



# Rotary Club of Los Gatos Cat Tale

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## THE INNOVATIVE SOCIETY

**Art Rabitz** introduced today's speaker **Rudy Kalafus**. Dr. Kalafus grew up in a blue-collar family in Jackson, Michigan, receiving his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan in 1966. In the early 1980's he performed pioneering work in assessing the potential of GPS for air and marine applications. At his initiative a Special Committee for Differential Global Navigation Satellite Systems was established, which has developed standards for high-accuracy GPS services around the world.

In 1988 he joined Trimble Navigation in Silicon Valley to develop receivers for the Global Positioning System (GPS), and has consulted for the military group there since 2002. He has six patents and received the prestigious *Kepler* award in 1992 for significant contributions to satellite navigation.

Why do some countries produce more inventions and ideas than others? Is innovation

driven by scientific elites or unsung artisans? Is there a link between innovation and democracy? The book "*The Innovative Society*" provides fresh answers to these questions. Distinguish-

ing between what he calls "blue-collar" and "white-collar" innovation, Dr. Kalafus provides a unique analysis of practical and theoretical innovations, and describes how science and technology eventually interacted to promote prosperity.



Today's speaker, Rudy Kalafus

What were the two greatest innovations of the ancient Greeks? Did the breakup of the Roman Empire really hold back innovation in Europe? Did

the Catholic Church really suppress innovation in the Middle Ages? Did ground-breaking innovations transform societies, or did societal and political changes create an atmosphere for innovation to flourish? Given the large number of inventions in China, why didn't the explosion of inventions of the 19th and 20th centuries take place there?

## Five conditions that favor innovation:

1. Absence of fear. Failure is OK. (The Emperor Tiberius executed the discoverer of glass because it would interfere with the current stable system)
2. Access to information (Greek merchants were strong enough to develop stadiums for contests and amphitheaters for drama, despite opposition from autocrats)
3. Guidance in the use of information — education. (Literacy in the nineteenth century allowed the steam engine to develop from ideas of the brewing industry)
4. Society recognizes innovation as good
5. Multiplicity of opportunity. (Monasteries were wonderful sources of innovation, especially the Cistercian monks)

After giving special honor to **Galileo** and **Edison**, Dr. Kalafus presented us with a Greek word that epitomizes the whole idea of innovation:

PHILOTIMO  
appreciation and admiration  
for heritage and ancestors



Today's speaker Rudy Kalafus accepts a certificate from President Tina. It commemorates the gift of a wheelchair in his honor, and elicited the comment "Now this is real innovation!"



Art Rabitz used a maximum of innovation as he introduced today's speaker



The **Rotoract Club**, which our club helped found some years ago, is ably lead by **Danielle** and **Andrew**.

Here they are describing a **Fashion Show and Silent Auction** fundraiser they are planning for September 19. It will be held at the Corinthian Grand Ballroom on Third street, and tickets will be \$85.

See electronic page 5 for sister Rotary club meeting places/times, member information, and **ROSTER UPDATES**. See page 6 for new member photos.