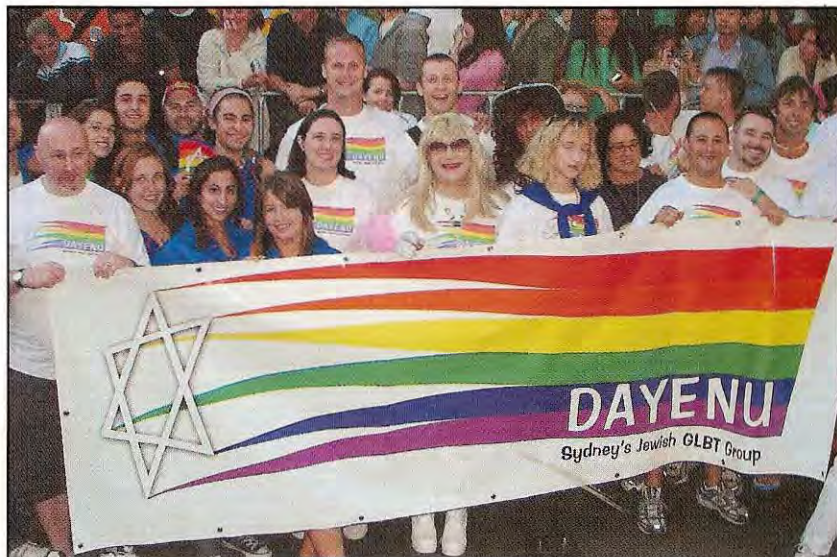


ENOUGH ALREADY!

The Dayenu float aims to challenge anti-semitism in the queer community and homophobia from some elements of the Jewish population, writes Katrina Fox.



Dayenu is a social group for the Jewish GLBT community. The name means 'Enough!' or 'Enough Already!' according to Roy Freeman, organiser of the group's float entry in this year's Mardi Gras Parade. "It's our response to the intolerances of others who wish to sweep us under the carpet, or worse," he tells *SX*.

This will be Roy's seventh time marching in the Parade and this year the group's focus is on gay marriage.

"2008 was a pretty big year, as it saw the first ever same-gender commitment ceremony held in a

Progressive Synagogue in Australia performed by a Rabbi," Roy says. "We're planning to have the grooms, Scott and Christopher, in a convertible with a few 'Just married' signs on it as part of the float, with members and friends marching along behind it.

"We also plan to team with the theme of 'Nations United' by having a few national flags of the countries we represent. Last year, one of the presenters at the Bobby Goldsmith stand introduced us as the 'Israeli float' for some reason. I thought this was quite amusing, but it does seem that some people assume that just because we're Jewish, we're all Israeli. We have members from Australia, New Zealand, the UK, South

Africa, Zimbabwe, the US, Brazil, Israel and elsewhere so hopefully the various national flags will emphasise what a diverse bunch we are."

With the situation in Gaza dominating the headlines recently, it seems pertinent to ask about the group's opinion on the subject. "Dayenu is a social group, rather than a political organisation, and as such we don't have an official position on the current situation, other than to say that we long for a peaceful and everlasting solution: Palestinians and Israelis each with their own free democratic state, living alongside each other in peace," Roy says.

The group, which began in 2000,

hopes its float will go some way to challenge prejudices from all quarters.

"As Jewish gays and lesbians, we sometimes cop it on two fronts," asserts Roy. "There are elements of homophobia within the Jewish community, especially from the more Orthodox side, and unfortunately we sometimes come across anti-semitism within the gay and lesbian community. There are stereotypes from both communities of how people think we should be, so we participate in the parade to challenge those perceptions."

For more information on Dayenu, visit www.dayenu.org.au