

The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay recently welcomed Jim Cerny, a technology educator and longtime volunteer with the Sarasota Technology Users Group (STUG), as its guest speaker. Cerny shared how STUG, an all-volunteer nonprofit founded in 1982, has grown into one of the largest technology users groups in Florida. He walked members through STUG's two core efforts: a free education program offering more than 50 classes a year on computers, smartphones and tablets, and a refurbishing project that has now donated over 25,000 computers to Sarasota-area students, individuals with disabilities and nonprofits in need. Members left with a clear picture of how to get involved — whether by donating a laptop or referring someone who needs one.



Enjoy the Presentation:
(Run time 37 minutes)



Upcoming Meetings & Event

Sept 14	FIELD TRIP	Asolo Repertory production facility, called the Koski Center, located at 1009 Tallevast Road in Sarasota,
Sept 15	100 Central	PDG Bob Stowell: District 6960 Polio Chair
Oct 6	100 Central	Trevor Howard, elite gymnast, shares championship mindset and resilience.



Harvest House




Dan Minor
Chief Executive Officer
& President

In 1992 Harvest House they had just 6 beds for men in recovery from substance abuse. Today, Harvest House has 25 affordable rentals encompassing 380 beds and

Tuesday Noon
September 1st
Zoom Meeting ID: 860 6855 4560
Passcode: 908057

Building Hope Through Housing

Dan Minor, President and CEO of Harvest House, will join us to discuss one of Sarasota's most urgent challenges: helping neighbors find and keep a safe place to live. Harvest House provides supportive and affordable housing, addiction-recovery programs, food security, and individualized services for people rebuilding after homelessness, incarceration, substance-use challenges, or other crises.[

Minor has been part of Harvest House throughout his life and became President and CEO in 2025 after more than 21 years of service to its mission. The organization began in 1992 with six recovery beds; today, it operates 380 beds and multiple programs across Sarasota and Manatee counties.

Its approach reaches beyond rent: residents can access case management, counseling, career support, and practical help designed to create lasting stability. In 2025, Harvest House served 545 adults and children through housing programs and community-based case management; 89 percent of housing clients left with stable income.

Minor will also share Harvest House's growing affordable-housing work, including Lakeview Village, a planned 25-unit North Sarasota development intended for households earning 60–80 percent of area median income, with priority for educators, social workers, and vulnerable seniors.





Monday, September 14, 2026 • 10:00 AM

Behind the Curtain at Asolo Rep

A PRIVATE TOUR OF THE ROBERT & BEVERLY KOSKI CENTER

Tom Walker has arranged a special outing for our club — a private tour, on Monday, September 14 at 10:00 AM, of the Asolo Repertory Theatre's production facility, the Robert and Beverly Koski Center, located at 1009 Tallevast Road in Sarasota, near Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport.

This is not the main theater — it's Asolo Rep's auxiliary home for set design, rehearsal, and costume work. Highlights include the Joan Armour Mendell Scenic Studio, the Ted Weiller Rehearsal Hall, costume shops, and storage spaces. Tom has taken this tour before and says it's well worth seeing how a professional regional theater builds its productions from the ground up.

DATE & TIME: Monday, September 14, 2026 • 10:00 AM

LOCATION: Robert & Beverly Koski Center • 1009 Tallevast Road, Sarasota

Space is limited — reply to reserve your spot — Guests welcome

There is no fee for this tour

“The Friendliest Club in the World”

Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay • District 6960 • rotarysarasotabay@gmail.com • 941-445-3465

Volunteers that love their job

Closing the Digital Divide, One Laptop at a Time

Guest speaker Jim Cerny brings the Sarasota Technology Users Group's decades-long refurbishing and education mission to the Club on August 18.



Since 1982, the Sarasota Technology Users Group (STUG) has grown into one of the largest technology users groups in Florida—and one of the ten largest in the country—without ever hiring a single paid employee. Everything the organization does, from teaching seniors how to use a new smartphone to rebuilding a donated laptop for a student who has never had one, runs on volunteer time.

On August 18, the Club of Sarasota Bay welcomes Jim Cerny as its guest speaker. Jim is a technology educator and longtime STUG volunteer who works on both sides of the organization's mission: helping Sarasota County residents get comfortable with the devices they already own, and steering the computers they no longer need into the hands of people who do. His program covers what STUG offers the community and how members can get involved—donating a laptop, requesting help for someone in need, or learning a new tech skill.

STUG's story is, at its core, a simple one: volunteers who believe a working computer and the confidence to use it shouldn't be out of reach for anyone in Sarasota County. The next page lays out how that belief becomes 25,000-plus computers delivered and 50-plus free classes taught every year.

STUG's all-volunteer refurbishing team operates at the group's Sarasota shop, where donated laptops are cleaned, repaired, and prepared for their next owner. The group's Refurb Project has successfully placed more than 25,000 computers with residents and nonprofits in need.



SARASOTA TECHNOLOGY Users Group

MEETING LOCATION
110 CENTRAL CONDOMINIUM

Jim Cerny
Technology Educator

Jim Cerny, a tech educator and STUG volunteer, helps provide refurbished computers and tech education to Sarasota County residents. Need help?

Tuesday Noon
August 18, 2026
Zoom Meeting ID: 860 6855 4560
Passcode: 908057
Club of Sarasota Bay
Rotary
District 6960

"Jim Cerny, a tech educator and STUG volunteer, helps provide refurbished computers and tech education to Sarasota County residents. Need help?"
— from the STUG meeting notice



BACKGROUND About STUG

A closer look at the organization behind the August 18 program — its classes, its refurbishing project, and how it's funded.

