

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

8/12/08

(Standup Week 170)

Tuesday, 6pm–7pm

Why are we in Iraq?

Not because of weapons of mass destruction.

Not because Iraq was involved in 9/11.

Not because Iraq was a threat to our national security.

What have we gotten?

US military dead: 4,137 US military wounded: 30,490

Iraqi civilians killed: 94,412* Money spent on war: \$548 billion

Who are we?

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War has pledged to “Stand Up” until the war ends and the troops come home safely.

Every Tuesday evening at 6 pm (rain or shine), **Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War** assembles on the northwest corner of 8th Avenue and 24th Street to facilitate “**Chelsea Stands Up Against the War,**” a community protest against the war in Iraq.

We carry banners, signs, and candles as we gather for one hour each week to protest the war in Iraq. We distribute this newsletter, peace buttons, collect signatures on petitions and speak with our neighbors about the need to end war in Iraq. The **Stand Up** make a dramatic statement to passing vehicular traffic on 8th avenue.

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War is an all-volunteer organization that wants to build the broadest possible neighborhood consensus. With that goal in mind, the organization is open to all and functions by consensus.

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War is not formally affiliated with any other organization but is willing to work with all groups and individuals who are committed to ending this illegal and immoral war fought by our fellow citizens, paid for with our tax dollars, and prosecuted in our name.

*The recent Johns Hopkins/Lancet report places the figure at 655,000+



Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War

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Local Action Over Two Wars— 100 Years Apart

By Jay Stockman

Remember the Vietnam war? The U.S. draft situation with its varied exemptions held sway then. My exemption came from injury in an automobile accident. Others crowded into colleges for an academic deferment.

This brought to mind a situation in New York City during our own Civil War.

I read tales of a four-day Civil War draft riot in “The Great Riots of New York, 1712–1773” by Joseph Tyler Headly. The riot began in 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln started a draft for the Union forces. A \$300 payment (and money’s value was very much different from today’s) could set you free from this through paying a substitute to take your place. Other readings about the Civil War gave me no, or little, inkling of the North’s need for manpower. But, it is always provident to take precautions in an uncertain affair, as Lincoln must’ve thought. New York City and Boston were prime sites to lure Irish immigrants fleeing famine at home. For the Irish, flight to a new country did not turn them into wealthy people. The \$300 price to avoid the draft was far more than they could afford. Being drafted or buying out for \$300 held for them little or no choice. So, after four days of local rioting, NYC’s council set aside \$2,500,000 to pay for exempting those wanting their freedom from conscription, but who could not pay the price.

Two wars a hundred years apart; two times of civil unrest, are little known parts of American history that should be noted and taken note of.



Photo by Gary Scholchet