The History of the American Jewish Hospital and Why it Matters...

SUMMARY

Jews, Jewish, medical school, interns, hospital, hospitals, New York, Louisville, United States, university, medicine, anti-Semitism, called, quota, protestant, story, build, Brooklyn, quota system, Asian Americans

SPEAKERS

Dr. Edward Halperin, Abby Glogower

Hi, welcome everybody. It's such a pleasure to host you all here. I am Dr. Abigail Glogower, I am the curator of Jewish collections at the Filson Historical Society and we are delighted to host you here today. So it is my great pleasure to introduce Dr. Halperin. Dr. Halperin received his BS in economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, MA from Duke University, and MD from Yale University. He was an intern at Stanford University, and a resident at Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Halperin has served as chairman of the department of Radiation Oncology at Duke University, Vice Dean of Duke School of Medicine, Dean of Medicine, Ford Foundation, Professor of Medical Education, and Vice Provost and Dean here at the University of Louisville. He is now the Chancellor and CEO of New York Medical College and professor of radiation oncology, pediatrics, and history and Provost for biomedical affairs of the Touro College and university system. There must be extra hours in a DR Halperin day that we do not access. He is also the author of more than 220 articles in the peer reviewed literature, and multiple editions of the principal textbooks in pediatric and adult radiation oncology. And as we also found, while we were researching for our exhibit, he is a scholar on the history of American Jewish medicine here in the United States. So please join me in giving a warm welcome back to Dr. Edward Halperin, thank you very much.

I can assure you, I have no extra hours in the day. But I can also assure you that when you work at a university, with no NCAA division one sports time, and you don't have to discuss the game before you go to the game. You don't have to discuss the game while you're at the game. You don't have to rehash the game. You just go to work. Thank you for inviting me. Thank you for the introduction. What I want to chat with you about this afternoon is the rise and fall of the North American Jewish Hospital. Its relationship to medical, anti-Semitism. And I have no conflicts of interest to disclose in regard to this topic. With the exception that I can assure you that when I left New York, all of the list I'm going to show you all were actually numbered one
through five and one through seven. But somehow when I landed in Louisville and looked on
my laptop, whatever the Gremlins are, that go between Macs and PCs decided to renumber my
list, but hey, we're Kentuckians, we're nothing if not resilient, we can deal with with that. And
what we're going to talk about this afternoon is all about context. The citizens of Louisville,
have been observing over a period of about 10 to 15 years, the demise of the Jewish Hospital of
Louisville, as a Jewish Hospital, and we're going to talk about what that actually means, indeed,
according to what I read on the internet, now you're having a debate on whether about whether
the bricks and mortar will survive as a hospital. And so what I've chosen for my topic this
afternoon is how would you understand that in the context of all of the Jewish hospitals of
Canada and the United States. It is part and parcel of the idea that physicians, nurses, dentists,
health care providers, like to delude themselves that they are scientists practicing an objective
scientific discipline. But that any historian will tell you that healthcare is primarily a social
construct, which takes place in a particular time and place in the context of society. It is not an
objective, independent entity. And if I haven't convinced you by my being eloquent remember
that when I went to medical school, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual list have diseases
listed homosexuality as a disease? The current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual this
homophobia as a disease than anything happened in the biology of what has happened in the
last 40 years, certainly not societal attitudes have changed, which have therefore impacted on
medicine. So, trying to understand context of the Jewish Hospital, I'm going to ask you all for
about 45 minutes to think historians try it, it won't hurt. It's pretty painless. It's a lot easier than
taking gross anatomy. And we're going to try to together answer seven questions that I think
are worthy of our consideration. One, why in the first place, did Americans and Canadians build
Jewish hospitals second, what are the origins of medical antiSemitism, which contributed to the
construction of these hospitals of the Gremlin went away? We actually have a three oops. Was
medical antiSemitism. always polite, so called gentleman's agreement? Or did it ever burst into
episodes of violence? How many Jewish hospitals were built? Where they all go? And why they
all go? Do you care that they all went? And as far as worrying about things today is the story
that I'm about to tell you, really any different than the lawsuit which is going on in
Massachusetts, as to whether or not there is currently a quota system for Asian Americans to
go to selective colleges, the United States Medical School and law school. It is said that
Emerson says to Thoreau, when he goes off to Walden Pond and comes back, Henry, have you
resumed reading the newspapers? Yes, the row responds I started reading the newspapers after
three years. What do you think Emerson says, the row responds, I've noticed that all the nouns
are this, all the nouns are different. All the verbs are the same, only the nouns have changed.
