

(What do bookstores bring to our community?)

Amanda NeSmith: Transcript for Slide Show

Bg Music: No Background Music



1. **Narrator:** Linden Tree is a small bookstore in downtown Los Altos. It has been there for about 20 years bringing books and many different things to the kids and parents.



2. **Narrator:** Linden Tree is owned by Linda and Dennis Ronberg. Who originally started the store out of there house in Tacoma, Washington



3. **Dennis:** We first moved to the Los Altos area in 1983. We started the store out of our house in Tacoma Washington in 1982. And are um the first...what really got us going was a children's folk singer by the name of Raffie and then my wife Linda lived in Los Altos for a number or grew up in Los Altos, that's why we moved back down here.



4. **Dennis:** It was really and operating bootstrap sort of thing. Um and uh in the beginning we didn't have much money and that's one of the reasons we were working out of our house is because we um didn't have the funds to pay rent.



5. **Dennis:** And uh when we first moved down here we worked out of our bedroom and uh we live in Menlo Park and we worked out of our spare bedroom and would go to conferences, teacher conferences and



6. **Dennis:** Then in 1984 we started the store on 1st street uh we were pacific education services is now... and um that is 940 square feet and this is 2700 square feet so we out grew that space and we moved here in 1989.



7. **Narrator:** The store's name came naturally came from the two owners names combined.



8. **Dennis:** Uh my wife's name is Linda and my name is Dennis. L-I-N-D-E-N and there are fun stories about linden trees uh fairies dancing under linden trees and a linden tree is a deciduous tree with a heart shaped leaf so it just kinda all tied together.



9. **Narrator:** At first, to start out, Linden Tree wasn't just a children's bookstore.



10. **Dennis:** We actually it started out because as I'd mentioned we had um a great interest in Raffie and so we were selling mostly recordings and so um that was going to be the focus of things but then we realized there were a lot of people who were interested in children's books



11. **Dennis:** So we started carrying a few children's books and that side grew much more than the recordings did.



12. **Narrator:** Many different people enjoy the store, not just children and their parents. Izzy Fisher, a student at Los Altos High School, has worked at Linden Tree for a little bit more than a year now.



13. **Narrator:** She explains that it wasn't just the books that drew her to the store, but also the employees and the all around atmosphere of it.



14. **Izzy:** Um they're all really friendly. And they're all kinda like sweet little old ladies. Except for the other ones who are younger too. I think we get along really well. Like if one of us doesn't know something then we will ask the others. I don't know I'd say it is a good environment.



15. **Izzy:** Um well I remember the first time I went in there it was actually to get the sixth Harry Potter book and I was like this is so crowded



16. **Izzy:** And crazy but after working there you kinda learn where things are and its like cozy and it is really crowded but I like it and I think the way its set up its very sort of family oriented and little kids. I think its very comfortable and I like it.



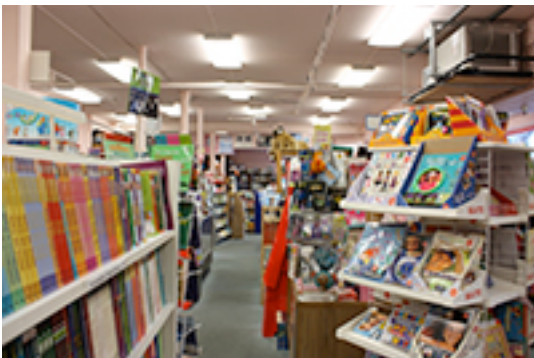
17. **Narrator:** Izzy, who spends Friday and Saturdays working at the store, explains how the owners of the store contribute a lot to how the store is now.



18. **Izzy:** I see them put in a lot of hours like behind the scenes even though if they are working in there office. I mean they have to do all of the ordering books and deciding what to stock and talking to the people who get angry, the publishers.



19. **Izzy:** But they definitely put in way longer hours than any of the employees do. They are pretty invested in it.



20. **Izzy:** ah definitely. Um I mean I wasn't actually sure when I first started. I was like I don't know if this is going to work out like I don't know if I want to work. But I think as far as high school jobs go its really really good



21. **Izzy:** And I mean I like books so working at a book store has been awesome and I also really love revisiting children's books that I used to read and I used to like when I was little.



22. **Izzy:** Um and I've definitely...I think I've learned...this sounds cliché as well.... but I've learned to interact with people. That's kind of a bigger scope than just high school extracurricular and kinda you see a wider range of people. So I really like it.



23. **Narrator:** Nancy NeSmith, who has been a loyal customer for many years, still sometimes goes to the store today. She explained why she went to the store to the first place and what drew her to it.



24. **Narrator:** So when did you first go to Linden Tree?

Nancy: I would say about 15 years ago when we first moved to Los Altos California



25. **Nancy:** I thought it was really kid-friendly. I really enjoyed walking through the different sections and reading the books they have a lot of hands on that the kids could touch and feel and read and it was really a great atmosphere.



26. **Nancy:** Everybody was really knowledgeable about the books and they pointed us in the right direction if Amanda, who was really interested in animals at the time, they'd pick out like five or six different types of animal books and Sarah, who was really into sports, they knew exactly where to go and they picked out some really good books for us.



27. **Nancy:** I think it's really important that we keep local stores. I think that the employees there really care about the customers and it is a safety.



28. **Nancy:** It gives a really hometown feel. It feels really safe and comfortable to go someplace where your neighbors run the store.



29. **Narrator:** Linden Tree is one of the few independent bookstores still around Los Altos and other cities in California. It is one of the few local stores that have been around for nearly 20 years.



30. **Narrator:** After interviewing many customers and employees it seems that the path that Linden Tree is on makes it seem like that it will be around for another 20 more.

Slide Show by:
Amanda NeSmith

Photos by:
Amanda NeSmith

Special Thanks to:
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and Mr. Florendo

Interviewees:
Dennis Ronberg
Izzy Fisher
Nancy NeSmith

Ending Credits:

Slide Show by: Amanda NeSmith

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