



2007 – Our Year In Review

JANUARY:

- Photographer Phyllis Christopher, her British partner Helen and Belinda Ryan, President Out4Immigration, meet with Speaker Nancy Pelosi's Chief of Staff in San Francisco thanking Ms. Pelosi for her past support and asking her to use her political power to fight for couples like Phyllis and Helen. This is Phyllis' last activity before leaving the country and living in exile.

FEBRUARY:

- Out4Immigration presents "Immigration & The LGBTQ Community" at Lifeworks Mentoring in West Hollywood, a non-profit dedicated to helping lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth reach their goals and dreams. Presenter is Board Member Chris Haiss.
- Out4Immigration holds a workshop at the 17th Western Regional LGBTQIA College Conference at UC Riverside.
- Out4Immigration members meet with Congressman Henry Waxman and share stories about binational same-sex couples and their families.
- At the Open House for Congresswoman Linda Sanchez' new office in Cerritos, Board Member Chris Haiss thanks the Congresswoman for her past support of the Uniting American Families Act and her ongoing support of equality and justice for ALL Americans regardless of their sexual orientation.
- Chris Haiss has the opportunity to meet with Angelica Vilchez, Office of Congresswoman Maxine Waters, to inform about the dire situation of binational same-sex couples and their families.

MARCH:

- Out4Immigration meets with Congressman Howard Berman's Director of Casework & Projects, Margaret Mott, to share personal stories and to talk about the tough decision a U.S. citizen in a binational same-sex relationship is forced to make - choosing between country and partner. Veteran Jim Carrozo rightfully raises the question: "*Why should I, as a gay U.S. citizen with a foreign partner, be forced to leave my country for which I was willing to give my life, while immigration reform would allow NON-U.S. citizens to come here?!*"
- Chris Haiss meets friend Scott at LAX waiting for his connecting flight back to China where he and his Chinese same-sex partner Joey live.
- Board Member Chris Haiss is interviewed by Xpress Online, San Francisco State University, for the article *Trans-Migration* which focuses on transgender immigrants.
- Out4Immigration is one of the cosponsors of two screenings of Sebastian Cordoba's outstanding documentary *Through Thick and Thin* which focuses on the immigration struggle of gay and lesbian couples in America. The other cosponsors are the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), the Bay Area Immigrants Rights Coalition (BAIRC), Ellas en Accion, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGHLRC), the San Francisco LGBT Community Center's Latino Forum, and the Transgender Law Center (TLC).

APRIL:

- Chris Haiss is guest at the GSA Southern California headquarters in downtown Los Angeles to talk about LGBT immigration history, the current situation, and how the future might look like for LGBT immigrants, their partners, and their families.

MAY:

- Out4Immigration and collaborative partner NCLR (National Center for Lesbian Rights) join immigration groups for the May Day Mobilization in San Francisco.
- Out4Immigration increases in size - Belinda and Wendy are pleased to announce the arrival of their baby son! He will be attending his first San Francisco Gay Pride Parade in June and is looking forward to wearing a baby-sized Out4Immigration T-shirt.

JUNE:

- Farewell Party for Tim & Bernd in San Francisco – Out4Immigration loses another couple forced into exile.
- Out4Immigration marches in the West Hollywood Pride Parade.
- Out4Immigration makes it into the Spanish-language daily HOY under the headline *Gays Piden Ser Incluidos En La Reforma Migratoria*.
- Out4Immigration is co-presenter of Sebastian Cordoba's documentary *Through Thick and Thin* screening at the LGBT Film Festival in San Francisco.

- Out4Immigration marches in the San Francisco Pride Parade.
Thanks to Lifetime Achievement Grand Marshals Stuart Gaffney & John Lewis who invited us to march with them, we are right at the front of the parade!
This year's parade was webcast live at KRON 4 and aired live on Comcast Channel 99 in the Bay Area. Mickey Lim, our Vice President, was one of those chosen by the parade reporters and was able to address our issues to the viewers at home.
- The City of Los Angeles celebrates GLBT Pride Month and Out4Immigration joins other community groups for this first-of-its-kind event at City Hall, commemorating the Stonewall Rebellion. The ceremony was televised throughout the city and Board Member Doug Haxall addressed the issue of binational same-sex couples.

