

NY Rubber Room Agenda: Still Alive

In 2010, I circulated an email to get more testimony about the New York Rubber Rooms that said:

I just received a phone call from AP reporter Karen Matthews who is working on an article about the alleged closing of the rubber rooms. She claimed that they are about to close and wants statements from people who have been in the rubber room. She cannot use anonymous quotes, so if you or anyone you know has been in a rubber room and will make a statement, please forward this to them.

Karen Matthews - 212 621 1670
kmatthews@ap.org

Not having been in a physical rubber room, although one can say still in a psychological rubber room, I hardly think this move means much if the truth about White Chalk Crime and the deliberate destruction of our schools is still not out. Although the concept of the rubber room is horrendous, in a small way it helped us show what these White Chalk Criminals are all about - the opposite of truth and justice. Whereas most parts of this nation do not have physical rubber rooms, most are tormented in psychological rubber rooms and until the big picture is investigated and explored not much will change. For that reason this news does not excite me. I would suspect that the UFT is going to try to earn brownie points for this "great feat," which will be totally disconnected from the truth.

Nevertheless at first glance some people may feel relieved not to have to report to a Gitmo-like place, which is understandable. However, do not equate the end of rubber rooms with the end of teacher abuse and White Chalk Crime. It appears they are simply eliminating the evidence of their psychological torture, but not their psychological torture. Hopefully, someone who makes a statement to Karen Matthews will get this across as well as

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mention NAPTA so that we can get coverage. The last article she published on the rubber room resulted in 25 new members in two days whereas our membership creeps along at about 2-3 per week as it has been for 8 years now. Our numbers are crucial to our power to be heard, so mentioning NAPTA in your statement will help immensely. There will come a time when they can no longer pretend that teacher abuse and White Chalk Crime are not happening. Until we get to that point, it will continue with or without rubber rooms!

I am sending this mostly to NY people in hopes that either you or someone you can forward this to anyone who qualifies to contact Karen Matthews. However, I have included some members from other states to keep them apprised of what is going on. We are making progress even if slow. We must reach a point where there are enough of us to be heard and validated. We are still like the boys abused by priests before anyone could believe such a thing could be happening. And just yesterday I spoke with an activist working to reform our schools who took the position that the teachers are the problem because their IQ scores are too low and they are basically inept. I tried hard to help her understand that they are pushing out the people with brains and dedication and intentionally hiring light weights. It fell upon deaf ears. She, like most, just cannot grasp the intentional nature of this ravaging of our schools. (I highly recommend that you read Naomi Klein's Shock Doctrine for some deep understanding of how the free marketers are intentionally destroying institutions globally to replace them with privatized, free market operations.)

I also told her that no one with brains would select a career in education given the abuse and low salaries. If these business minded folks think that talented teachers will teach in a for profit system at ridiculously low salaries, they are delusional. I was happy to teach and help children at a low salary as my passion was to make a difference, not about money. But if they change the paradigm for schools and make them business enterprises

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where teachers have to follow orders like robots when they have a deep understanding about what children need because they were born to teach, they can only attract low IQ's and people desperate to just work anywhere. I would say that the hours I spent and the success I had with children was worth no less than \$500,000 a year plus a few bonuses for turning lives around if I had to frame it as a business model. I am sure most of you will agree. What we are fighting for is not money, but is for real schools with real teachers who care about children and who have the right to be professionals in their classrooms. These types do not fit in a system of White Chalk Crime and thus are exiled or disappeared so that their White Chalk Crime can prevail. The profile of the "successful" teachers is dismal and intentionally so. We must continue to make the point that talented people cannot fit in this system and that it is time to stop blaming the teachers and time to start blaming the administrations that have set things up this way. Whether they banish us to rubber rooms or not, we are unwanted because we care about children and the profession and want to keep it as the foundation of our democracy rather than the exploitative institution it has become.

A democracy is about truth and justice, neither of which co-exists with our schools. Banning the rubber rooms while still promoting lies and injustice and White Chalk Crime holds little promise. This may be the UFT trying to pretend they care about teachers, which we cannot let them do as they are as responsible for this sad state of affairs as the criminals running our schools. This is the point we must make. Karen Horwitz

I received the following, which although I cannot use the person's name, says so much about Rubber Rooms I wanted to include it at our site so you will understand why few people know. Take a look:

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I will not speak on the record; in fact, I am done with the entire matter. But to help you I will point out a few essential facts:

1. The laws are already in place to adjudicate fair and speedy hearings but they are flagrantly ignored. Teachers are kept in rubber rooms interminably in order to break them down and get them to leave.

2. In NYC, the arbitrators run a kangaroo court in order to protect their own interests, to illegally remain on the permanent panel to the tune of approx. \$2500 per 1/2 day.

3. Approx. 95% of the teachers accused are over 40 approaching 20 year longevities.

4. A minute percentage of sex offenders are mixed in with the vast majority of teachers accused for personal or political reasons. This is a Soviet style approach, so all can be painted with the same dirty brush.

5. Thousands of teacher's lives and their families lives are destroyed in the process.

6. Go to rubberroommovie.com and click on trailer FYI.

Please don't contact me for further info; as I said I have washed my hands of the entire matter.