Okay, so it's the story I'm about to tell you. All the verbs are the same, but the nouns are for
about Asian Americans as compared to Jews. But wait, wait, Edward. No, no, no, no, no, nope,
nope. This is not history of medicine, history of medicine. What they taught me in school was
it's the history of great white men doing great things. That's what history of medicine is. Harvey
discovered circulation to the blood. The saline teaches us all about anatomy. Giovanni Battista
Morgagni says diseases of suffering Oregon's Rankin discovers the X ray read Congress, yellow
fever halls to develop scientific surgery. That's medical history. Do you mean to tell me that
you came all the way to Louisville to tell us that medical history has a dark underside? Is that
what you're going to do? Yeah, I am. That's what I came to tell you. Number one, why did
Americans and Canadians build Jewish hospitals? To put this in context for the origins of Jewish
Hospital, you have to understand why are their hospitals in the first place? If we go from the
Middle Ages, to the Renaissance in the Age of Enlightenment, if you were sick, you stayed
home. And the doctor who was ineffectual would call upon you at home. There were no such
things as hospitals, except for the problem of sick itinerants making pilgrimages. If you're going
to Mecca, or you're going to Canterbury, and you get sick, where do you go, who was supposed
to take care of you? And society, in Europe and in Arab countries, developed in the idea that
your co religionists are responsible for the care of the sick one who gets sick by the roadside?
And so mosques and churches start developing sick rooms? Right? What's the word in German still in in the Scandinavian countries for hospital Krankenhuis the sick house the sick room. Okay, so the first hospitals are hospitals for a sick itinerant sick by the roadside. And in the English language. That's why the words all run together hospital, hospitality, hospice, hospitable hotel, they're all the same words. The particular story of the American Jewish Hospital begins when the Spanish Inquisition moves from Spain to Portugal, and then moves from both those countries to the new world. So you'll remember that the Pope Alexander has drawn a line in 1492 and says this side of the line is Portugal's to that side of Spain's that's why Brazil is a Portuguese speaking colony. And in the early part of the 17th century, fleeing the Inquisition still rampid in Brazil, the Jewish community have received a evacuate where are they going to go? This is the golden age of Holland. Right? What is Rene Descartes say? The Book of Exodus says that God made the heaven in the earth but the Dutch made Holland. Right. So what for 300 years what is what is the Dutch done? They bought wholesale and sold retail. And they are a trading nation with a powerful navy. And they are Protestant. They have thrown off Spanish rule in the southern lowlands, which becomes Belgium. It is still Spanish rules and that's why Belgium still has a majority Catholic population. But the Netherlands the Low Countries are Protestant. And they are quite liberal politically right. Spinoza gets into more trouble with the Jewish community of Holland than he does with the Protestant Dutch lives out his life. In Holland, it is Protestant. So where are you going to flee in the new world go to where the Dutch are. And so in September 1650 for a French frigate, the Santa Catarina appears in the harbor of the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam, bearing the entire Jewish community have received a Brazil where they are refused entry to the island of Manhattan to the settlement of no Amsterdam on the southern tip of the island of Manhattan, separated from attack by the Wall Street. Because the Governor General of New Amsterdam Peter Stevenson says I will not permit these deceitful, very repugnant and hateful enemies and blaspheme rows of the name of Christ to set foot in the colony. He reports his excellent work to the Board of Trustees of the Dutch West India Company, who writes back to the Governor General and says you've overlooked the fact that several members of our investing group are Jews. And they're not very happy with the employees behavior. You will admit the Jews to the colony, Governor Stuyvesant does but issues ruling that the poor among them shall not become a burden to company or the community but shall be supported by their own nation. This is called an American history, the Stevenson pledge that the Jews are only allowed on the North American continent, if they take care of themselves, you will build your own Jewish social service agencies, Jewish Family Services, JCCs, Jewish hospitals, Jewish schools, you take care of your own, we don't have to take care of you. Which then of course, creates the standard anti semitic trope. You tell the Jews, they have to have all their own agencies, and then you call them insular and tribal and try not to mingle with the rest of the community because you're told them have their own organizations. But then why don't they want to be like the rest of us and the Stuyvesant pledge, it's a constant dynamic in American history. And most historians will say, this is the first origin of Jewish hospitals. What are the other reasons for why the Jews build hospitals in Canada and the United States? Because they're sick and tired of evangelical Roman Catholics and Protestants trying to convert them. In the hospital, I have an important message, you have got to hear my message on your deathbed. Leave me alone, I got enough to worry about without you telling me I have to hear the good news about the coming of Christ. No kosher food, no synagogue, no rabbi in the staff, no Mezuzah on the door. Jewish law takes a very circumscribed view of autopsies. And any population in America which is marginalized to get tends to get disproportionately autopsied, so the Jews don't like that. But the overwhelming reason for the Jewish hospitals are, they won't let me into medical school. When I get out of medical school, they won't let me into a residency, when I get on my residency, they won't give me hospital privileges. So we're going to have to build our own. We're going to do just like the Roman Catholics will have our own
