



LILITH'S VOICE

SUMMER 2004

LILITH IS THERE FOR AN HISTORIC DAY IN WASHINGTON

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On April 25, 2004, Lilith Fund board members and volunteers joined an unprecedented number of women's rights supporters gathered in Washington D.C. to express their opposition to governmental attacks on women's reproductive freedoms. The March for Women's Lives was the largest protest of its kind ever held in the nation's capital. According to the March's sponsors, attendance was 1,150,000 activists whose diversity included a richness of colors, ages, genders, orientations, religions, and nationalities.

The March was organized by the National Organization for Women, the Feminist Majority, the National Abortion Rights Action League, Planned Parenthood, American Civil Liberties Union, Black Women's Health Imperative, and the National Latina Institute for Public Health. Its purpose was to send a clear message to the Bush administration: that the women of this country, and the world, have the right to control their own bodies legally and safely and that the supporters of this right have strength and numbers.

Before the march began, the Lilith representatives joined over 1000 of their fellow Texans at an event sponsored by the Texas Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League. Attendees were treated to a series of inspirational speakers including Sarah

Weddington (the attorney who argued *Roe v. Wade*), Molly Ivins, and former Governor Ann Richards. Each of the speakers stressed that the right to control one's reproductive choices is under an attack that is not limited to the right to abortion, but also includes family planning services.

From there, the Texas delegation joined the ever-growing mass of protestors on the Mall. The March circled around the Ellipse near the White House before ending in the



late afternoon.

President Bush responded to the March by reiterating his anti-choice position.

For pictures and stories of Lilith members' experiences at the March, see pages 4 and 5.

OUR CLIENTS

On Dec. 31, 2003 On May 31, 2004

Number of women served	921	1090
Number of women following through with abortion	586	680
Minors assisted	141	162
Women in their 2nd trimester	282	360

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Amanda Jones, Co-President
Hanna Kim, Co-President
Sharene Hughes, Treasurer
Sonia Gonzalez, Secretary

Samantha Evans
Bryan Hadley
Charlie Lenk

Goodbye...

Our ultimate volunteers are the Board of Directors. The Lilith Fund would like to wish a fond farewell to our departing board members, who have given their blood, sweat and tears to making this organization great.

Co-founder and 2001-2003 Board President **Heather Busby** is going off to law school in the fall. Way to go, Heather!

Co-founder and 2003-2004 Board President **Melissa DeHaan** is now well on her way to getting a Masters in Public Health Nursing from the University of Texas. Thank you for everything you've done, Melissa! We're very proud of you!

Shana Ginsberg has gone on to devote more of her time and attention to an incredibly worthy endeavor, The Ashera Project (www.asheraproject.org) and to raising an amazing little girl, Luna. We'll miss you, Shana!

And last but certainly not least, good-bye to co-founder **Amy Juried**, whose tireless efforts with Clinic/Client Relations meant that women got the help they needed from us. Amy has left to pursue personal interests and we already miss her dearly.

... and Hello!

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to the newest members of the Lilith Fund Board of Directors. We're glad to have them all pitching in their expertise on our behalf.

Sharene Hughes has volunteered in the office for most of the last year. She writes, "Lilith is my first experience working with women's reproductive rights, and I am very pleased to have the opportunity to take a greater role in the organization." Sharene studies accounting at UT and likes okra as long as it's fried.

Amanda Jones is an attorney with more than nine years' experience in the Louisiana and Texas legislatures. She has recently accepted a governmental affairs position in Houston. Amanda has volunteered at battered women's facilities and rape crisis lines and was also a volunteer attorney with an indigent defender and local pro bono panels in Louisiana.

Charlie Lenk has been a Lilith volunteer for two years and edited the last several editions of the newsletter. He's worked for organizations as diverse as Greenpeace, the Tides Foundation, and AARP, and has a graduate degree in Non-Profit Administration from the University of San Francisco. He's also a huge *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* fan.

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

Save a Tree!

With this issue we're proud to present the Lilith Fund's first electronic-only newsletter. Now you can enjoy reading about Lilith Fund activities even more knowing that you will be saving paper! While we will alternate future issues between paper and electronic-only format, all will be available in pdf format via email or on our website: www.lilithfund.org.

Help us save money on printing and postage on future newsletters so more of your contributions will go into direct services to women. Sign up to receive the electronic version of the newsletter today by emailing info@lilithfund.org with the subject: "electronic newsletter."

Lilith Wins Grant to Promote EC

Emergency Contraception is...

...a safe, effective method to prevent pregnancy after unprotected sex or birth control failure. Ideally within 72 hours, but in no more than 120 hours after unprotected intercourse, a woman may take EC pills, which are composed of a higher dose of the same hormones found in birth control pills. EC does not abort or harm a developing embryo, but it does require a prescription. It is 75-89% effective depending on the regimen used.

