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Moraga dog trainer Judie Howard works with Ryder, preparing for obedience trial competition.

Photo Andy Schreck

The Lamorinda Woman Behind Champion Dogs

By Sophie Braccini

Judie Howard is a legend in the world of obedience training for dogs in the United States. People come from all over the country to spend time with the Bollinger Canyon trainer who can make the meekest dog of any breed a champion. For more than 25 years she has managed one of the largest obedience schools in the country, with more than 70 American Kennel Club obedience titles to her credit. She now trains one-on-one in her own facility with dogs and their owners who want to compete.

While small in stature, Howard emanates a purposefulness and determination. But she says she's not an alpha female: "We are far removed from wolves," she says with a smile. She does acknowledge, however, that dogs immediately recognize that she is in charge. The real secret to her success is she loves them to pieces. For her, each dog she trains is unique. She thinks something can be learned from each breed. If they are understood, she says, they give their best with joy.

The Moraga resident started dog training at age 9. "It was a neighbor's dog and I taught him to sit," she remembers. Her family could not have dogs, so she got her first German Shepherd and trained it after she got married. "Dogs love coming here to be trained," she says. "Owners tell me that their dogs start barking as soon as the car enters Bollinger Canyon Road. They pull them up my stairs and when they get in the arena they start running circles around me."

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Orinda Mayor Steve Glazer Announces Run for California Senate



"I'm in. Voters deserve an opportunity to elect a fiscally conservative, independently minded, bi-partisan problem solver." With that simple tweet, Orinda Mayor Steve Glazer announced his 2015

run for the California Senate. Stating via Facebook that he expects to see "more bricks flying my way from entrenched and powerful interests," he explained his rationale for filing papers late in the day Jan. 23. "The issues I previously campaigned about remain urgent priorities: a compassionate state government that lives within its financial means; banning BART strikes; reining in our unfunded public pensions; greater support for education but with reforms in teacher discipline and seniority; affordable higher education, independence from special interests, and protecting our environment." He added that he

will remain focused "on problem solving over partisanship." In response, Orinda City Council Member Dean Orr tweeted, "Best news item of the week. All in!" Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees Member Julie Rossiter also tweeted her support. Glazer, a former political advisor to Gov. Jerry Brown, managed Brown's successful 2010 gubernatorial campaign, and has also counseled CalChamberPAC, the California Chamber of Commerce's political action committee. He is also now in his fourth year of an eight-year term as a Brown-appointed member of the California

State University Board of Trustees. The District 7 seat was vacated by Mark DeSaulnier, who was elected to represent Lamorinda in Congress following George Miller's retirement. Glazer will run against three other Democrats, including Joan Buchanan of Alamo, who termed out in December as the California Assembly member representing Lamorinda and other District 16 communities. Other candidates include Assembly Member Susan Bonilla (Concord) and Terry Kremin. The primary election will be held March 17; the special election scheduled by Brown will be May 19. *L. Snyder*

please...



...thanks

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