hospitals because of medical anti-semitism. Which comes from where where does this practice of medical anti-semitism in the United States and Canada originate from? We can trace this story to 1881, when Tsar Alexander the second, czar of all the rushes, has tried to be a good politician, he is going to liberalize the Russian Empire, we're going to have something called the Duma. And we're going to ease up and we're going to have a parliament and we're going to let the serfs free of the land, and he is killed by an assassin. When a bomb was thrown at him in 1881. He is succeeded by his son, the Tsar Alexander the third, who has been educated by reactionary Russian Orthodox priests. And who says the problem with the cause of my father's death are the liberals. Too much liberal ality too much opening up of society. We're going to blame the outsiders. We're going to blame the Jews. We're going to cut down and trick them. He sanctions government organized riots called pogroms economic restrictions on the Jews. And in his in his legal contract for this in May of 1883. Called the A laws. He comes up with a new concept, numerous Klaus's there will be an upper cap on the percentage of Jews who can go to university in the Russian Empire within the pale of settlement. What is now Bella rooster you Crane, Lithuania, Eastern Poland. It will be 10% cap in St. Petersburg and Moscow it will be a 5% cap. This is in the era of what is called by historians Otto emancipation. The Jews had been emancipated in Europe with the progress of Napoleon, in the first part of the 19th century, he knocks down the ghetto walls of Venice, the rights of man in France, and the Russian Jews keep waiting for it to happen. And they decide after Tsar Alexander the third quote, the only place for the Jews of Russia are to be the Jews out of Russia. We cannot survive in this place, and 2 million Jews pour out of Russia and modern day Poland and come to America. Okay, so the population of the United States goes from 1880 From 0.5%, Jewish to at the time of the end of World War One 3.6% Jewish and in states like Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, the port of Galveston. In some areas, the Jewish population is up to 30%. So what do Americans do? The Republican controlled House and Senate between 1912 and 1920, passes to immigration reform acts to wall off the United States from these immigrants. We're gonna put walls in the harbors. We don't want the Irish we don't want the Roman Catholics, and we certainly don't want the Jews. These bills are vetoed by Woodrow Wilson, who has appointed Louis Brandeis to the Supreme Court and says these are anti-semitic laws. Wilson finishes his term he is replaced by an intellectually incurious gentleman who is a womanizer from Ohio named Warren Harding, who immediately signs the Immigration Act which are passed for a third time by the Congress. Now, these Jews are already here, start trying to go to college, medical school, dental, school and law school. By the turn of the last century, almost the entire student body of the all male City College of New York is Jewish, and the percentage of Jews at Harvard triples. And American higher education says we have an immigration problem. And we know how to solve it. The Russians have taught us that we're going to have a quota. The quota is first introduced by President Lowell of Harvard, it is quickly followed by Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia and multiple Republican attempting to get the Republican nominee for president. President Butler says we have not eliminated boys because they're Jews we don't propose to do so. We've only attempted to eliminate the lowest grade of applicant and just most of them are New York Jews. The president of Dartmouth says any college which is going to basis admission, wholly on Scholastic standing, will find itself with an infinitesimal proportion of anything else but Jews. We can't have that. Now, I could now show you 10 slides of tables of government studies and private studies about whether there was a quota for Jews in medical school. I will spare you that for one slide 10 Different studies show that no matter how you did analysis, the chance of a Protestant getting into medical school in the United States was two to five times higher than a Jew from 1920 into the 1960s. There was a similar quota system for Italian Roman Catholics. There was a very extra quota system for women and African Americans. That's the data it is indisputable. Because people like stories, a reform Rabbi active in the National Council of Christians and Jews, Maurice Lazar, and writes to all the medical school deans in the United States, and says, Tell me about
discrimination against Jews. And this is an era before political correctness. So they almost all answer a very bluntly, Dean of the Medical School University of Kansas Jews do not have as high ethical standard, average Christian, they're more apt to be commercially inclined. The little money rubbers students have difficulty in handling the practical angle of the medical course. They do so well, well in didactic, the so called bookwork you recognize this right? You don't let the Jews into the trade guilds. And then you say they're no good with their hands, which wouldn't have led them into the trade guilds, anyway and in medicine, this is why if you ever gotten to medical school, the odds were overwhelming that a Jewish medical student is there was going to be a pediatrician or an internist or a psychiatrist. The story was always told when I was at Duke, on the faculty about the resident who was told no Jew will ever be chief resident in Surgery at Duke Medical School. And this gentleman goes on to be president, the American College of plastic surgeons. But this idea Jews are no good with their hands, you know, ties into the quota. This is from Yale. This is the dean of Yale Medical School giving instructions to the admissions committee. Never had met more than five Jews take only two Italian Catholics. Take no blacks at all. I can assure you he did not use stat word. This is from a letter of rejection to a applicant. Loyola medical school I'm sorry to inform you your application cannot be acted upon favorably because the quota for Jews has been filled. We have exact same letters from Cornell from from University of Pennsylvania, the quota for Jews has been filled. There are 74 allopathic medical schools in the United States in this era. Not all of them observed the quota. There were nine that either uniformly or intermittently Nord at New York University Long Island College Hospital, School of Medicine, Boston University, University of California, San Francisco, University of Maryland, Illinois, the Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery and woman's Medical College of Philadelphia. There were non mainstream allopathic schools that Roy's busy accreditation agencies, and there are no business to argue you could pay tuition. I'm not arguing with you about your religion, Middlesex College of Medicine and Surgery in Massachusetts, the Chicago Medical School Essex college and newer and Cincinnati eclectic medical school. dramatic episodes in 1934, the Dean of the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill is a call manning the top Tar Heels play basketball