1982

FOUNDED

300+

MEMBERS

50+

FREECLASSES / YEAR

25,000+

COMPUTERS DONATED

Education Program

STUG runs one of the most active technology education programs on the Suncoast: more than 50 free classes and sessions a year covering Windows, macOS, iPhone and Android phones and tablets, e-readers, and everyday tools like email and social media. Classes and forums are held virtually over Zoom, and the group's general meeting takes place the first Wednesday of every month. Membership runs \$30 a year per household and includes twelve digital newsletters, meeting-night Q&A, a help desk, and a members-helping-members phone line. K-12 students join free.

Refurbishing Project

STUG's Refurb Project collects donated computers, wipes and repairs them, loads free or nonprofit-licensed software, and gives them away at no cost to qualifying students, individuals with disabilities, and nonprofits serving families in need across Sarasota, Manatee and DeSoto counties. This year the project passed a major milestone: more than 25,000 refurbished computers placed since the program began, with over 20,000 of those donated since 2004 alone. Partners have included Goodwill, the Patterson Foundation, and area schools and foster-care organizations.

Financials

STUG is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit with no paid staff or officers. It operates on membership dues, individual donations, grants, and community fundraising events such as the annual Giving Challenge. Its expenses are modest but real: rent and utilities for the refurbishing shop and replacement parts for repairs. Like many small nonprofits, STUG has recently seen costs outpace donations, drawing down its reserves—a good reminder that a program built almost entirely on volunteer labor still depends on financial support to keep running.



STUG volunteers at a recent device drive, part of the group's ongoing push to collect donated computers for refurbishing and redistribution across the Suncoast.

"It is our mission to bring to our members quality education in using today's personal technology products, and to provide to qualified citizens of Sarasota County refurbished computer equipment."

— STUG mission statement

Things you can do:

- Become a **STUG** member and attend
- Donate used computers and devices
- Volunteer with the Refurbishing
- Assist with **STUG** meetings
- Spread the word about **STUG**
- Support tech education.

ABOUT STUG

thestug.org
Refurb Shop: 941-539-7401
General: 941-677-0246
PO Box 15889, Sarasota, FL 34277

GET INVOLVED

Donate a computer at the Refurb Shop
Join STUG: thestug.org/membership2.html
Refer someone in need of a computer

SOURCES

thestug.org · Sarasota News Leader
The Patterson Foundation · ProPublica
Nonprofit Explorer (Form 990-EZ filings)

FOURTH ANNUAL
**Suncoast Environmental Leaders
Appreciation Event**

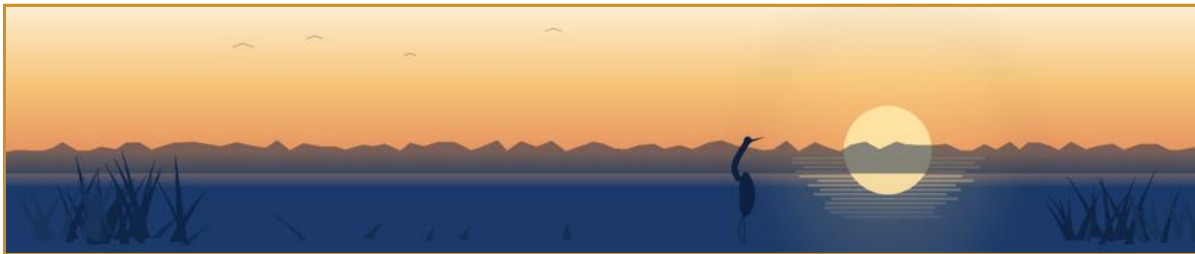
HOPETHROUGH ACTION

Saturday, September 19, 2026 | 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

UnitarianUniversalists of Sarasota • 3975 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232

Leaders Appreciation Event, hosted by the Unitarian Universalists of Sarasota Green Team, WSLR, and Generating Earth Connections. This free, community-wide morning honors the scientists, planners, advocates, and volunteers who work — often quietly and behind the scenes — to restore and protect Florida's Gulf Coast. More than 100 environmental leaders from across the Suncoast are invited, representing dozens of local organizations committed to science-based stewardship and sustainability.

Sunrise over the Suncoast — honoring those who restore Florida's Gulf Coast



FEATURED SPEAKERS

Jennifer Shafer, PhD — Co-Executive Director, Science and Environment Council of Southwest Florida, a network of 45 regional environmental organizations.

Sara Kane, MA, CPM, LEED GA — Sustainability and Resilience Manager for Sarasota County, who led the region's first Climate Action and Adaptation Plans.

"We want to say thank you to those who are restoring Florida's beauty and resilience — often quietly and behind the scenes. This is a time to celebrate, reflect, and strengthen our community of environmental stewards."

— Event Organizers

Guests will enjoy a complimentary vegetarian lunch — free and open to the community.

RSVP REQUESTED — please include number of attendees

Jane: 941-809-3168

Mary Lou: suncoastenvleaders@gmail.com

[Eventbrite: Register easy & free — CLICK HERE](#)

PARTICIPATING & INVITED ORGANIZATIONS

Joining the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay Foundation as participating and invited organizations: Mote Marine Laboratory, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program, Save Our Seabirds, Sierra Club Sarasota-Manatee, and more than 90 additional Suncoast environmental organizations.

All are welcome — bring a friend or colleague who shares your passion for sustainability.

Club of Sarasota Bay

Rotary

District 6960



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