

# Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

10/14/08

(Standup Week 179)

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: 4,181 US military wounded: 30,802**

**Iraqi civilians killed: 96,356\* Money spent on war: \$566 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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## War and Economics 101

By Kate Abell and Bob Martin

As the nation reels from the financial crisis, we are again reminded that the Bush Administration equals government by the rich, for the rich. Indeed, Bush and his cronies have carried out the most massive transfer of wealth to the already wealthy in our nation's history.

The crisis was precipitated by unchecked predatory mortgage lending practices. Federal regulations did nothing except allow the real estate and banking industries to rake in money. Even now, Bush's sole interest is in reassuring the financial institutions and have us pay for it—no help for the homeowners!

The war in Iraq? It's the same story but with more death and destruction. War contractors and oil companies—Bush's and Cheney's friends—have raked in the profits, at a cost to taxpayers of an estimated \$3 billion each week—\$646 billion as of June, 2008 (CNN Money.com)

Isn't it ironic that the charge of big government is made against anyone attempting to use tax dollars to create societal structures for health care, housing, and education. Yet these same people say nothing about the huge government spending on a war of occupation or the bailout of those responsible for the financial crisis in the first place.

Invade and occupy another country! Give tax breaks to companies and CEOs whose companies ship jobs overseas! Build luxury housing! Aggressively market credit cards at usurious interest rates so people buy unnecessary products made by workers who don't make a living wage!

The days when all those things can happen at once have passed. To the moral horror of the war is added an economic imperative: Continuation of the war equals no end in sight to the financial crisis at home.



Photo by Gary Scholchet