on Manning drive that's pronounced North Carolina and Boston the Tar Heels. So madding gets an application from a man from Durham named Maurice Krasny. And he tells Krasny, our quota for Jews is four out of 40 Your number five, if one of the other juice drops out you can have their seat otherwise, the quote is filled and besides what you only admit us to medical school and even numbers, never an odd numbers, because Jews and non Jews can't be in the lab together in the basic science courses. Krasny complaints to President Frank Porter Graham, United States senator who says the only thing I need to know about race relations I learned in sermon on the mount and he orders the dean to admit Krasny he refuses and Frank Porter Graham accepts his resignation. Okay, Mr. Mayor Wyden Porter Graham ever get a full term of Senate he only served a term for Senator because a Raleigh radio announcer raised the loud he's appointed African Americans to West Point and the radio announcer is Jesse Helms. It's Jesse Helms gets a start. Okay, so there are pop off vowels. If you can't get into medical school in the United States when you go to medical school. I'm gonna bet that some of you have grandparents or uncles, they went to medical school and Edinburg and Glasgow or Zurich, or bologna. Overwhelmingly Americans studying medicine in Europe in this era are Jews. Eleanor Roosevelt after the president dies, everyone has to read Mrs. Roosevelt paper column, including my mother, she should rest in peace. And Eleanor Roosevelt writes a column about anti semitism in medicine. And isn't the Chicago Medical School great because they take people on merit, not on religion. Fiorello LaGuardia has to deal with race riots in 1943. He appoints a Commission for Racial understanding, which proceeds to delve deeply in to anti semitism in medical school admission at Columbia, Cornell and the other New York schools. And this quota system exists, as I said, for residency programs, and ever trying to get credentials to practice medicine. And most of what we think about it is the so called gentleman's agreement, remember, Academy Award winning
nominated movie with Gregory Peck. He's a crusading journalist who's going to bust open anti
semitism. There's a whole scene about we don't admit your kind of patients to our hospital. I'll
call Dr. Weinstein, for you to go to their hospital in this movie, so the so called genteel anti
semitism, which brings me then to my next question, was this anti semitism always polite? Or
was it ever violent? And I'm going to tell you that while episodes of anti semitism, medicine
were generally genteel, they're episodes of overt violence, and I'm going to document for you
some recent research I've done on three episodes of violent activity related to medical
anti-Semitism. The first one takes place in Brooklyn, the most populous of the boroughs of New
York now a 2.8 million people. What is your image of Brooklyn the Brooklyn Bridge, Jackie
Robinson in the Brooklyn Dodgers. Welcome Back, Kotter. And that mean? Municipal Hospital is
Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn. So for the non New Yorkers. Brooklyn is Kings County,
Queens, Queens County, Manhattan is New York County, the Bronx or New York, the Bronx is
Bronx. Staten Island is Richmond County. So the municipal hospital is not Brooklyn hospital. It's
Kings County Hospital and in 1916 A intern reports for duty at Kings County Hospital. His name
is Matthew Olsteen. He's from Peekskill, New York where he goes to drum High School. In that
area, you can go straight to medical school out of high school. He goes to the Albany Medical
College, where he is on the editorial board of the yearbook. In the lab, in a medical school
fraternity, he reports for work as an intern where he is bound, gagged, taken forcibly to Grand
Central Station and told that if he or any other Jew tries to set foot in Kings County Hospital will
throw you people in the East River. Now he's unemployed. He finds a job with a medical school
that has no anti semitic quota. The New York Medical College, you can burst into spontaneous
applause right now. And he gets an internship at the Metropolitan Hospital on wrote what is
now called Roosevelt Island, where he serves his two year internship serves his two year
internship. And the newspaper report that he is drafted into the military medical corps. He is
sent to camp Oglethorpe in Atlanta. He is placed under the direct command eventually of
General John J. Pershing and the American Expeditionary Force. He is in the trenches with the
314 infantry in the Meuse Argonne offensive, where he is killed under a German bombardment
from shrapnel perhaps the first military medical officer to die in combat. The war will end six
weeks later. There is his death card from the army ironically showing his Christian name. A
black bordered morning card from the City Council of New York Matthew Olsteen, died in
combat obituary in the Peekskill New York newspaper. So a snowman subjected to severe
bigotry, who rises above the bigotry, gets an internship elsewhere and dies as a war hero.
That's the story of Matthew Osteen for the American Jewish community. And I'm gonna bet for
most of you never heard of him until I just told you the story after his. I decided I would go try
to find his grave. I drove north in New York I found an old cemetery with a rusted iron gate,
walked up the path and found a headstone with a flag from the Jewish War Veterans buried
between what must have been a bereft mother and father, my son the doctor dead within three
years of medical school. Okay, after he's run out of the hospital, it will be nine years before any
other Jews are hired at Kings County Hospital, and Kings County hospitals under the supervision
of Democratic politician Byrd, Kohler, superintendent of public hospitals. And in New York, as
you might remember, the Kohler a Goldwater Hospital, which still stands in New York, and
who's the mayor, gentlemen, Jimmy Walker, the nightmare he never shows up for any of his
appointments because he's going to speakeasies and boxing matches. He's the quintessential
mayor of New York for the Jazz Age, and in 1927 a gadfly reform Rabbi Louis gross goes to
county hospital where there are now four Jewish interns and says they're not getting a square
deal. You won't let them use the hospital tennis courts. The nurses are prejudiced against them
and ignore the doctor's orders. The application to get an internship the first question on the
application is your religion. And the superintendent of the hospital tells the committee Jewish
Medical School graduates to be interns to Jewish hospitals. I don't want to doctors with accents
as interns of Kings County Hospital. This is a Christian institution we will tolerate no Jews here.
