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CATA is on the GROW

Summer 2026

From the Founder's Desk

From Venice to Lakeland: CATA's Expanding Mission



As 2025 came to a close, CATA looked ahead to the new year with excitement. We began planning an encore presentation of our most popular workshop, the Evolving Relationship Between Church and State, in partnership with five faith communities.

Read Dr. Woodson's Reflection

Partners in Dialogue





with Community Foundation of Sarasota County Grant

Together with our supporters, we're building spaces for honest dialogue and a stronger, more connected community.

We are pleased to announce that the **Community Foundation of Sarasota County** is investing in a region made stronger through candid dialogue, with a capacity-building award, empowering **CATA** to build sustainable infrastructure. We are delighted by this show of support for our mission: **bringing meaningful, candid, civil discussions that reach across lines of ideological difference to more members of our community**. Our shared desire for justice, safety, fairness, and freedom of expression is more salient than the politics that divide us.

We appreciate this vote of confidence and this investment in our shared future. And we appreciate our supporters, whether by their participation in our Dinner Workshops or by making a donation to support our work, including in the recent Community Foundation 2026 Giving Challenge.

It's an honor to be in service to such a special community. Thank you!

Read the Press Release



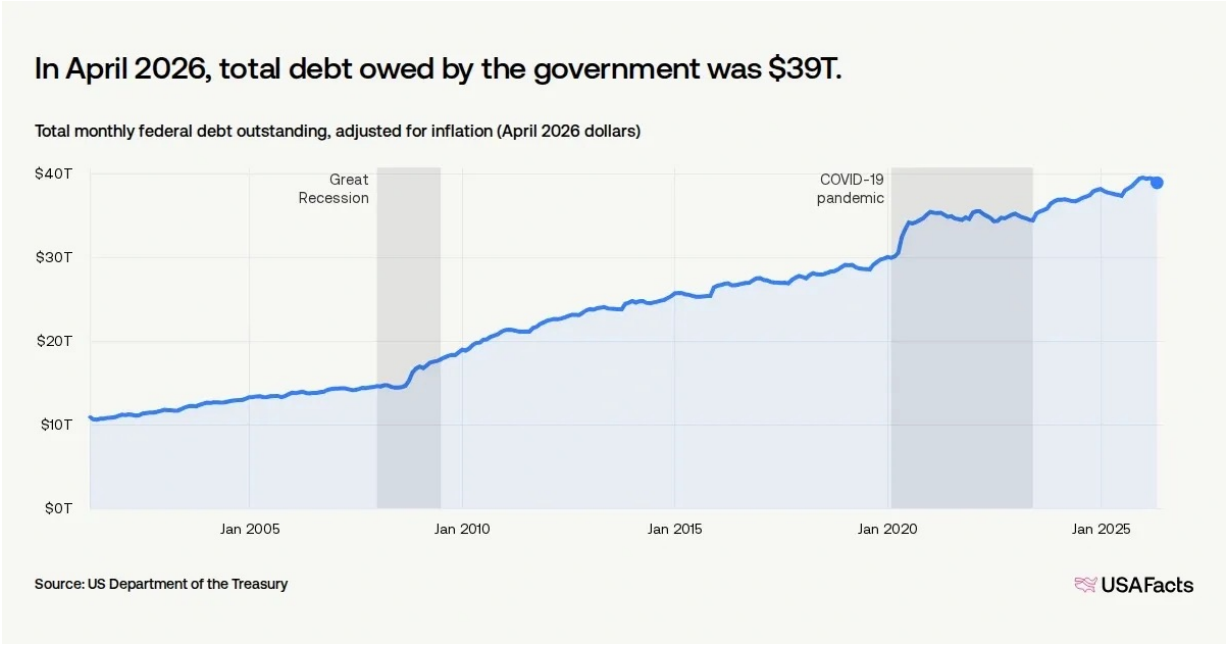


In Conversation

Growing the Conversation: CATA Expands to New Communities

When **CATA** launched its first Dinner Workshop in **Sarasota** in **October 2023**, the vision was always larger than a single city. From the beginning, CATA was created to help communities strengthen civic dialogue by bringing people together across political and ideological differences.

Catch Up on CATA's Growth!



Upcoming Dinner Workshop

CATA + OLLI Bring "Fair Taxation?" to a New Audience



Things slow down in Sarasota during the summer. The snowbirds head north, school is out, and tax season



is finally behind us.

About those taxes: While most people agree taxes are necessary, what does fair taxation really look like? How should tax burdens be shared, and what services should taxes fund? How do Florida's tax policies compare to other states and countries? And are proposals to eliminate some Florida property taxes a good idea?

Join us for a community conversation on fair taxation and hear from experts and neighbors alike. RSVP details will arrive in your inbox this week. If you don't receive them, email Info@CataProject.org.

Continue Reading

Listening & Learning

What is Depolarization? Why Is It Important?



Political and social polarization have become two of the defining challenges of democratic life in America. **Families avoid difficult conversations, friendships fracture over elections, and many people increasingly view those with opposing views not merely as wrong, but as immoral or dangerous**. In response, a growing movement has emerged around the idea of depolarization: **The intentional effort to reduce hostility, improve understanding, and rebuild trust across political, cultural, and ideological divides**.

Continue Reading

CATA in the News

Derate the Hate Podcast: Conversations Across the Aisle with Dr. Bill Woodson



Sarasota Magazine: Curiosity in Chaos: How a Local Nonprofit Takes on Deep Political Division



Growing the Conversation

2026 will be a year of growth for CATA. We're expanding our workshops to youth groups, faith communities, new partners, and communities beyond Sarasota—growth made possible by the encouragement of past participants like you.

Every CATA Workshop includes a shared meal, which we see as essential to building trust and open dialogue. We've never charged a fee to attend, keeping our programs accessible to all.

Your donation helps make this possible. If you haven't yet given, please consider making your first contribution today. And if you have, thank you for helping CATA continue fostering meaningful conversation in 2026 and beyond.

DONATE TODAY

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About CATA

Conversations Across the Aisle (CATA) is a non-partisan initiative dedicated to strengthening our nation—one community at a time.

By creating safe, structured spaces for informed conversations we foster understanding, build appreciation for different points of view, and strengthen Members' skill and confidence in navigating differences of opinion. We utilize a tested, replicable model that prioritizes respect, highlights the value of learning from peers, even when we disagree, and values authentic curiosity. This model enables us to bring neighbors together across political, racial, and cultural divides; bridge ideological division; and discover our common interests.

Contact Us!

Info@CataProject.org

cata Conversations Across The Aisle

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