



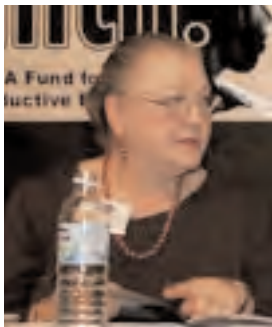
LILITH'S VOICE

SUMMER 2006

REA pays tribute to Peggy Romberg

The third annual Reproductive Equity Awards was a huge success thanks to our many supporters.

The Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve provided the perfect setting for this gala event on April 27 that honored Peggy Romberg, a leading advocate for reproductive freedom.



Peggy Romberg

The evening began with a VIP reception for major donors complemented by live music by Angelic Strings and scrumptious appetizers by Amy Juried. The evening moved from the reception into a full meal provided by Dagar's Catering with exquisitely delicious cheesecake lollipops being passed among the guests while they were socializing and viewing silent auction items. Spicewood Vineyards furnished beverages.

Sarah Wheat, of NARAL Pro-Choice Texas, and Dr. Sharilyn K. Stanley, who presented prepared remarks on behalf of Rep. Dawanna Dukes, spoke eloquently about Peggy's contribution to assuring reproductive equity and her efforts to protect reproductive freedom for all.

Shannon Walton and Hanna Kim served as mistresses of ceremony



Rep. Elliott Naishtat, Maureen Engle and Carol Frederick

and thanked the guests for attending, adding an appeal for continued financial support. The evening concluded with music spun by DJ Polecat (a.k.a Will Rhodes).

Once again, thanks to all who made this evening so wonderful. We hope our Austin-based supporters will give their business to our sponsors so they will continue supporting us, and wherever you are, please don't let the end of this event be the end of your involvement with The Lilith Fund.

Call (877-355-1463) to volunteer your time, expertise and/or financial assistance throughout the year!



Rep. Dawanna Dukes and Dr. Sharilyn Stanley

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GOODBYE ...

Lilith Fund owes a debt of gratitude to **Rebecca Snowden** for her dedication to the hotline. Rebecca left the board in 2005 when she moved to Dallas, where she now works for a small wireless company as a product manager.

The Lilith Fund would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the board members whose two-year terms expired in 2006. They have given, and continue to give, their blood, sweat, and tears to make this organization great!

Treasurer **Sharene Hughes** graduated from UT Austin with a degree in accounting and will be earning money at last! Although she has relocated to San Antonio, she plans to continue to take hotline calls.

Although **Charlie Lenk's** tenure with the board has ended, his involvement with the Lilith Fund continues as web master and publications editor.

Secretary **Shannon Walton's** term of office expired just in time: she is expecting a baby in November! Shannon will continue to provide technical support to Lilith.

South Dakota and Mississippi are not Texas (yet) *Why You Should Care!*

South Dakota lawmakers recently approved the nation's most far-reaching ban on abortion, setting the stage for new legal challenges that its supporters say they hope will lead to an overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. The measure makes it a felony for doctors to perform any abortion except to save the life of a pregnant woman. South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds (R) is a well-known opponent of abortion and is considered likely to sign the bill into law.

The Mississippi legislature is considering a similar bill. Gov. Haley Barbour (R) said he would probably sign this bill.

You should care because the ultimate losers when states outlaw abortion are the women that funds like the Lilith Fund help: women without means to fly to a state where the procedure is still available.

THANK YOU TO OUR HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS

A HUGE thanks to all of our hotline volunteers! Currently we have about fifteen active volunteers. Our goal is to have enough so that each volunteer has to answer the hotline only one day per month. We have an enormous appreciation for ALL of our volunteers. Their patience and determination is second to none and there would be no Lilith without them. If you are eager to serve Texas low-income women by helping to remove barriers to abortion, please e-mail us at info@lilithfund.org and our hotline coordinator will call you to let you know when and where the next hotline training session is being held.

...AND HELLO

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to the members of the Lilith Fund Board of Directors who have joined since fall of 2005. Besides serving on the Board, each of these energetic women are also hotline volunteers. Way to go!

Sabine Berghammer has worked at Whole Woman,s Health as a patient advocate for over two years and has recently been working as manager of the San Marcos satellite clinic. As well as being the new board secretary, Sabine (pronounced sa-BEEN-ah) is fluent in Spanish.

Christine Christy moved to Austin from England in 2004. Prior to joining the Lilith Fund, Christine was the executive director of a local chapter of a national nonprofit called StandUp For Kids which helps unaccompanied homeless and street youth. Christine holds a bachelors degree in English language studies as well as a masters degree in educational leadership and management. Her professional background includes teaching English language and literature to high school students and adult learners.

Jennie Hoelscher is an attorney in the litigation and appellate sections at Brown McCarroll, L.L.P. She was drawn to Lilith because of her belief in the importance of all women having control over their own bodies and their own futures. Jennie observes that more women are currently enrolled in law school in the United States than men and that this would not have happened but for the reproductive freedom women now possess.