You do if you know anything good for you. You'll pack your trunk and get out of this internship
program. Bombs, books and clothing are stolen from the interns stink bombs are thrown in their rooms. There’s a segregated dining room the Jewish interns are not allowed to eat with the other interns, a medical school classmate and one of the Jewish interns tells them I've been warned by the rest of the crowd to keep away from the Jews. And I don't want to start any trouble. So I'm going to ignore you. With the exception of one Protestant intern Dr. Carlton Campbell, who threatens to publicly resign as an intern to protest anti semitism. The Jewish interns asked me to do that. Four days after Rabbi gross sees the superintendent on the night of June 29 27. Three of the Jewish interns are on duty. The fourth is not the three interns are sleeping in house staff quarters, about one or two o'clock in the morning, a mob of about 20 to 30 males burst into their rooms, bound them put pillowcases over their head, tie them up, cover them with sheets, take them down several flights of stairs and submerge them in tubs of ice water. None of them drown. They are taken out of the ice water dragged up several flights of steps thrown in their beds and some kind of black substance is poured on them shoe polish or ink. One of them claims that he tore the pillowcase and you can see his attackers. They call the police. Two. Detectives from the Flatbush district come to the hospital on bloodstained ropes and sheets, and make arrests. Now, in this era, Brooklyn's got multiple daily newspapers. Manhattan's got multiple daily newspapers. This is a hot story, race attack on interns beaten six Hell's beat the interns leave hospital pending inquiry. Lewis borough graduate of the University of Louisville School of Medicine is one of the victims. Hyman Solloway of Cornell Medical School. Edward Caskey. University of Nebraska School of Medicine are the plaintiffs. Six Protestant interns and residents are held under misdemeanor assault charges and are let go on bail the case goes to trial. The wheels of justice turn in Flatbush it shouldn't be a total loss. Six teacher Erasmus Hall School brings the class to watch American judiciary system in action. Rasmus High School famous alumni Barbra Streisand, Neil Diamond, multiple known Nobel Prize Laureates. Still there still looks like this. The lawyers for the Jewish interns raised the specter of the Klan. There's no doubt that these attackers were Ku Klux errrs, they come from states where the Klan is strong. Remember this is 1927. Next year, the Klan will control the Indiana State House. Remember Franklin Roosevelt gets told not to nominate Al Smith for President we don't want to Roman Catholic as president and Roosevelt sunrise a camp Abell he walks to the podium looking like he can walk when he really can't holding on to his son to put Al Smith name in nomination in defiance of the Klan. So this is a big deal. And then now there's sex. Suddenly two nurses show up we were grabbed and hugged and kissed by the Jews against our will months and months ago. But why didn't just X amount of months and months ago wider just say so then why did you wait to the trial? Because I made confession the priest told me to make to announce it now. The defense team says there will be no apology to go into court because they admitted they had pillowcases over their head. So they in the eyewitness identification. Yeah, but I toward the pillow case. So that's going to be the essence of the trial. Mayor Walker has run air against Waterman of the watermen, unfortunate that he discriminates against Jews getting into his hotels and Florida. Walker knows how to count votes he's going to run for reelection. He intervenes and says if these men were hazed because they were Jews, I will see to the guilty ones are prosecuted to the last ditch I will conduct an investigation to fix responsibilities and the guilty ones will not be allowed to remain in city service you can depend on that. So the newspapers having a field day this is a matter of so disgusting that every believer in fairplay is against it a disgrace to medicine. Guilty doctor will be eliminated like a malignant cancer says state senator love. Congressman sera vich. We don't want tolerance. We want justice. We don't believe in the culture, close shop and medicine. We're going to break down the aristocracy that exists medicine, not everyone's upset. Pitcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers scandal, was going to medical school during the offseason and his nickname was the pitcher is Doc Scanlon tells the press it's a lot of bunk. I served my time in the bathtub and got shoe blackening. Nobody escapes and nobody should can find no way whatsoever. This is true. I called was famous historian of graduate medical education. The United States can learn more
I said tell me all about physical hazing and internship and residency training. You wrote the
book says Never heard of it. Mayor Walker is a lawyer he superintended to the hospital on the
stand at a public hearing and City Hall. Why do you ask the religion of applicants because
patients in extremis must have the constellation of God fearing men at the bedside? Why don't
you want Jews as interns? Because I want my interns to have masculine good looks. Then Dr.
Jones says I don't want him to with a scar on their face. It might be might be less pleasing to
the eye. Jimmy Walker is a lawyer. Really doctor? Does that mean you won't have a World War
One veteran of the United States who was wounded in combat and has a scar on their face?
You won't let them be an intern. Pretty good stuff, right sharp lawyer. Dr. Jones says interns
from the Great War there they're too old to be interns. Then it gets even more sensational
charts have been changed. Make the Jewish interns look bad they're covering up a death in the
hospital. It's getting really juicy and suddenly the trial ends. When letters are exchanged. The
defendants send a letter saying we regret the treatment to which you were subjected.