Teens especially can benefit from knowing about EC, since many who are sexually active are still experimenting and are far less likely than adults to have a birth control regimen - especially if they aren't having sexual intercourse on a regular or predictable basis. EC can help protect teens from pregnancies that put them in financial and emotional stress. The ideal goal of most abortion funds is to put themselves out of business, and EC shows a lot of promise in working toward that.



*Molly Ivins (l) took jabs at Texas politicians and urged everyone to get involved in the political process, while Spike Gillespie read from her latest book **Surrender (But Don't Give Yourself Away)**. Both received standing ovations.*

The National Network of Abortion Funds recently awarded the Lilith Fund a small grant to fund a campaign aimed at promoting Emergency Contraception (EC) awareness in our community. The grant writers, board members Sonia Gonzalez and Samantha Evans, designed a proposal that targets a key demographic in pregnancy prevention: teens during prom season, with a special focus on lower-income students. Ingrid Hansen was selected as consultant for this project.

The spring months provided her with many challenges. Austin Independent School District (AISD) maintains an abstinence-based sexual education policy, and while individual schools interpret this policy in different ways, Ingrid encountered much resistance to any non-abstinence messages.

Though AISD high schools were originally conceived as the principal target locations for the emergency contraception campaign, it became increasingly obvious that these schools would not allow her to speak with students during class time or distribute materials. As a result, the campaign began to shift focus.

American Youth Works Charter School proved far more receptive to the campaign, with a health center on campus and several flexible enthusiastic administrators and educators. Ingrid worked with AYW students to spread the word about EC around their school and at their prom event, while in-class emergency contraception and sexuality health workshops prepared students to teach their peers about EC.

Students also aided in identifying businesses and locations that they and their peers frequent; from this information, the campaign was better able to target sites for advertising. Business-specific advertising is the final phase of this campaign with the remaining portion of the grant.

Volunteers worked with students to spread the word about EC at their prom event

To obtain more information about EC, visit:

- www.not2late.com
- www.backupyourbirthcontrol.org

For a list of EC providers in your area, call 1.888.NOT2LATE.

Molly and Spike: In the House

In February, The Lilith Fund was proud to host a special house party and book signing with local authors **Molly Ivins** and **Spike Gillespie**. Almost 150 guests braved inclement weather to meet, mingle, and nosh on tasty catered food with the authors and other local luminaries including **Liz Carpenter**.

The night began with an urgent call-to-action on the state of abortion in Texas. HB 15, the "Women's Right to Know Act" became effective in January 2004 and has been affecting the Lilith Fund's second trimester clients who have had to either go out of state or unwillingly decide to not exercise their constitutional right to an abortion.

Sodden outside conditions required everyone entering the

fabulous home of **Kimber Cavindish** and **Vickie Faust** to remove their shoes, fostering a very comfortable and intimate atmosphere. Thanks to the hostesses for making it such a great evening! Thanks are also due to **Lauri Apple**, **Toye Goodson** and **Betsy Moon** for their help with coordination, and to **Amy Hagstrom Miller** for being our lovely emcee.

Very special thanks are due to **Deborah Tolar** of Kestrel Printing and **Dana Marcus-Wolf** and **Susan Post** of BookWoman for their support of this event. And as always, we're grateful for the talent and time given by the planning committee: **Melissa DeHaan**, **Sonia Gonzalez**, **Ellen Hobbs** and **Kyre Osborn**, who brought it all off and made it look easy.

WASHINGTON DC, 4/25/04



Half the fun was getting there, providing you could find room on the subway.

"... What do we want?... Choice!... When do we want it? ...Now!..."
"...If you're pro-choice and you know it clap your hands...."
"...Hey, hey, ho, ho, George Bush has got to go..."

The chants I heard everywhere on that day are still clear in my mind weeks later. It was an amazing day. Over a million people came from near and far to voice, in a strong unified front, that the right to a safe and legal abortion and contraceptive choice are women's rights that we will fight for in unity, in the United States. The experience was warming, empowering, and inspiring.

Sonia Gonzalez



A thousand strong and counting: the "Don't Mess With Texas Women" rally sponsored by TARAL.



On the verge there was breathing room. On the main mall it was like sardines.



Former governor Ann Richards: Done talkin', get marchin'.

This was the second time for me marching on Washington for women's rights and I was thrilled to be back. The number of women, men, young and old, was more awe-inspiring and tremendous than in 1994. That year, I hopped a bus after attending a formal at a fraternity house and had to be strongly convinced to attend by a friend. After an all-night ride, I awoke among a crowd of topless women as the rally began around my sleeping friend

and me. I was intimidated but impressed.

