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## Who is Lilith?

Lilith is a long-haired goddess dancing around a fire in the desert; the daughter of the moon; the lady of the beasts; the first wife of Adam; the feminine half of a hermaphrodite first human; and God's conspirator in punishing sons for their fathers' sins. Legend has also turned her into an exiled queen breeding by the Red Sea; a tree spirit crying out in the night; a sexual temptress tormenting men in their dreams; and the serpentine seducer of Eve in the Garden of Eden. As her complicated myth has been portrayed through the patriarchal lenses of one religion after another, she has been morphed and adapted to suit society's needs.

Throughout the years, Lilith has lived in legend, taking many forms. Women have used amulets bearing Lilith's image both for fertility and to prevent harm during childbirth and to newborns. She visits men at night and haunts them with her sexuality and beauty.

The Assyrians knew Lilith as a winged, wild-haired wind spirit. In other myths, Lilith is the lady of the beasts, hairy-legged and screeching like an owl. In the Sumerian epic *Gilgamesh and the Huluppu Tree*, Lilith lives in a willow tree and then flees to the

desert to avoid being harmed by Gilgamesh's sword.

Perhaps one of the most commonly known portrayals of Lilith, comes from Jewish mythology in the *Alphabet of Ben Sira*, a meditation on the Biblical myths surrounding the creation of Woman and Man. In this work, Lilith is the first wife of Adam, made from the same soil and filth. Adam wished for Lilith to lie prone beneath him, but she refused to submit. She said, "Why must I lie beneath you? I was also made from dust and am therefore your equal." She then invoked the name of God and left the Garden of Eden of her own accord.

Lilith leaves Adam to find peace by the Red Sea, living a life of sensual freedom. Adam, feeling scorned, appeals to God and three angels are dispatched to order her return to Eden. Lilith refuses and as punishment, God causes 100 of her children to perish daily.

Lilith represents a strong-willed female independence. She is a woman that doesn't want to be submissive to men, but to be equal. She wants to live on her own terms and with her own ideas. Lilith



*Lilith—Old Babylonian Baked Clay Plaque  
Paris, Louvre [AO 6501]*

could be considered to be not only the first woman, but also the first feminist. It is this quality of independence that the Lilith Fund hopes to instill in each one of our clients. We furthermore seek to propagate her conviction for gender equity throughout our society by providing women the opportunity to exert their own independence and make decisions regarding their personal destiny.

Sources:  
Koltuv, Barbara Black. *The Book of Lilith*. York Beach, ME: Nicolas-Hays, Inc. (1986).

Dame, Enid, Lilly Rivlin and Henry Wenkart. *Which Lilith? Feminist Writers Recreate the World's First Woman*. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, Inc. (1986).

## Abortion Assistance Fund Event a Success

On Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup>, the Lilith Fund hosted an event to benefit all three Austin-based abortion assistance funds as they come together for the first time to jointly address the realities of abortion access in our community. The three funds are The Lilith Fund, The **Rosie Jimenez** Project of the **TARAL** Education Fund, and The **Jim Wimberley** Abortion Loan Fund of **Planned Parenthood** of the Texas Capital Region.

The money raised from this event will help women with low incomes pay for abortion services.

Tad Davis, MD., an Austin area abortion provider and long-time ad-



Keynote Speaker **Marlene Fried** (right) with Executive Director of TARAL, **Kae McLaughlin** (left).

vocate for reproductive rights, opened the reception with a warm welcome and introduction for our featured speaker, **Marlene Gerber Fried**, founding President of the National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF).

Marlene described her work in the pro-choice movement and emphasized that the importance of abortion access in this movement. She explained how current abortion funding laws strip women in need of their constitutionally protected right to choose abortion. She went on to stress how important funds like the Lilith Fund, Jim Wimberley Fund, and Rosie Jimenez Fund are in the fight for reproductive equity.

The reception was a great success, and we wish to thank our sponsors:

### Advocate :

- Austin Reproductive Services
- Jane's Due Process
- Austin Women's Health Center

### Friend:

- Nick & Dorothy Juried
- Angela Atwood
- Martha Dickie & James Rader
- Nancy and Richard Neavel
- Jeanne W. Ryan, MD
- Ronya Kozmetsky
- Tom & Robbie Ausley
- Lizzie Cain Clark
- Capital Area Democratic Women
- Dr. John Gilbert & Lucia Gilbert

We would also like to thank the Clay Pit Restaurant, Austin Community Health Care Center, Austin NOW Chapter, Brianne Corn, Michael Corwin and all who attended and generously contributed to the Lilith Fund. We wouldn't succeed without you!

## Brackenridge to Become "Hospital within a Hospital"

In June 2001, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops released stricter guidelines which prohibit many reproductive services from being performed in facilities owned or managed by a Catholic healthcare service provider. The Seton Healthcare Services, a Catholic Healthcare provider, has managed Brackenridge, Austin's only public hospital, since 1996.

Under the stricter guidelines, reproductive services at Brackenridge are placed at the mercy of the Catholic church. Since June, the city has been scrambling to come up with a solution that would allow the continued provision of reproductive services, while maintaining its contract with Seton.

In January, the Austin City Council voted to amend the city's contract with Seton healthcare. In a 5-2 decision, the Council opted to create a "hospital within a hospital" as the

solution to keeping its relationship with Seton regarding the management of Brackenridge Hospital. The new city-managed hospital, located on the fifth floor of Brackenridge, will offer some of the reproductive services banned by the Catholic Church.