Whatever motive inspired it be a prejudice or intolerance must be at heart into good
citizenship. We deploring and participation, connected with Kings County hospitals, such
events, we trust it nothing of the kind will be repeated, that neither prejudice nor intolerance
over social or religious differences will ever be known there are support to this can be counted
upon, did they admit doing it? No. In fact, their lawyer says we make no apology and no
admission of guilt. The plaintiff except the letter and the case ends, Mayor Walker isn't done.
The Protestant interns are mobbed in the hallways and smothered with hugs and kisses,
whether they are consensual or not from the nurses under the view of the press. And what
happened then, Jimmy Walker closes the US Department of Public Hospitals you ever want to
know why the city of New York has a Health and Hospitals Corporation of the city of New York,
because before this episode, there were three competing government agencies to control the
city hospitals. Walker uses as an excuse to seize control of all the city hospitals and make it
one unified hospital system. That's why there's an HHC system. It shouldn't be a total loss for
political patronage. He gets the job as head to his personal surgeon. He appoints Jim Higgins,
who the newspapers were the only remember the walker administration who's not crooked who
investigates and issues a scathing report about disgrace of the city hospitals, nurses taking the
best cuts of meat to eat letting the patients go hungry, incompetent administration, and
Superintendent Jones loses his job. What happened to everybody else? Dr. Kasky, one of the
people who was attacked becomes a colorectal surgeon in Lincoln, Nebraska and in 1936 takes
a self administered overdose of cocaine and alcohol and as he is dying, right, his clinical
impressions on the wall of his office room, our FCC experiment and dies. The newspapers
indiscreetly on the bold headline. The Jewish interns all ended up in practice in New York and
New Jersey. What became of Dr. Campbell. He becomes a surgeon in New York. Number three,
Montreal 1934, the Montreal intern strike. The man who graduates first in class from University
of Montreal. The French speaking medical school in Montreal is Samuel Rabinovich. first in his
class, he's given an internship at Hotel, hospitality and Notre Dom in Montreal. He reports for
work he's got a contract on the day he reports to work. Every other intern goes on strike. We
will not have a Jewish in turn. This is Roman Catholic hospital. The strike please spreads to all
the other French Canadian hospitals in Montreal. trauma care is shut down in Montreal. The
only working intern is Samuel Rabinovich, running around from bed to bread from the ER back
and forth. They cannot break the strike. Dr. Rabinovich calls a press conference, it says I took a
Hippocratic Oath. It is because of medical care is being denied to the French Canadian systems
of Montreal, I resigned. The strike ends. Okay, so, with that as background, I've given you five
reasons for building Jewish hospitals. Edward, so how many did the United States ultimately
have? They were built in three waves by German immigrants, by Polish Russian immigrants,
and then a wave of building of the Hilbert neck. So here in Louisville turn of the last century, it's
here with a mixture of Eastern European Jews and some of the German immigration. Why were
they built in waves? The Jewish hospital, right so there's already a Jewish Hospital in the town
because the German Jews built it. But then the Russian Polish news would say, it's not from enough to have cafeterias not kosher enough. That's no good. We got to build a separate little. So lots of cities have multiple Jewish hospitals. Right? Right. The oldest joke right? The Jewish guy falls off the cruise ship they find on a desert. He's there by himself. Three years later, they rescue him. They notice there's two synagogues on the island with only one guy who survived. They say what's with this? He says that's the synagogue I go to that's the one I wouldn't be set foot in. Right. Okay, there were eight Jewish hospitals in the United States, the the one in Louisville, 14 Mount Sinai or Sinai hospitals. Eight Beth Abraham David Bell are Israel three Montefiore’s to menorah hos pharaohs, the oldest Jewish hospital the United States is in Cincinnati. German Jewish immigrants. The Jews hospital of New York is opened in 1855. He loved the Hebrew, New York in Hebrew. But during the Civil War, they agree to take care of any wounded. This is this is real, bro take care of everybody. So they got to find a more American name rather than the Jews hospital. So the Jews hospital becomes Mount Sinai Hospital of New York. Other Jewish hospitals the Beth Israel of Newark, New Jersey, the Jewish Hospital of Louisville, named after philanthropist and Michael Reese Hospital of Chicago, the Mount Sinai Hospital of Miami Beach. But were they all now? Where they all go and why? Well, my research poring through the records of 130 hospitals, is 1/3 of them are just flat closed. 1/5 of them were purchased and merged with a non Jewish hospital chain, most commonly Roman Catholic. Sound familiar? 