JULY:

- *In memory of U.S. Citizens forced into exile; in hope that our families will be recognized one day.*
At the request of the Honorable Barbara Boxer, United States Senator, a flag was flown over the United States Capitol on July 4, 2007, for Out4Immigration.
- Out4Immigration volunteers assist California Assembly Speaker Nuñez and his staff during a Citizenship Workshop in Boyle Heights (Los Angeles).
The Citizenship Fair was hosted by the Salesian Boys & Girls Club in collaboration with NALEO Education Fund, the Mexican American Bar Association and La Opinion.
- Volunteering at Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi's Citizenship Workshop in San Francisco are Board Members Amos Lim and Belinda Ryan.
- Out4Immigration is one of the Community Collaborators at this year's Los Angeles Outfest Film Festival for Sebastian Cordoba's documentary *Through Thick and Thin*.
Sebastian Cordoba's moving documentary about seven binational couples wins the coveted Outfest "Freedom" Award.
- Our issue and Board Member Doug Haxall make it on the front page of the Los Angeles Times' California Section under the headline *Line in Sand for Same-Sex Couples*.
Based on this Los Angeles Times article several other publications pick up the issue and Chris Haiss' quote "It's outrageous that U.S. citizens are forced to choose between their country and partner." is picked up as the SmartQuote by the Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute.
- Vice President Mickey Lim is a guest on the Alan Colmes radio show.

AUGUST:

- Out4Immigration applauds Congresswoman Barbara Lee for her introduction of legislation that would remove the HIV ban from the INA (Immigration & Nationality Act).
- Out4Immigration participates in the 2007 San Francisco Immigrant Rights Summit.
A workshop on LGBT and immigration issues is co-presented by Board Member Amos Lim and representatives from the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), the AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP) and the Transgender Law Center (TLC).

SEPTEMBER:

- Out4Immigration presents Sebastian Cordoba's documentary *Through Thick & Thin* in Fresno, California. Board Members Amos and Mickey Lim are available for Q & A.

OCTOBER:

- Out4Immigration attends Outfest's *The Legacy Awards - A Gala For The Outfest Legacy Project For LGBT Film Preservation* in Hollywood.
- Belinda, Wendy and their baby son meet with freshman Representative Jerry McNerney's staffers to discuss the plight of binational same-sex couples, and ask for the Congressman's cosponsorship of the UAFA.
- Out4Immigration presents the workshop *Immigration & The LGBTQ Community - Joteria Sin Fronteras* at Models of Pride, Occidental College, Los Angeles. Co-presenting with Board Member Chris Haiss is Ari Ruiz Reyes, Los Angeles City Youth Council Representative for Councilmember Jose Huizar.

NOVEMBER:

- Out4Immigration participates in the Palm Springs Pride Parade.
- Board Member Chris Haiss meets with four students from the University of Southern California (USC) working on a civil rights project, to talk about Out4Immigration, its mission and work.

DECEMBER:

- On World AIDS Day, Out4Immigration has an info table at Outfest's FUSION Fair at the Egyptian Theater in the heart of Hollywood.
- Out4Immigration and NCLR cosponsor the Frameline screening of Sebastian Cordoba's documentary "Through Thick & Thin" at the LGBT Center in San Francisco. To the surprise of everyone, Martha McDevitt-Pugh, cofounder of Love Exiles who is living in exile in the Netherlands, attends the event. She speaks about the experience of Americans having to leave the U.S. and starting all over in a new country in order to stay together with their foreign same-sex partner. Out4Immigration Vice President Mickey Lim speaks about the struggle same-sex binational couples face.
- Out4Immigration applauds Senator John Kerry for his introduction of legislation that would remove the HIV ban from the INA (Immigration & Nationality Act). We also thank the two original cosponsors, Senators Richard Durbin and Gordon Smith.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

OUT4IMMIGRATION