Ghazaleh Moayed is an executive assistant and patient advocate with Whole Women's Health Clinic and brings the clinical perspective to the Lilith Board. Ghazaleh spends much of her time traveling intra-state between Whole Women's Clinics in McAllen, Baltimore, San Marcos, Beaumont, and Austin.

Anita Nadeem is an accounting major at UT Austin and was recruited as new treasurer by Sharene Hughes.

Shannon Rauh has been involved in women's reproductive rights since the early 90s and has taken on many roles: counselor for a reproductive health center that provided abortions, manager of a Planned Parenthood clinic in Northeast Texas, director of counseling for Austin Women's Health Center, and health educator/patient advocate for Planned Parenthood in Austin. She lectures at UT Austin on sexual health issues and oversees the sexual health peer educator training program there.

Kyle Marie Stock recently graduated with honors from the University of Michigan where she obtained a B.A. in anthropology. Kyle has been involved in the women's movement in many capacities including reproductive rights and domestic violence and sexual assault issues. She plans to apply to law school and is interested in public interest law particularly in relation to women.

LILITH ABOUT TOWN!

•BOOK- (AND FILM-) PEOPLE

Lilith recruited volunteers at screenings of four films by local director/producers in January at the Book Woman and Monkeywrench bookstores in Austin.

•THE V-WORD

Lilith had a display table at performances of the Vagina Monologues on the UT-Austin campus in February in honor of Women's History Month, as well as at Monologues performances at the Paramount Theatre in Austin in March.



Joanne Richards at the Vagina Monologues

•ACC

For Women's History Month, the Gender & Sexuality Program at Austin Community College hosted its second annual Female Focus event that specializes in women and/or women's issues. Lilith was one of the women's organizations invited onto the ACC Rio Grande Campus to inform students of the resources available to them and had a display table at this exciting event.

• OUT OF TOWN

Lilith is embarking on an effort to expand our fundraising efforts throughout Texas. Lilith now has a volunteer who has agreed to champion our cause in El Paso. In the Houston area, past Board President Heather Busby continues to represent Lilith. And in an exciting agreement finalized in January, we are collaborating with the Texas Equal Access Fund in Dallas/Fort Worth.

THE HYDE AMENDMENT 30 Years is Enough!

With the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, abortion became legal across the United States. Not only was it now legal, but it also became readily accessible to a broad demographic, as Medicaid would fund abortion procedures no matter the patient's age or ability to pay.

Unfortunately, just three years later access to abortion was severely restricted by what became known as the Hyde Amendment.

In 1976, Representative Henry Hyde (R-IL) managed to pass a bill through Congress that ended Medicaid funding for abortion with exceptions only in cases where the life of the mother was in danger. Later, exception provisions for rape and incest were added to the measure. Before the passage of the Hyde Amendment, Medicaid paid for nearly one-third of all abortions – approximately 300,000 per year. Following the restrictions enacted by Hyde, Medicaid paid for practically none.

The loss of Medicaid funding for

abortion has put considerable and sometimes insurmountable barriers to access into place. Today the average cost of an abortion is \$468 a sum often greater than a poverty-level family lives on in a month. As a result, many poor women go to great lengths — borrowing money, pawning personal items, delaying bill payment, and going without basic necessities — in order to succeed in exercising their legal right to obtain an abortion.

The Lilith Fund aims to help remove barriers that low-income women face to abortion access. As a response to the upcoming 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Hyde Amendment, Lilith is planning an October music event in Austin to raise awareness concerning reproductive rights and to raise money to support low-income women of Texas who are seeking an abortion.

Stay tuned! Look for more information on this fun-filled and important event on our web site at www.lilithfund.org.

VOLUNTEER NOW!

Lilith fund needs your help.

- Helping at the April 2007 Reproductive Equity Award tribute
- Hosting a House Party
- Grant writing
- Fundraising
- Tabling at spring events
- Answering hotline calls
- Writing newsletter articles
- And much more

Call 877-355-1463 or e-mail at info@lilithfund.org

The Lilith Fund: True Abortion Stories

We live in an age of possibility and opportunity, fueled by an ever growing realm of instant and independent communication outlets able to reach a worldwide audience at the touch of a button.

After the hotline was forced to temporarily shutdown last fall due to lack of funding and increased need, we witnessed the tremendous power of the blog to organize and motivate our friends across the globe to take action.

The word spread like wildfire. Our Word.org posted an urgent plea to help Lilith and we received several thousand dollars in contributions from our pro-choice, pro-woman allies all over the world. We quadrupled our monthly donation receipts in the months of November and December 2005, and the hotline was re-opened for business on December 15th.

It was this outpouring of support and the power of global communication to unite and inspire so many to action which led to the creation of The Lilith Fund: True Abortion Stories (<http://lilithfund.blogspot.com>). Here Lilith volunteers post their stories about the real-life experiences with identifying characteristics changed in order to protect privacy) of the diverse group of women who receive our help in a crisis: they need to end a pregnancy, but they don't have the money for the procedure. They are scared, alone, confused and sometimes feel hopeless and abandoned.

