really stood out to me and that was that they would make students take army classes. I thought that was really weird because here you don’t do any army stuff until you are 18.”

Travis Loewen

“Her story impacted me a lot because I kind of felt what she was going through and what happened to my parents a lot because my parents are mixed.”

Denise Kennedy



“In America she has helped the Chinese community with diversity projects. She has kept her Chinese heritage while adapting to life in America. These accomplishments really describe a survivor... This has had an effect on me because the life experiences she shared with the class suggest: 1) Reach for

your goals in life 2) Prejudice is not an option and racism is unacceptable 3) You help the world in your own way and 4) Everyone is a survivor.”

Michael Field

“I thought it was interesting how [she] talked about the red and gold wedding dress. This really shocked me because I’m just so used to the American traditions.”

Sabrina Marion

“I think that [her] story impacted me because it was coming from a person who had seen the effects of history, rather than a boring text book.”

Holmes Futrell



by Holmes Futrell

hate how people ruin or hurt other things and people.”

“Our interview affected me because I didn’t know stereotypes were that harsh on the Chinese... I know our country is having bad relations with China right now and it must be getting tougher on these people.”

Nicky Graydon

“When [she] said that America is so much freer it affected me in a profound way because I realized that people from other countries really do believe that America has much more rights than other countries. And some people in America say that our country doesn’t have enough rights or that too many rights are being violated.”

Kevin Cirba

“I look at the world... and

Whitney Eisaman