1/20. Once I 1/5 still exists with some characteristics of a Jewish Hospital, principally just the name on the wall. About 1/10 of them are nursing homes. From what I can trace, some of them, I can't trace it all. They just seem to disappear from the historical record. Okay, now let's have some fun. Let's think about what this means. A Jewish Hospital. What is a method? Or a Baptist Hospital? Or capellini or Lutheran? How would you discern what is different about a Baptist Hospital? Well, say is on the Board of Trustees. But when you the hallway, or is there anything that appears Methodist or Episcopal to you now? Right. I was a house office, I was on the faculty for a quarter of a century at Duke. It's a Methodist Medical Center. What's Methodist? I know there was a cross on the chair they gave me when I got an endowed chair. And otherwise, what was Methodist about Boston University Medical Center. You don't really know. But if I said to you, what is a Roman Catholic hospital? You can go in Google and type in that question, and you will quickly find a 50 page book, the ethical religious directors of the United States Council of Bishops, the operation of a Catholic hospital, it tells you what it is. What is it you can follow? Rules. Okay, so what's the Jewish Hospital? Okay, reformed Jews about five years ago had eight different prayer books for Friday night. They can't agree on anything. So what what are American Jews right, Jacob wrestles with the angel and then in the book Genesis, it changes his name from Yaakov to yes royal to Israel. Who are Jews to people who wrestle with God the constant argue errs. Okay, so what is the Jewish Hospital? This is Edward Hal Prince list of this is the historian saying what the Jewish hospital the name says it's Jewish. It's governed by the Jewish community. It has an overwhelming Jewish administration and medical staff founded by Jews, the founding documents a it has a Jewish mission. It's got a kosher, exclusively kosher food service, you can have a bris their respect for Jewish traditions regarding autopsies, there's Moses, and it's clearly not Christian, no one's going to try to convert you. And one would assert that all seven of those are not equal. All right, if it's principally if it's no longer governed by the Jewish community, with Jewish administrators that a Jewish medical staff with overwhelming Jewish ethos that whatever the name is on the wall, I would wish hospital and nothing particularly Jewish about it, except historically, that was the name. So if you use that criteria, how many are left? Mount Sinai in Miami Beach, my monitor is in Brooklyn. And I'm done. I can't think of any others that meet the criteria. And even my monitors in Brooklyn doesn't have Shermer shoppers residency programs anymore. Why they go away? including yours? Well, okay, you all know it's really hard to make a go of it in the hospital business, particularly if you're 150 200 bed hospital, or if you're a 450 bed hospital and not a member of a big system. Right. The hospital business is a tough business like so Jewish
hospitals go under, like all hospitals. Number two, is we've gone through cycles and anti
semitism in the United States. reproducibly in national polls in the 1940s do the Jews in
America have too much or year after year, about two thirds of Americans say yes. You can't join
a country club. You can't stay in this hotel. You can't do this. You can't do that. Right? You got
to have the standard club in Louisville because you can't play golf. Oh, it's you know, you know
the story, right. But as Americans learn to the slaughter of 6 million Jews in the Holocaust, it
starts getting socially unacceptable to be so semi, right what's what's the popular movie in the
night late 1950s. Anti main with Rosalind Russell, what's the standard joke? She doesn't want
the son to marry into the family. Because dairy is a restricted community. She calls the future
in laws the Aryans from Darienne. Right. But most important, over half a million Jews served in
the military in World War Two. A little over three and a half percent of the United States Armed
Forces are Jewish, and what was militant advocacy. In the 1940s, we want an end to
discrimination against Italian Catholics, the Catholic war veterans in the United States, before
the anti Defamation League, the Jewish War Veterans, African American veterans in the
through the NAACP, we didn't get our rear end shot off at an Italy or in the Pacific to come
home and get told I can't go to medical school, or my kid can't get in. And I know how to vote.
So we get politicians like Brooklyn city councilman Walter Hart, who all conduct public hearings,
covered by the New York Times to demonstrate anti semitism in medical school admission at
Cornell and Columbia puts the leaders of the schools on the stand in agonizing detail gets into
admit discriminatory quotas. And then there's another story, the font, the hero of the
Republican Party, former racket busting da thomassie Dewey, and New York Governor Dewey is
impressively devoid of anti semitism. He hired Jewish lawyers, when he's the DA, and he's
running for president 1944 And again in 1948. And he's wants to win the electoral college votes
of New York. And he knows how to count. And he knows that Jews vote in New York. So he has
three bright ideas. The state of New York is going to do something that New York currently does
not have. We are going to have public medical schools paid for by taxpayers, not just private
schools. We're going to create the SUNY system. The citizens would like that, and I'm going to
make speeches saying what the Republican Party real are Republicans are people who show
they both are fiscally responsible and have a heart. We're going to fix that SUNY system. And
we're going to run against Roosevelt and against Truman say they were soft on Jewish
refugees, and they are soft on Israel. Dewey's platform says the Democrats are soft on Israel,
and soft on refugees. We say Harry Truman recognize the State of Israel do he says he did
there? He was slow. And Roosevelt and the Democrats are kissing up to the British. And if I was
in power, we'd have none of that. And who is his advisor telling him to do this? A History
professor in Massachusetts, named Ben Zion Netanyahu. And if you ever wonder what the
Prime Minister of Israel not have an accent in English. If I was raised in Massachusetts, I
wouldn't have an Israeli accent either. He was a historian, and famous famous book was the
history of the Spanish Inquisition. Okay, now, let's keep digging and we're gonna keep getting
closer to home and Louisville. Demographics. Jewish hot were traditionally how many cities
anymore have neighborhoods, okay parts of Brooklyn, Baltimore, where the Hasidim live, or the
Miss noggins and ultra orthodox, but where's the Jewish neighborhood of Louisville anymore?