These voices are rarely heard in the debates on reproductive rights and health care reform: women of all ages, races, and socio-economic backgrounds. They are struggling to protect their families and themselves against relentless threats of poverty, unemployment, homelessness, violence, chronic health problems, incomplete education, discrimination and so much more. They are our sisters. Our daughters. Our mothers. Our friends. They are us. We hope that our readers will get a glimpse of the many difficulties faced by Lilith's callers as they attempt to exercise their rights to decide for themselves whether or not to become a mother or to have another child. Here are three of their stories.

DENISE

Denise is a 21-year-old mother of three. She had been using protection with her partner, so she was shocked to find out she was pregnant.

After telling her boyfriend that she was pregnant, he began to laugh. She became concerned and asked what was so funny. "I guess it worked," he replied. She discovered that he had been poking holes in the condoms they were using to "see what the odds were" that he could get a girl pregnant. "He was playing a game," she explained to me, "he was playing a game with my life." Denise explained that she promptly dumped him and began seeking out resources to get an abortion.

Despite being a young mother of three, Denise has a life plan. She has just started technical college and hopes to build a career that can support her kids. This pregnancy was certainly not in her plan. With our help, Denise will be able to have an abortion and get back to taking care of her kids and attending technical school. Good luck Denise!

GENEVIEVE

Genevieve is 16 years old and 9 weeks pregnant. Her mother is single with 4 children and does not work because she feels that it is important to be home for Genevieve, who suffers from major bipolar mental illness. She spent one year at the Texas Youth Commission for burglary and is now on parole. They have Medicaid through Williamson County and are not eligible for assistance with abortion fees. Lilith will be helping her with the funding.

LAUREN

Lauren is a 33-year-old woman who doesn't want to have kids because she is taking care of her schizophrenic mother who has diabetes. This overwhelming responsibility makes her feel like she already has a child. She tried to find a doctor to perform an elective tubal ligation prior to her pregnancy but to no avail. She was using birth control and found out she is pregnant. She is a student and cannot fully fund her abortion, and she is emotionally and financially unable to take on the added responsibility of a baby. Lilith contributed \$50 to the \$400 cost.

JOIN LILITH'S EMAIL LIST

The Lilith Fund has an e-mail list to notify you when new issues of its newsletter are published on our web site. Please send your e-mail address to info@lilithfund.org with the subject "newsletter" to be added to this list.

Think Nationally, Act Locally: The Annual NNAF Conference

The National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF) held its annual conference June 22-24 in Portland, Ore.

This year approximately 55 of the 108 member funds from Alaska to Florida sent one or more representatives to the conference. Joanne Richards and Sabine Berghammer, Board president and secretary, respectively, represented Lilith.

The plenary focused on "Hyde – 30 Years is Enough!", a campaign launched by NNAF to shed light on the devastating impact of the lack of public funding for abortion care. See upcoming Lilith Hyde-related activities.

Highlights of the conference included: keynote speaker Dorothy Roberts, whose address on reproductive justice included a discussion of the interplay of gender, race, and class in legal issues concerning reproduction and motherhood; banquet speaker Dr. Daniel C. Maguire, professor of moral theological ethics at Marquette University, who spoke on what the religions of the world have to say about abortion (not much, it turns out); and a poetry performance by Judith Arcana, a member of Jane, the

Chicago-based underground feminist clinic that helped women and girls get safe illegal abortions before Roe. Ms. Arcana read poignant selections from her body of work dealing with abortion and related reproduction themes.

Also of special note was a talk given by Dr. George Tiller, one of two abortion providers in the U.S. who perform late-term abortions. Dr. Tiller practices with Women's Healthcare Services in Wichita, Kan. and gave a passionate talk on why he is an abortion provider – "to help women's dreams come true."

The conference offered several workshops on grant writing, fundraising, media relations, best practices, and current-day contraception options including emergency contraception. Each workshop provided a unique learning experience where the local fund participants shared their ideas and experiences.

Member funds also exchanged newsletters, annual reports and unusual and exciting fund raising events. Lots



Sabine Berghammer, Dr. George Tiller, and Joanne Richards at the NNAF Conference

of serious topics were discussed but the conference planners saved some time for fun and camaraderie as well.

NNAF's mission is to facilitate networking and support for existing abortion funds, to provide outreach and support to newly created funds, to meet their immediate funding needs, and to engage in coalition work at the national level on issues of abortion access.

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

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1. Log on to BuyForCharity.com.
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3. **THE LILITH FUND** will receive up to 35% of each purchase that you make at BuyFor Charity.com.

Donate Online

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

www.lilithfund.org

and click on:

Network for Good

From time to time we may make our mailing list available to other grassroots organizations on a one-time basis. Our list may be shared with organizations that we feel might be of interest to our supporters and that can provide us with the opportunity to attract additional support. If you would rather we did not include your name, please write us, email info@lilithfund.org or call 1-877-355-1403 and we will respect your choice to opt out of receiving their mailings.