

Call to Action: Defund the War--Defend Our Communities  
United for Peace and Justice/Bay Area  
Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m.  
Federal Building, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco

September 24, 25, and 26 are National Days of Action Against the War in Iraq. Monday the 26th is designated "Lobby Day, Mass Nonviolent Direct Action, and Civil Disobedience." Let's come together that afternoon, encircle the Federal Building with our Community Quilt panels, speak out about each of our communities' vital needs, and send a clear message to Nancy Pelosi and to the world: END THE WAR NOW!

Why Nancy Pelosi? She says the war in Iraq is a "grotesque mistake," but continues to vote "Yes" for every war budget. Last November, 63% of voting San Franciscans passed Prop. N, calling for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. As the Democratic Party leader of the House of Representatives, Pelosi presents herself as the leader of the opposition, as OUR leader. Join us in calling on her to LEAD. Lead Congress to set a date for full and immediate withdrawal from Iraq. Lead Congress to redirect the war budget to where it belongs: healthcare, education, housing, jobs, and social services.

#### **Leading up to September 26<sup>th</sup> we invite you to:**

- Call on Nancy Pelosi to set up a Town Hall meeting about the war -- a meeting she said was needed, but has not acted on
- Prepare a panel to represent your organization for the Community Quilt (separate page attached)
- Collaborate on materials about Pelosi's voting record and the human cost of war at home
- Collaborate on outreach to the media and to other community groups
- Join the mass demonstration against the war on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>
- Participate in interfaith activities against the war on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>

#### **On September 26:**

Plan to take off the afternoon of Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> and be present at the Federal Building. Reach out to the members of your union, school, office, and family to join us. If Pelosi's response to the call for a Town Hall meeting has been positive, it will be an occasion for praise and celebration. Otherwise, the unified message from our diverse communities will be: her constituents expect her to lead us out of war, towards building a healthy future here.

**For more information, <http://www.upj-bayarea.org/>  
message phone 415-565-0201 x 23**

## Community Action Quilt

We are inviting San Francisco Bay Area community groups, labor organizations, social service organizations, advocacy and peace groups to contribute a panel each to a Community Action Quilt. It will be assembled for the first time on Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005, as we encircle San Francisco's Federal Building with a walking wall of quilt panels.

The focus of each panel will vary. The unifying theme is how the war on Iraq is robbing us of vital resources. The quilt will be a tangible, visual representation of how our communities and the issues we struggle with are linked.

Possibilities include but are certainly not limited to:

graphic depictions of your pressing needs;  
literal or metaphorical expression of what you dream is possible;  
memorials or honors for individuals;  
services your community needs to thrive;  
words and/or images that connect "here" (the Bay Area) with "there" (Iraq or other arenas of war),  
finding commonality such as loss of life, social injustice.

Each panel should be a fabric square, 3 feet by 3 feet. One to two inches of this on each side should be left as blank space, so that if we can create a sewn quilt from the panels, your images will stay intact.

The fabric can be anything durable, woven, and non-stretchy. It may have to be folded and unfolded often, so durability is crucial. A medium-weight, non-stretch fabric like cotton duck, twill or poplin works best. Since glue deteriorates, it is best to sew things to the panel.

Batting and quilting the panel is not necessary, but we really recommend that you attach a backing fabric when you are done making the panel. It will help to keep the panel in shape, and to protect it from wear and from dirt. Non-stretch denim, canvas, cotton duck and twill would all work very well for the backing.

If nobody in your group can sew the backing to the panel, it is ok to safety pin the layers together at six inch intervals along the blank spaces on all four sides. Bring it that way to the Federal Building. After the afternoon, we will take all the panels for safekeeping (and hopefully for civic exhibitions) and any panels that were brought with unsecured backings will be stitched by volunteers.

To make your panel, consider any and all of these techniques, as recommended by the Names Project folks:

- Applique: Sew fabric, letters, and small mementos onto the background fabric. Do not rely on glue - it won't last.
- Paint: Brush on textile paint or color-fast dye, or use an indelible ink pen. Please don't use "puffy" paint; it's too sticky.
- Stencils: Trace your design onto the fabric with a pencil, lift the stencil, then use a brush to apply textile paint or indelible markers.
- Collage: Make sure that whatever materials you add to the panel won't tear the fabric (avoid glass and sequins for this reason), and be sure to avoid very bulky objects.
- Photos: The best way to include photos or letters is to photocopy them onto iron-on transfers, iron them onto 100% cotton fabric, and sew that fabric to the panel. You may also put the photo in clear plastic vinyl and sew it to the panel (off-center so it avoids the fold).