Right because one shoe store left, right. You don't draw? So this was the Jewish Hospital in the
middle of the Jewish neighborhood. Okay. And particularly important. Scholars of philanthropy
say that in around 1950 They're just Jews in America 100% of their money to Jewish
philanthropies that is gone. Jews give money or to charities. They don't give as much to
Federation that's not their go to charity. For example. It's not called Cornell Medical school
anymore. It's called Weill Cornell Medical School. Sanford Weill investment banker has given
that medical school close to a half billion dollars. He gave a half a billion dollars to a medical
school, which would have unequivocally rejected his father or his grandfather because they
were Jewish. Okay, so the money's going to the Metropolitan Opera and the Museum of Art not
exclusively to Jewish organizations. So matter Louisvillians doesn't matter. Jewish Hospital. Well
could say that if Jews are deeply invested in education than the law, which hospitals is to the detriment of undergraduate and graduate medical education, you could say that as American Jews try to go we're part of the community. A public face, I can't tell if I'm losing a battery or not. Y'all can hear me, right. They the demise of the American Jewish Hospital, an example of the success of American Jews. Well, you could say that until Charlottesville, Pittsburgh, and San Diego now, but it was part of it. Okay, so let's get some things to talk about in the discussion period. Do you think that doctors should look like you? Should American doctors represent the population based on gender, religion race? Do we have a right to expect the doctors should quote look like the population? And if you believe that, does that apply to the person who runs the blood bank? Or who reads X rays that you'll never lay eyes on? What do you think about that? Why would face with discrimination to some people, the majority stand up and say no, like Carlton Campbell, whereas most people just get along and go along and keep their head down. Why when faced with discrimination, to some people were discriminated saying they were discriminated against saying no. Like the three doctors who go to court, while others just go bounce off the wall and go find a job elsewhere. Like the ever ready, Bunny, like Matthew Olsteen. He didn't go to court. He never brought criminal charges. He just tried to find another job. And most profoundly, how do Americans adapt to immigrants to the other? Okay, well, thank you, Edward. This was all very erudite and scholarly but my supposed to do with the information? Do you ever think that sometimes we think is people that time is linear. And sometimes time is circular. It's time linear, just things go from place to place to place and better and better until we get to representative democracy in the capitalist system. And now it's the best and brightest and the greatest that ever could be. Circular? Do we just go around in circles? Do we just get back maybe we should go to this. So it's time sometimes circular. Which means as you're currently a quota system in the United States, for Asian Americans, in higher education, are the verbs the same adjust to now no longer juvenile Asian American? What's really going on? Because every generation of Americans tries to deal with what they perceive as the other. All right. Let's think about this. 60 to 80% of the high school students in the most selective high schools in the United States right now are Asian Americans. Stuyvesant High School, Bronx High School of Science, Boston Public Latin Philadelphia Boys High School, they both the best schools in the west coast and the East Coast. 60 to 80% of the students are Asian American. This is the percentage of Asian Americans this fall in some of the selective schools of higher education the United States. Let's look at the Ivy League. Columbia. 20% Asian American, Harvard 20% Asian American, Yale 19% Darkness 70%. Doesn't this look awfully similar to you? They're all about 20%. Is that a coincidence? Barnard College, Columbia. 4%. How do you go from 60 to 80%? In high school, down to these numbers. Where'd they all go? Oh, it's holistic admissions. Is it any different? Now the judge has not issued a ruling yet in Massachusetts. But the numbers are what the numbers are. And that's why this man came here to Louisville to tell you this story about 1917 and 1927. And why the Jewish hospitals got built because when faced was organized discrimination. Some people stand on the sidelines and do nothing. Some people suffer the discrimination, put their heads down and take a different tack. Some people suffered the discrimination and publicly fight. Some people who could stand on the sidelines if they chose to take a public stand. So what are the answers to the seven questions I posed? Why did Americans Canadians build hospitals? I've told you about the Stuyvesant pledge bedside conversions, kosher food, a rabbi, I told you about medical education and practice anti semitism. What are the origins of medical, anti semitism? Immigration, which prompted a public response of quotas? Was it always a gentleman's agreement or was ever violent? I gave you three episodes of violence or strikes. How many Jewish hospitals were built in this country over 110 where they all go vergers, closures, nursing home conversions, and no longer a perceived need to respond to anti semitism and a decline in Jewish philanthropy to hospitals doesn't matter. You gave you two choices, the contribution to medical education in the public face of the Jewish community, but I invite you, as we talk about
about what you think about whether it matters. Is this story being repeated nowadays, with discrimination against Asian Americans? Well, I showed you the data, we can talk about it. This is a Philip Randolph, leader of the International Federation of railway car porters. He was the emcee at the March on Washington. He has a voice three octaves below middle C is the voice you hear interview introducing the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. But before he introduces Martin Luther King, he introduces a man whose name he really cannot pronounce. You'll hunt him Prinze, former senior rabbi of Berlin, who tells the crowd at the March on Washington. When I was a rabbi in Berlin, under Hitler, I learned a lot of things. Most important thing I learned was that bigotry and hatred are not the most urgent problems. The most urgent problem and the most shameful the most tragic problem is silence. A great people that have created a great civilization have become silent onlookers. They remain silent in the face of hate, brutality and murder. So with the story of discrimination, the story of Jewish hospitals and the contemporary issue of Asian Americans, I would submit to you that while some individuals and organizations are guilty, we're all responsible. Thanks for inviting me. Thanks for listening.