

# LEO News

## Changes coming around the bend for gravity car races

LEO's ever-popular gravity car races are taking on a new look. A new name, "The Challenge Series Races" and logo are in place for this summer's races held in Issaquah, Sammamish, Snoqualmie Valley, Oak Harbor, Richland, and Spokane.



A Truly Special Event By Life Enrichment Options

The races have become an annual event that many families look forward to each summer, and with each year there are more participants and more interest from service clubs around the state to offer an event in their city. With that in mind, we developed new branding for the races and have begun working with a group of volunteers comprised of Rotary members, Boeing engineers, and their like-minded contacts in the community, to expand LEO's fleet of cars. We hope to have the new cars, along with a trailer for them, in place for the 2014 race season and look forward to being able to provide more days of racing fun to more people with disabilities around the state.



*Everyone is a winner in the Challenge Series Races!*

## "It's About the Journey"

We hope you will consider joining us in celebrating the life journeys of the residents of our homes and others we serve who live each day with a developmental disability. Our celebration, titled "It's About the Journey," is a fundraising luncheon taking place on October 22, 2013, at 11:30 am, at the Pickering Barn in Issaquah.



LEO is committed to continue our efforts to support and advocate for those with developmental disabilities to achieve their life style goals through supportive housing, recreation and employment opportunities, and community education. We have been able to achieve our past goals through partnerships and collaborations developed from our caring community, and you are part of that caring community.

We welcome you as a guest, as a table captain, as a sponsor, or as a donor at this joyous celebration. Please join us as we are inspired together by the work we can accomplish in the future.

To register, email [info@lifeenrichmentoptions.org](mailto:info@lifeenrichmentoptions.org).

If you are unable to attend and would like to make a donation, please visit our website at [www.lifeenrichmentoptions.org](http://www.lifeenrichmentoptions.org).



*Proud recipient Tim Finnegan.*

## Tim Finnegan receives Rotary's Paul Harris Award

The Spokane East Rotary Club awarded the prestigious Paul Harris Award to Tim Finnegan at the Challenge Series Races in Spokane on June 22nd.

The Paul Harris Award is given "in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world." Tim was presented with the award in recognition of the fact that he was the inspiration for the gravity car races began by his dad, Leo Finnegan, and now enjoyed by so many people with developmental disabilities. As part of the award, the Spokane Rotary donated \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation in honor of Tim.

Paul Harris founded Rotary in 1905 as a way to capture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. As Rotary grew, its mission expanded beyond serving club members' professional and social interests. Rotarians began pooling their resources and contributing their talents to help serve communities in need. The organization's dedication to this ideal is best expressed in its motto: "Service Above Self."

---

## A special lunch for special moms

Every year in May we honor those women in our lives who are dedicated to loving and caring for us with a special day of recognition, Mother's Day. Being a mother is a huge responsibility, but having a special needs child who requires extra time and attention makes this commitment even more challenging.

LEO welcomed mothers of children with disabilities, and their families, to our first annual Mother's Lunch on Sunday, May 19th at Blakely Hall in the Issaquah Highlands.

"When we asked for input from parents, family members and caregivers of those with special needs as to what their needs were, one of the things that came out clearly was how hard it was to get to know others who had kids with special needs," said Rose Finnegan, one of the founding members of LEO. "This event offered moms the opportunity to connect with other moms sharing similar experiences."

"We wanted to offer a comfortable and accepting environment for moms of special needs kids to be able to relax, connect with other moms, and enjoy a time just for them," said Becky Gordon, chair of LEO's Issaquah Outreach Committee.

With our success in achieving our goals for the event, we look forward to another lunch next year to honor these special moms.

---

## The iPad as a tool for independent living

Everyone seems to be talking about the iPad and how great it is, but how do people with special needs use it in an everyday practical manner? To help answer this question, LEO welcomed Elizabeth Cambier, of Interactive Therapy LLC, to our spring presentation in April.

The hands-on information offered by Cambier included functional apps, how to fit the needs of the individual users, and the basics of the IOS platform, helping to understand how to navigate, teach and program apps.

"I found the presentation very informative and full of great, easy to do tips for me to use in helping my son with his iPad," Kathryn Stueckle commented about the presentation. "I also learned about two new apps that I immediately installed that he's using. I appreciate this "continuing education" provided by LEO and look forward to the next one!"



