

**ROB GREENFIELD**

Rob Greenfield is an activist and humanitarian dedicated to leading the way to a more sustainable and just world. He embarks on extreme projects to bring attention to important global issues and inspire positive change. His work has been covered by media worldwide, including National Geographic, and he's been named "The Robin Hood of modern times" by France 2 TV.

Rob's life is an embodiment of Gandhi's philosophy, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." In a time when many feel disempowered, he believes that our actions really do matter and that, as individuals and communities, we have the power to improve the world around us. Rob donates 100 percent of his media earnings to grassroots nonprofits, and he has committed to living simply and responsibly for life. Learn more at [www.robgreenfield.org](http://www.robgreenfield.org).

**MEG LOWMAN**

Called the "real life Lorax" by National Geographic and the "Einstein of the treetops" by Wall Street Journal, Meg Lowman is an author, explorer, scientist, arbournaut (translation: treetop explorer!), mom, and change-agent for conservation. She has devoted more than four decades to exploration and research on treetop secrets, as a global pioneer of canopy science and public science communication. Lowman has published 10 books—including "The Arbournaut," last month—and more than 150 peer-reviewed works.

Meg directs the TREE Foundation, which built the Myakka River State Park canopy walkway and has since expanded to construct similar ecotourism skywalks in the world's highest biodiversity forests. Her recent projects included creating a UNESCO world heritage forest site in Malaysia and partnering with Ethiopia's Coptic priests to save the remaining 5 percent of their church forests.

**TAI SIMPSON**

Tai Simpson, known as "The Storyteller" in the Indigenous language of the Nez Perce Tribe, serves as an organizer for the Indigenous Idaho Alliance and works as a Social Change Advocate with the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence. As an antiracism activist and community organizer, she uses contemporary and traditional Indigenous storytelling to champion radical inclusion, equity, and liberation. Notably, she has a TEDxBoise talk exploring Indigenous beliefs to empower the community.

In 2019, she was pivotal in passing legislation to acknowledge the missing and murdered Indigenous women's crisis in Idaho, as well as centering Indigenous voices in policy work. In 2020, Tai was cornerstone to the Black community by coordinating a vigil to honor the many Black lives lost at the hands of police violence; that organizing still carries forward today.

## Antonia Ginsberg-Klemmt



Antonia Ginsberg-Klemmt is a fourth-year student at New College of Florida, studying physics and environmental studies. She is the president of Gismo Power, a patent-pending, solar-on-wheels carport with integrated electric vehicle charger. Her invention made her a recipient of the 2021 Ozy Genius Award. She is also the founder and head coach of New Crew SRQ, Sarasota's collegiate rowing club team that practices at Nathan Benderson Park, a world-class rowing facility in Sarasota County.

## Jill Horwitz



Jill Horwitz has been guiding South Florida communities in climate resilience planning for more than 15 years. Her accomplishments include the American Planning Association's National Planning Excellence Award for Environmental Planning, achieving the first 4-STAR Community Sustainability Rating by a county government, and building a peer-exchange network of 500-plus local sustainability professionals. Jill currently serves as the climate resiliency officer for The Seminole Tribe of Florida.

## Sara Kane



Sara Kane manages the sustainability program for Sarasota County UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability. She oversees sustainability improvements within government operations and the efforts to create a sustainable community across Sarasota County. She has worked in the environmental field for 18 years, with positions at Sarasota Bay Estuary Program and Mote Marine Laboratory. Sara earned a master's degree in global sustainability, with a water concentration, from the University of South Florida.

## Jack Mackay



Jack Mackay is an Eckerd College senior, working toward a bachelor's degree in marine science. In collaboration with the Center of Anna Maria Island, Jack is the student coordinator for research on the effectiveness of artificial mini-reefs in their ability to support marine invertebrates and improve water quality in residential canals. Jack has contributed to the education of citizens on the value of the reefs, and taught volunteers to collect data on their own reefs.

## Elizabeth Moore



Elizabeth Moore is an ardent conservationist. A graduate from Denison University who pursued graduate studies at the American University in Washington, D.C., she works to educate about, save and restore our natural ecosystems locally and internationally. Elizabeth became a cattle rancher after purchasing Triangle Ranch in 2016 to conserve 1,100 acres of land in the Upper Myakka River watershed, and is a passionate supporter of the transition to a regenerative economy and our future by design.

## Michael Moran



Michael A. Moran is chairman of the Sarasota County Commission, earning election to the board in 2016, his first public office. Michael advocates conservative policies, with a goal to make government taxpayer-accountable and representative to all constituents. A certified insurance counselor, Michael is a tireless advocate for seniors, Sarasota County's environment, and the business community, and would like to build an environment that encourages youthful, talented citizens to remain in the county.

