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cata Conversations Across The Aisle

From Dialogue to Impact

February 2026

From the Founder's Desk

Building Bridges Through Dialogue: Highlights & What's Ahead

To our CATA Community Members here in Sarasota and around the country, thank you for your enthusiastic support for our mission—to strengthen our community through authentic dialogue that builds connections across lines of ideological division.



Read Dr. Woodson's Reflection





In Conversation

Faith Groups Join CATA to Discuss Church<->State Relationship

Earlier this month, CATA hosted an energizing and deeply engaging Dinner Workshop exploring the evolving relationship between church and state, bringing together 90 Members from five different congregations for an evening of meaningful conversation, new connections, and shared discovery.

Hear from Participants



Partners in Dialogue

Join the March 2 Depolarizing Within Workshop in Venice

In a time when conversations about public issues can quickly become tense or unproductive, CATA is partnering with Braver Angels to offer a powerful opportunity for reflection, skill-building, and connection.

Learn More **Sign Up for Free**

Listening & Learning

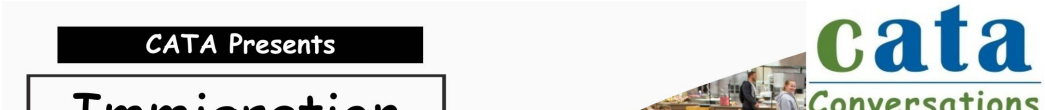
Why the US Census Doesn't Ask Americans About Their Religion



The **evolving relationship between church and state** has been one of our most engaging workshop topics…[and] the following article by **Pew Research**, which recaps the history of how the **US Census** has treated religion as a dimension of demographic identity [was] of particular interest.

One of the things I love about taking part in this work is the way the discussions, the context provided by the framing speakers, and the comments of the participants have deepened my appreciation of the complexity as well as the history underlying current practice and issues.

Keep Reading





CATA Dinner Workshop

Immigration: Can We Find New Solutions to an Enduring Challenge?

March 31, 2026 | 5 PM

CATA comes to Venice! We are excited to launch a new Community in Venice with this timely discussion. As always, we will open the conversation with an overview by a subject matter expert, but the centerpiece of this workshop will be the conversations you will have, exploring and exchanging ideas for solutions with your similarly- and differently-minded table-mates.

How Do I Know If I'm a CATA Community Member?
If you received this email from CATAProject.org, you are a CATA Community Member, and will receive an invitation to RSVP from us as soon as registrations open. But if this email was forwarded to you from a friend, you can join CATA by filling out a simple interest survey—just click on the link below.

Join CATA!

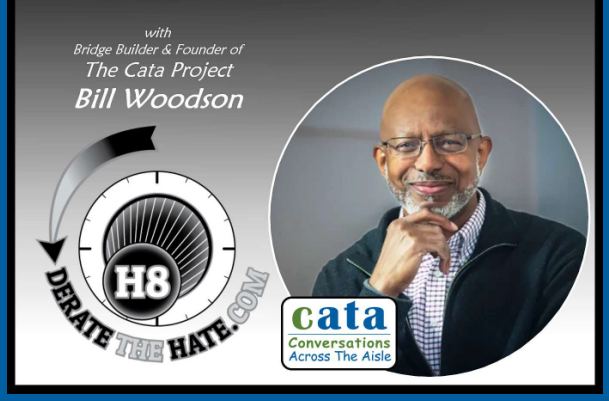
CATA in the News

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!
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