The new hospital will provide tubal ligations, family planning counseling, birth control, emergency contraception, and other reproductive services forbidden by the Catholic Church.

Reproductive rights supporters are wary of the new contract. Technically, the new hospital will be an autonomous institution, free from any control by the Catholic Church. However, the amended lease agreement contains language that provides for Seton's withdrawal, or its withholding of certain ancillary services shared by both hospitals (e.g., heat, air conditioning, water, etc.) if the city-managed hospital performs certain procedure deemed inappropriate by the Catholic

### We're on the Web!

You can now visit us on the web at [www.lilithfund.org](http://www.lilithfund.org). Thanks to Chris Montreuil for donating his time and technical expertise to get our website up and running.

Church--such as abortion.

It is unclear at this time whether certain medically necessary procedures that result in the termination of a pregnancy would be considered by the Church to be abortion. The Catholic Church may still hold reproductive healthcare at Austin's only public hospital at its mercy.

It may be just a matter of time before the Church tightens the reins a little more, and the city finds itself searching once again for a way around Church policy.

## How Can You Help? Throw a House Party!

A house party is one of the easiest and most profitable ways we have found to fundraise. Anyone who has ever hosted a birthday party, picnic or other celebration already knows the basics. There are, however, some specifics to a fundraising event that need to be understood.

A house party is a great way to raise awareness about abortion access and the Lilith Fund's work. By inviting friends and acquaintances to a party at your house, you can educate them about the issue and ask them to make a financial contribution, while allowing them to ask questions and clarify concerns in a smaller, more intimate setting.

A house party also allows a group of people to meet an honored guest, such as a well-known activist or political candidate. The honored guest can give a testimonial or particular viewpoint and you can then describe what can be done in response (give money!)

Remember that the purpose of a house party is to raise money to help women access abortion services. A contribution is something guests can do immediately and re-

quires the least amount of work on their part. Don't forget to ask them to make a donation.

### Five Ingredients to a Successful House Party:

#### 1. The Host and His or Her Responsibilities

The host provides the location, food and drink, and draws up the guest list. When you host a house party, you may want to give a description of the organization and the issues, or ask someone from Lilith to speak.

#### 2. The Guest List

Any number of people can be invited, of course, but it works best when there are between 12 to 50 guests. We can work with you to determine the most effective guest list.

#### 3. The Invitation

Whether the invitation is serious, light, or educational, always include these points: an indication that people will be asked for money; a way for people to make a donation without attending; a suggestion to bring friends; and an RSVP request.

#### 4. Choreograph the Event—Particularly the Pitch

Everything that happens at the house

party should be built around the pitch. Time the pitch to occur when most people will be there - usually about an hour into the party. If there is a presentation, you'll introduce the presenter. After the presentation, make the formal request for money. One way to ask for donations is to start off by saying, "I hope you will join me in supporting this important cause." If you are hesitant to ask for money, remember that proceeds are statistically lower without a pitch from the host.

#### 5. After the Event

The Lilith Fund will write thank you notes to everyone who gave money. If there are people who you think would have given but did not, you may want to call them to follow-up.

Like all fundraising strategies, house parties only work if someone actually asks for the money - otherwise a house party is just a party. If you would be interested in hosting a house party for Lilith, please call us at 877-659-4304 today! We will be happy to talk with you!

*Excerpted from Fundraising for Social Change by Kim Klein, Chardon Press*

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## EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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### Yard Sale Time

Next Lilith Fund Yard Sale will be on Saturday, March 23rd, 8 am at 4505 Avenue D. We need your used items, baked goods and/or plants by March 23rd. Email/call Shana Ginsberg at [shana.ginsberg@lifeworksweb.org](mailto:shana.ginsberg@lifeworksweb.org) or 928.0899 to arrange a pick-up or get directions to drop off your donations.

### Abortion Providers Honored

National Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers was on March 10th. Lilith Fund showed our ap-

preciation by offering free massages for Austin area providers. Thanks to Texas Healing Arts for donating their healing touch.

### Hotline Advocates Needed

Interested in being a Hotline Advocate? Hotline Training will be on Monday, 3/18 6-8:30, Wednesday, 3/20 6-8:30, Saturday, 3/23 10-3. If you can not attend all three training dates, make-up dates will be available. Please contact Bryan Hadley at 459-8628 or [bryan@lilithfund.org](mailto:bryan@lilithfund.org) for location and more information.

### Benefit Concert

We will be rocking to benefit the Lilith Fund on Thursday, April 18th. Coco Candissi and Household Names, two Austin-area rock bands have already signed on. Venue is to be announce. For more information, please contact Amanda Acklin at [amanda@lilithfund.org](mailto:amanda@lilithfund.org)

Upcoming Lilith Events:

**Hotline Volunteer Training**

*Learn to provide direct services and counseling to women in need!*

Monday, March 18th, Wednesday, March 20th, and  
Saturday, March 23rd.

**Yard Sale**

*Clothes, brownies, plants and more!*

Saturday, March 23rd.

**Benefit Concert**

*Rock for Choice!*

Thursday April 8th.

Featuring Coco Candissi and Household Names.

*Look inside for more information!*

*The Lilith Fund assists women in need to exercise their  
fundamental right to abortion by removing barriers to access.*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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