

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

9/29/09

(Standup Week 229)

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?

In Iraq

US military dead: **4,345**
US military wounded: **31,513**
Iraqi civilians killed: **101,801*** Money
spent on war: **\$690 billion**

In Afghanistan

US military dead: **838**
US military wounded: **Not available**
Afghani civilians killed: **13,034**
Money spent on war: **\$228 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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Ideals Count

By Kate Abell and Bob Martin

At the Kandinsky show at the Guggenheim Museum, we were struck by a fact in his biography. In the early years of the Russian Revolution bringing art to the regular people was important enough to warrant famous artists working to figure out how to disperse paintings throughout the country so all would have access.

Today, many speak in disparagingly of the former Soviet Union. But not of Russia before the revolution, when huge amounts of wealth—and all the art—was held in the hands of so few. We react to the betrayal of ideals. Where there are no ideals, we expect little.

Xe, formerly Blackwater, supplier of mercenaries to Iraq, had their State Department contract extended, with no fanfare, although five employees are charged with 35 charges of manslaughter. Acorn, a low-income advocacy group, lost federal funding in a matter of days after four employees were (illegally) caught on tape giving morally questionable advice about tax returns.

Former president George W. Bush repeatedly lied about weapons of mass destruction and unilaterally invaded Iraq based on those lies. While there was opposition there was no disappointment, no sense of betrayal. His presidency was based on fear, entitlement, and us and them.

President Barack Obama, on the other hand, is daily held to a higher standard, because he was elected as someone who considers it axiomatic that the playing field can and should be leveled, who will tell the truth and expect us to act on it with the best part of our humanity, and can turn us and them into we.

No more troops to Afghanistan.



Photo by Gary Schlichter