

Linda Casinghino Freeman is a member of the Seacoast NAACP website committee and a former treasurer and assistant treasurer for the branch. She joined the branch when she was at a Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast at Yoken's Restaurant some years ago and Rogers Johnson was recruiting new members.

Linda grew up in Manchester, New Hampshire, where she was one of only two children in her classroom to vote for John F. Kennedy in the straw poll in elementary school. As a Catholic, she was influenced by the discussion about whether a Catholic could be elected president of the United States.

Later on, the new pastor at her church was Monsignor Philip Kenney, who had marched in Selma, Alabama. Msgr. Kenny, a champion for the rights of the underprivileged, and the editor of the Manchester Union Leader got into debates on the front page editorials. This was the time of Vatican II and many changes in the church. As with change everywhere, some people embraced the change, some resisted the change, and some went along.

When Linda was young, her parents, Louis and Mary Casinghino, would never say anything derogatory because of a person's race or religion. Her father worked for two Jewish brothers and the family received presents, often chocolate with imprinted holiday designs, every Hanukkah. The family was Italian and Polish and would never tell ethnic jokes of any kind. Her grandfather was involved in Polish workers politics in Ludlow, Massachusetts. She learned about discrimination in housing when friends of her parents refused to buy a house in the North End of Manchester unless a covenant against selling to blacks was removed, which it was.

Linda was introduced to computers in the 1960s when Manchester Central High School had a timesharing terminal to a computer at Dartmouth College. As a senior she traveled to Dartmouth with the physics class, a trip organized by the physics and chemistry teachers. The group saw the computer in the Kiewit Computation Center that took up a whole room. The class attended a lecture by mathematics professor John Kemeny, who predicted that computers would be on desks in the future. See <http://www.dartmouth.edu/comp/about/archive/history/timeline/1960s.html> . After that, her path was set on computing.

She majored in Applied Mathematics at Brown University, because Computer Science was then a branch in that department, where she studied with professor Andreas van Dam. She has a Masters degree in Computer Information Systems from Boston University. A civilian employee of the Department of the Navy for thirty years, she works as an Information Technology Program Manager. She has updated web sites for St. James Parish (now Corpus Christi Parish), the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail, and others. She has also written essays for Seacoast area publications and is working on a family genealogy. Her two adult children, Tulani and Arianna, are the blessings of her life.