## Caring Community Awards recognize those who go the extra mile

LEO, AtWork! and the Tavon Center are proud to announce that “Caring Community Awards” were awarded to Athletes For Kids (accepting for AFK was Teresa Bretl), The Rotary Club of Issaquah (accepting for the Issaquah Rotary was Stan Conrad), Chris Brandt and Samantha Garrard at the 34th Annual Issaquah Chamber of Commerce Community Awards Banquet

LEO and AtWork! partnered in creating the Caring Community Awards in 2012 and were happy to be joined this year by the Tavon Center in recognizing the efforts of these individuals and organizations that engage and support those in our community who have developmental disabilities.

Athletes For Kids matches high school athletes with special needs “buddies” at the elementary and middle school level. By pairing an admired and responsible teen with a child or youth with special needs, Athletes for Kids promotes understanding of people with disabilities, reduces bullying and harassment, increases the “buddy’s” self-esteem and confidence, and helps to improve the “buddy’s” school performance and socialization. Athletes For Kids is an outstanding organization that is making wonderful contributions toward the mainstreaming of people with disabilities.

For the past fifteen years the Issaquah Rotary Club has partnered with LEO to provide the Issaquah community with the Challenge Series Races, a gravity car race for children with developmental disabilities. These races



*Teresa Bretl, Stan Conrad, Chris Brandt and Samantha Garrard.*

pair non-disabled children as drivers with their peers with disabilities in a very fun “soapbox derby” type race. It gives the children with disabilities a chance for an exciting day of fun. It also provides their parents a day to relax and be observers instead of being fully responsible for the day’s events. Issaquah Rotary Club members have also drawn in many other community businesses and organizations to make the day a true community event and are currently helping to find funding to make a second set of cars with a trailer so more groups can bring these races to the children in different communities around the state.

Chris Brandt is being recognized for creating the Aktion Club of Salmon Country, a division of Kiwanis for people with disabilities that teaches leadership and service to the community. Aktion Club members complete service projects and fundraisers just like a typical Kiwanis club, but their meetings are run by, and for, people with disabilities. Chris is the Aktion Club’s volunteer advisor and sponsor. She plans and attends almost every monthly meeting, takes and chaperones club members to

outside events and trainings, helps the club plan and execute fundraisers, supports the club members in participating in club activities, advocates for the Aktion Club at the Issaquah Kiwanis club meetings and at the Kiwanis division, and is always recruiting new members to grow the club.

Samantha Garrard is a role model for other young people in acceptance of those with disabilities. Samantha, a 2013 graduate of Issaquah High School, was a peer tutor for students with special needs at IHS and coaches for the adaptive tennis program at Robinswood Tennis Center. Samantha plans to major in public affairs and nonprofit leadership at Seattle University, with the goal of becoming an advocate for the special needs community.



Life  
Enrichment  
Options

P.O. Box 117  
Issaquah, WA 98027

# LEO News

> To learn more about LEO,  
make a donation or  
join our mailing list, visit

[www.lifeenrichmentoptions.org](http://www.lifeenrichmentoptions.org)

© 2013 Life Enrichment Options. All Rights Reserved.

## Interested in Getting Involved with LEO?

New members are always welcome to join our Issaquah and Snoqualmie Valley Outreach Committees. The committees meet just four times each year, planning the spring and fall educational presentations, sharing information about LEO at the Issaquah ArtWalks, and participating in the Salmon Days and Festival at Mt Si parades. The committees are an important way for LEO to connect with the needs of the community. For more information, contact Chris Weber at [chris.weber@lifeenrichmentoptions.org](mailto:chris.weber@lifeenrichmentoptions.org) or visit our website at [www.lifeenrichmentoptions.org](http://www.lifeenrichmentoptions.org).

And, we always have a need for volunteers of any interest or skill, for individuals as well as organizations. For more information, contact Becky Kitz at [becky.kitz@lifeenrichmentoptions.org](mailto:becky.kitz@lifeenrichmentoptions.org).

We apologize if we have inadvertently sent this newsletter to you. We are implementing a new database and have made all attempts to keep records in sync. If you would like to be removed from our distribution list please email us at [info@lifeenrichmentoptions.org](mailto:info@lifeenrichmentoptions.org).