This time around, I was much more involved and in the trenches in the fight for women's reproductive rights - and I was truly excited to see a lot of young women attending *their* first march. I had to sit down for half an hour to watch all of the procession behind me. My friend couldn't attend because she was in the hospital, so afterwards I went to visit her with all my buttons and stickers still on. Proudly.

Melissa DeHaan



A huge Lone Star banner provided a rallying point for stray Texans.

WASHINGTON DC, 4/25/04



The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice came out in force.

On my way to the March, I met a mother and daughter from Texas. I thought it was wonderful to see how the belief in this fundamental right transcends generations. I called my mother while I was waiting for the Texas delegation's presentation to begin; she was there in spirit with me, marching hand in hand.

Amanda Jones



The opposition was there too, but kept along the fringes.

This was the first march of any scale that I'd ever attended. What most impressed me and redoubled my faith in activism was the scope and diversity of women and men marching. Crammed in D.C. Metro cars, I stood openly admiring women two generations older than myself and involved with this powerful feminist work for longer than my entire life. These crusaders turned back to me with mutual respect and acknowledgment, and passed the responsibility onto the shoulders of my generation. As the incomparable Bylye Avery remarked, "This is work for bleedin' women!"

Ingrid Hansen



Hey-ho, let's go: Board member Sonia Gonzalez joins the March.

The bus that my mother and I took from Philadelphia was two hours late and we missed meeting up with the other Lilith folks at the TARAL rally as planned. She and I carried the banner the whole day (aided for awhile by Houston volunteer Carla Oster - thanks, Carla!) and by the time we reached the Ellipse we were both pretty worn out. She sat on a park bench while I went to have a look at the counter-protestors on Constitution. One red-faced man looked as if he was on the verge of a stroke: "God hates you for killing babies," he frothed. "He *hates* you. You are a sick, degenerate generation." I went back and picked up the banner again. I didn't feel so tired anymore. There's still way too much work to do.

Charlie Lenk



Volunteer-for-the-day Dorothy Carroll and Board member Charlie Lenk (her son).



Just a bunch of friends out together for a stroll on a cloudy afternoon.

Many thanks to Ellen Hobbs and Kyre Osborn, who took all the photos on these pages except the one above.

Volunteer Corner



What would The Lilith Fund be without volunteers? The answer: nothing - it's an all-volunteer organization and our gratitude to everyone that helps out is insurmountable!

First, thanks to everyone who helped get our spring newsletter in the mail: **Jed Busby, Allan D. Campbell, Melissa DeHaan, Samantha Evans, Sonia Gonzalez, Jenny Hixon, Sharene Hughes, Hanna Kim, Luke Metzger, and Christina Worle.**

Thank you also to the volunteers and board members who helped at the February house party with Molly Ivins and Spike Gillespie: **Heather Busby, Sharon Chu, Samantha Evans, Christina Gomez Mira, Bren Gorman, Emily Habermehl, Bryan Hadley, Ingrid Hansen, Dylan Hostetter, Matthew Dickman, Amanda Jones, Amy Juried, Hanna Kim, Traci Koenig, Mary Beth Martini and newlyweds Elliott Hostetter and Virginia Yount.** *And, of course, thank you Molly and Spike for donating your time!*

The First Annual Reproductive Equity Awards were a terrific success and we'd like to thank everyone who helped out before, during and after the event. In addition to the Events Committee and the Board, thanks are due to:

Lauri Apple, Brian Bazzell, Jed Busby, Andrew Butts, Christina Calvillo, Allan D. Campbell, Kara Campbell, Robin Chandler, Sharon Chu, Pat Cramer, Susan Daniels, Bryce Davis, Kaeleen DeVoss, Keisha Gash, Steven Greenstein, Toye Goodson, Nina Gordon, Bren Gorman, Samir Gulati, Ingrid Hansen, Jenny Hixon, Mikisha Hooper, Nevin Karkoutly, Beth Larsen, Jennifer Logan, Lorna Mazoff, Mariah McPhail, Christina Morse, Becky Pastner, Jaclyn Peters, Stephanie Powers, Jenny Rogue, Lynnsie Ruffino, Kelli Sureck, Anna Tekippe, Jessica Valverde, Lisa Waddell, Shannon Walton, and Christina Worle.

In addition, Lilith is very grateful to all those who donated goods and services to the FARE event. A complete list of donors will be

posted on the Lilith website soon.

Awesome graphic artist **Joe Cuniff** deserves a load of thanks for designing our wonderful new brochures and for his willingness to help with flyers and other projects. The Lilith Fund is fortunate to benefit from his talent!

