

SPEAKER BIOS

State Historian Rob Martínez is a graduate of the University of New Mexico with a B.B.A. in International Business Management. Rob went on to pursue his interest in New Mexican culture and history at U.N.M., earning an M.A. in Latin American history, with an emphasis on church, cultural, and social practices of the Colonial period in New Mexico. Upon graduating, Rob pursued a teaching license and also worked for fourteen years as a research historian for the *Sephardic Legacy Project*, scouring civil and church archives in New Mexico, Mexico, Spain, France, Italy, Cuba, and Puerto Rico, analyzing documents for a research and publishing project about the Crypto-Jewish phenomenon in New Mexico and the Caribbean. Rob taught at Rio Rancho High School for ten years, educating young New Mexicans about World History, New Mexico History, and Language Arts. Before becoming state historian in 2019, he was deputy state historian for six years at the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives. Rob has published articles on New Mexico history, genealogy and culture in numerous periodicals and presented widely. Rob is also a folk musician, performing with his musical family in all parts of New Mexico and nationally, including at the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival in Washington, D.C., the NEA's National Heritage Fellowship Awards, and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Scott Melton is currently a faculty member at The Fay School in Southboro, MA. He served as a public policy consultant for *New Mexico Thrives*, a consortium serving over 100 member nonprofits. He was also an English, Philosophy, Film, and Spanish Instructor at the Bosque School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he was also the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity. Previously, Scott was at Saint Andrew's School in Florida for six years, where he taught IB Theory of Knowledge, English, History, and German. Scott holds a B.A. in Linguistics/German literature from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and a M.A. in German Studies/2nd Language Acquisition and Critical/Queer Theory from the University of Arizona, Tucson. Prior to his teaching career, Scott was a lobbyist, public policy content expert, and the Associate State Director for AARP Florida.

Dr. Justin B. Terry-Smith, Co-panelist, is a Certified Life Coach and also a Clinical Mental Health Intern with *Coach Positive*. His focus is on LGBTQ issues, and Military Family and Culture. He has studied Human Sexuality, meditation, and visualization. He is known for his writing, activism, and speaking appearances. He writes and has written for many publications including *Black AIDS Institute*, *thebody.com*, *GBMNews.com*, *Baltimore Gay Life*, *POZIAM Radio* and *Swerve Magazine*. He has been interviewed by Fox 5 News, NBC 4, WUSA News 9, the Logo Network, GLO TV, Washington Blade and other news video and radio outlets.

Terry-Smith is an Enlisted Air Force veteran, honorably discharged with awards and decorations in 2003 and proudly served in the State of Maryland Military Department, Maryland Defense Force, as an officer.

Terry-Smith is Jewish and works with all religions and spiritualities. He has his Doctorate in Public Health with a Concentration in Infectious Disease. Clinically, he focuses on Cognitive Behavior, Humanistic, Feminist, Rational Emotive Behavior Theory. His coaching focuses on education, career, and relationship (intimate and non-intimate) goals. After completing advanced studies on public health, Dr. Justin Terry-Smith expanded his work to include life and personal coaching, taking his activism to another level by encouraging others to take control of their own lives.

Jill Anthony is the Director of Equity and Inclusion at Fay School in Southborough, Massachusetts, where she works in all three divisions with students, faculty, staff, parents, trustees, and alumni to help guide the school in its ongoing equity and inclusion work by promoting cultural awareness, cultivating a sense of belonging, and creating space for brave conversations. Jill has led professional development for faculty, staff, and board members, and this year developed a DEI strategic plan for the school.

Jill has done DEI consulting work with schools in Massachusetts, Maryland, and the US Virgin Islands, and has spent seven years as a faculty member of the national Student Diversity Leadership Conference, where she has led both the multiracial and Jewish affinity groups for high school students from across the country.

Jill has taught Latin and Art History in independent schools in Maryland, Texas, New Jersey, and St. Thomas, and has coached volleyball and led international exchange programs as a global director.

Rabbi Jack Shlachter currently serves as Rabbi of *HaMakom*, a small congregation in Santa Fe, NM (www.hamakomtheplace.org) as well as Rabbi of the *Los Alamos Jewish Center*. Between July 2019 and January 2022 he served as spiritual leader of *The Jewish Center of the Moriches* in Center Moriches, New York. Prior to his New York stint, he served HaMakom for over half a decade, which followed a lengthy period during which he supported the Jewish community in Los Alamos, NM. Throughout this entire time, Rabbi Jack simultaneously pursued a full-time, professional career as a Ph.D. research physicist and technical leader, primarily at Los Alamos National Laboratory and subsequently at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

In 2008 he lived in Vienna, Austria, and offered volunteer rabbinic support to the progressive congregation there (<https://www.orchadasch.at/>) while working full-time at the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization. This sabbatical year kindled his interest in itinerant rabbi work, and subsequently he has offered itinerant rabbinic services to a variety of small communities in the American Southwest. For Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur 2014-2018, Rabbi Jack served as the High Holiday rabbi for the expatriate Jewish community in Beijing, China, at Kehillat Beijing (www.sinogogue.org) and made additional trips to Beijing to conduct life cycle and holiday services.

Bennett Greenspan is an entrepreneur and life-long genealogy enthusiast, who founded *Family Tree DNA* in 2000. *Family Tree DNA* was the first company in the world to develop DNA testing for ancestry and genealogical purposes into a commercial business. The Y chromosome test, the company's original product, started the Direct-to-Consumer genetics testing revolution.

Mr. Greenspan's business and entrepreneur experience spans photo-imaging and commercial real estate. In a prior career he oversaw the conversion of the company's sales force from analog to digital data capture.

Greenspan was born in Omaha, Nebraska, 1952, and graduated High School in 1970. He graduated from The University of Texas in the Government Department in 1974. He is married and recently celebrated his 40th anniversary and is the father of two children. Bennett also recently enjoyed the birth of his first grandchild.

Sarah Leiter, Moderator, is a Doctoral candidate in the Department of Anthropology at UNM, and past NMJHS Board member.

Melissa Stevens was born in Santa Fe and has lived all over the US, including Berkeley, New York, and Denver. In 2021 she moved from Santa Fe to the south of France where she lives close to the Mediterranean and the Spanish border with her partner Piers. They run a consultancy firm called *Puente Southwest* focusing on Indigenous Peoples funding globally. Melissa has worked in eleven states and more than seven countries over the course of her nonprofit career which began in the 90s in Chicago and Ecuador. In 2019 she applied to be a Spanish citizen according to Spain's 2015 atonement law. She is now a French resident and has been working on a book about her journey as a Crypto-Jew for the past ten years.

Dr. Maria Sanchez, panelist, holds a Doctorate of Education, MA in Counseling, and B.A. with a double major in Business and Human Services. She currently owns and manages two businesses, one in Counseling and the other a Non-Profit Production Company.

James Ord, panelist, is from an old New Mexico family, and child of military brats, James was born and raised in Hampton Roads, Virginia. His Law Firm, The Ord Firm is based in Salt Lake City and specializes in entertainment and business law, family law and public policy. James received his J.D. from Brigham Young University.

Schelly Talalay Dardashti, journalist and genealogist, was an early proponent of utilizing DNA for genealogical research. She is the US Genealogy Advisor for MyHeritage.com and speaks at many conferences in the US and internationally each year.