## Heather O'Leary



Heather O'Leary champions citizen engagement for sustainable urban development. Her latest research looks at social and environmental tipping points on Florida's coasts, focusing on red tide and coral decline. She directs the University of South Florida EcoFem Lab, and serves on committees with the International Union for Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences and the World Anthropological Union. Heather was a Wenner-Gren and a Fulbright Fellow in India.

## Polly Pitchford



Polly Pitchford is the Aetna on-site health promotion specialist for Sarasota County Government, with more than 40 years' experience in the health industry. As part of Sarasota County's "Wellness Team," she co-produced the "Workplace Positivity Study" (published in the Journal of Occupational & Environmental Medicine). Author of two natural-foods cookbooks and a certified personal trainer, therapist and yoga instructor, Polly speaks nationally on healthy lifestyles.

## Kelly Romanoff



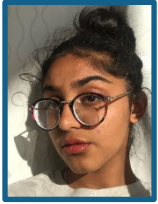
Kelly Romanoff has worked in philanthropy for more than 15 years, and currently serves as the impact and innovation officer for the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation. Under her leadership, the foundation established First 1,000 Days Sarasota County, to improve maternal health and early childhood development. Kelly earned a master's in Public Administration from the University of Central Florida, and works with many community partners on cultural, humanitarian, education, and environmental causes.

## Tim Rumage



Tim Rumage is a planetary ethicist and professor of environmental studies at Ringling College of Art and Design, where he teaches courses on environmental science; sustainability; applied environmental design; biodiversity; and environmental ethics. He has spent more than 40 years at the intersection of science and art. Tim co-authored "This Spaceship Earth" with David Houle, and co-founded the non-profit This Spaceship Earth, Inc., where he serves as chief science officer and authors quartermaster reports.

## Mehak Sandhu



Mehak (they/them) is a Booker High School junior, enrolled in the VPA program. Mehak heard of Sarasota Students 4 Climate through friends, and, with a passion for climate action, jumped right in during summer 2020. Mehak has worked in the group since, serving as co-director of arts with member Alanna Hutton for months, organizing strikes and events. Mehak now co-leads the team, alongside Anja Schwarzbauer.

## Anja Schwarzbauer



Anja Schwarzbauer (she/her) is a Sarasota High School junior, enrolled in the AICE and MaST programs. Through these programs and her school activities, Anja has developed notable experience in researching environmental issues from a political perspective and debating with her peers. She joined Sarasota Students 4 Climate in September 2020 to help the team make an impact in local and state government, and has since taken the role of co-lead. She also serves on the organization's "Ready for 100" outreach team.

## Dave Tomasko



Dave Tomasko has more than 30 years of experience in water quality assessments and the development of science-based natural resource plans in the Gulf of Mexico and international locations. He holds a doctorate in biology from the University of South Florida, a Master of Science in marine biology from the Florida Institute of Technology, and a Bachelor of Science in biology from Old Dominion University.

## Dr. Catherine Toms



Dr. Catherine Toms is a physician and a senior advisor on Climate and Health for Health Care Without Harm (HCWH). An international nonprofit, HCWH collaborates with health care systems to reduce their environmental footprint, be anchors for community resilience, and advocate for environmental health justice. As a steering committee member of Florida Clinicians for Climate Action, Catherine informs the general public and clinicians about the health effects of a warming climate.

## Abbey Tyrna



Abbey Tyrna is the water resources agent for UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County, a partnership between local, state and federal governments. She is responsible for creating education and outreach programs—as well as public volunteer opportunities—for various water resource issues, such as microplastic pollution, healthy pond management, and water conservation.

## Christopher Uejio



For the past 16 years, Christopher Uejio has researched how the physical environment influences human health and well-being. He is a co-author of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) Framework." This framework comprised a small portion of the 2012 Climate Action Plan for President Barack Obama. Christopher frequently works with health departments across the country to help them understand and adapt to climate change.

## Amber Whittle



Amber Whittle is the executive director of Southface Sarasota. Amber earned a Bachelor of Science in zoology and a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Florida, and her doctorate in zoology, with a specialty in ecology, evolution, and conservation biology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She is the chair of the Sarasota County Coastal Advisory Committee and is on the board of the Sarasota Bay Foundation.

## Emcees

### Jessica Meszaros (morning session)



Jessica Meszaros is a reporter and host of "All Things Considered" at WUSF Public Media. An award-winning journalist, Jessica this year joined the National Science-Health-Environment Reporting Fellowship's inaugural class.

### Cathy Carter (afternoon session)



Cathy Carter is a reporter and host for WUSF Public Media who has covered issues from Gulf Coast aquaculture to COVID-19. She has been honored by the Public Radio Journalist's Assn., Florida Associated Press Assn. and others.

*NOTE: This is a draft speaker roster, subject to change.*