Jed Busby is always willing to help whenever we need him and lately we've needed his computer help the most. Thank you, Jed!

The editor of this newsletter wishes to thank **Howard Rains** for his generous gifts of material and time that have made this edition possible.

Thank you also to **Keisha Gash** and **Emiko Petrosky**, The Lilith Fund's new interns, for all of their help!

One valuable way to spread the word about Lilith and abortion access is to get out into the community with our information. Thank you to **Sonia Gonzalez, Sharene Hughes, Hanna Kim, Charlie Lenk, Melanie Merrill and Stephanie Powers** for tabling at the Pride Festival. And a huge thanks to **Forbidden Fruit** for donating supplies for the table! And thank you also to **Heather Busby** and **Sharene Hughes** for working the table at the UT Women's Studies Fair.

A thousand thanks to the volunteers who do one of the jobs most important of all to Lilith: the hotline. For their diligence, enthusiasm, and spirit, well-deserved kudos to: **Virginia Weihs, Laura Wells, Carla Oster, Neesha Dave, Megan Cler, Lynnsie Ruffino, Ingrid Hansen, Christina Worle, Crystal Moble, Keisha Gash, Tamara Talarico, Tamara Klindt, Kristin Fischer, Kathy Goodwin, Stephanie Powers, and Sara Leibovich.**

Finally, we wish to pay special tribute to **Cindy Beringer**, long-time hotline volunteer who is taking a leave of absence. Cindy was a founding Board member and continued to work the hotline even while dedicating herself to a wide variety of social justice projects. We will miss her.

First Equity Awards a Success

Q: How many anti-choicers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: None — they like to work in the dark.

This was just one of the many jokes told during the First Annual Reproductive Equity Awards. This event was held on April 1st at Fiesta Gardens in Austin and specially honored **Diana Philip**, Executive Director and co-founder of JANE'S DUE PROCESS.

The event was a smashing hit (in spite of the location being still under construction), with a large and enthusiastic turnout. Ms. Philip, as the guest of honor, was duly roasted, and the Events committee would like to thank her for being such a great sport - and for allowing her friends and colleagues (**D'an Anders, Lori Hansel, Jenny Hixon, Jay Jacobson, Marni Pengelli, and Chandra Ward**) to expose many of her secrets.

While the roast was the main event, there was also a silent auction with an abundance of fabulous items, and a scrumptious catered dinner. The opening music performed by members of the **Austin Civic Orchestra** set an elegant ambiance and the **Garreth Broesche Band** closed out the night of celebration with a festive beat.

Lilith owes a debt of gratitude to our wonderful sponsors, silent auction and in-kind donors for giving so much of their time, experience, food and gift items to the cause. We would also like to thank all the volunteers (see Volunteer Corner, left) - when so many of you lend a helping hand, you make the Lilith Fund a truly grassroots community organization!

And last but not least, a big huzzah to the Events Committee: **Vijay Akkaraju, Heather Busby, Emily DeWees, Mikisha Hooper, Amy Juried, Hanna Kim** and terrific co-chairs **Shana Ginsberg** and **Amanda Jones**. Without their time and energy, this event would not have happened.

Think Nationally, Act Locally: the Annual NNAF Conference

The National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF) held its annual conference from April 22nd to 24th in Adelphi, Maryland. One hundred eighty participants attended the 2004 conference, representing funds from 35 different states. Lilith Board members Sonia Gonzalez and Amanda Jones and intern Ingrid Hansen were on hand, as were several abortion rights organizations such as the Center for Reproductive Rights.

Founded in 1993, NNAF is a non-profit organization that is a national affiliation of local abortion funds, of which the Lilith Fund is one. Based upon the belief that the right to choose abortion is meaningless without access to services, NNAF's mission is facilitate networking and support for existing funds, to provide outreach and support to create new funds, to meet the immediate funding needs of women, and engage in coalition work at the national level on issues of abortion

access. Hosting an annual conference is but one way NNAF provides support and networking opportunities for the local funds.

Attendees were as diverse as the funds they represented. Some funds were faith-based organizations, while several others provided only support services such as travel expenses and child care. Some states had numerous funds; others had only one. Eight new funds have become affiliated with NNAF since 2003.

The conference offered several sessions on fundraising, fund organization, and diversity. Each provided a unique learning experience where the local fund participants shared their experience. Following the conclusion of the conference, most attendees traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the March for Women's Lives.

For more information about NNAF, go to www.nnaf.org.



Board members Sonia Gonzalez (l) and Amanda Jones at the Conference.

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To make an online donation, go to the Lilith Fund website at

www.lilithfund.org

and click on:



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