



I've been an Airbnb host since October of 2014 when I relocated my downstairs home office to my upstairs area and converted the former office space to a two-bedroom Airbnb apartment. I had never even been an Airbnb guest and, at that point, knew little about the organization.

But thinking about the basic Airbnb concept took me back to a few years in the 70s when I was a parttime host & caretaker for Himmel House, the alumni house for The Experiment in International Living in Putney, Vermont. Former exchange students & host families from around the world would stay at Himmel when they were visiting The Experiment headquarters. The memories of that time in my life remain pretty magical. I think that maybe this "unknown mystery" of trying out the Airbnb hosting experience conjured up warm recollections of extending a certain expanded hospitality that fed my soul. I wanted to see if I could get it back...

Now, I realize it's made me enjoy my time working at home or out in the garden more - because the generous guests provide such immediate gratification for the time spent pulling those weeds or mowing that grass or putting the chocolate truffles on the pillows... It's been of economic benefit, enabling me to not have to plunge so deeply into retirement funds for day-to-day expenses... It supports my going to the Airbnb Opens and connecting with new friends like Robert & Sandra & Armando & Sehee & Ginny & Karen... And it's made me more proud of the place I call my hometown - because I get to show it off and actively explore it with more purpose & sense of sharing...

I know I'm a better "me" because I'm an Airbnb host.

Sincerely - I offer heartfelt thanks to all the guests who've helped me realize that it's even not that big a deal spending hours doing laundry and changing beds! The benefits far outweigh the chores...

Here are some of the kind words from guest reviews...

"...anticipates in detail what guests might need. I can't imagine a lovelier stay." LK

"...After three stays, I feel like it's a second home. Some people may go to a spa to recover from the stresses of life; I go to Stephen's." JS

"...the perfect host." CJ

"...above and beyond...almost like a posh bed and breakfast." JG

"He inspired me to step up my Airbnb host game...my all-time favorite host." LW

"Fabulous home, fabulous place, fabulous location, and a true Super Host." RZ

"Beautiful attention to detail, every amenity you can imagine." RH

"I felt like I was staying at an upscale European guest house. I felt very taken care of..." MC

"This place is a gem. I felt so lucky..." SP

"Prosecco, Nespresso, Casper Beds - the best of the best!" PM

"The consummate host....THE place to stay in Durham." RG

"I'd give more than five stars if I could!" TB

"His listing was exactly accurate. A perfect host." SW

"Without a doubt, the best Airbnb experience I've ever had." NK

"There should probably be a statue of this guy in Durham Central park, he's such a great ambassador for the town. There is NOTHING he didn't think of..." SW

"The most well-appointed Airbnb I've ever stayed in." RPM

“Magical.” AD

“Made all of us feel like royalty.” TM

“Best coffee machine ever. Most beautiful garden imaginable. Most gracious & welcoming host ever.” DT

“He takes his role as host very seriously...simply fantastic.” KK

“We live in the south, so we know a good bit about ‘southern hospitality.’ Stephen demonstrated the best of it to the max.” LM

“Everything you read is spot on. If there was an award for the Airbnb Host of the Year, he should be a finalist!” DC

“It doesn’t get any better.” MN

“A hosting pro, the most accommodating and welcoming host I’ve ever stayed with.” LH

“Expectations were blown out of the water. Freshly-cut flowers, chocolates on the pillow, yogurt in the fridge - and everything in the garden in bloom.” JK

“Best Airbnb I’ve ever had.” BR

“A superstar host.” CM

“The very best host and the very best Airbnb apartment we’ve ever stayed in. Airbnb should grant six stars for this one.” MM

“Attention to detail is remarkable ... above and beyond to make us so comfortable...” RM

‘...the piece de resistance is the large beautiful garden where you can sit with a cup of coffee in the morning or a glass of wine in the evening and just relax to the sound of the birds at the feeders.’ JS

“This was my first Airbnb experience. The bar has been set very, very high.” SH

“The experience I had staying with Stephen is the whole reason I use Airbnb....” JH

“Definitely the best Airbnb experience I’ve had...would come back in a heartbeat.” MM

“We felt like guests of honor...our every need anticipated...” RH

“Some places are so-so. Some are really good. And some are soooo good that you're afraid that if you lay it out, it will be booked solid the next time you want to come. Paradise. Like Dorothy walking into Oz Color.” ES

“He makes his magnificent garden available to his guests, which is the ideal setting for a relaxed breakfast. I can't say enough nice things about Stephen and his Airbnb space. I kind of don't want to say them because then everyone will want to stay at his place and it'll be impossible to get a reservation...couldn't possibly be more warm, welcoming and generous.” EB

“I stumbled upon Stephen's place while looking for a place to spend the night and realized his garden would be the perfect place for my wedding. Initially surprised at the prospect, he ultimately not only embraced the idea, he became my unofficial wedding planner! I don't even have the words to describe Stephen's extraordinary hospitality and the great lengths to which he went to make us feel at home and make sure every last detail was in place... KK

“This was our first Airbnb experience, and what a great way to start!” LG

“Every now and again an AirBNB host is so considerate and welcoming that it restores your faith in humanity.... Book this Airbnb now!” SF

“This was our first airbnb experience and it's hard to believe that it could be surpassed. “ DS

“...an attentive, charming host who embodies the spirit of AirBnB. We have stayed at three locations now and Stephen is the only one who has paid attention to the second “B”, providing a full array of continental breakfast options...” MS

“You will not find a more knowledgeable, attentive or thoughtful host anywhere in the Triangle. Equal parts concierge and caretaker, he takes it upon himself to ensure that each guest is comfortable in the spacious accommodations and summarily informed on all things Durham.... Airbnb's designation of Stephen as a 'Super Host' could not be any more apt.” JS

“Southern hospitality is REAL!” JM



**My thanks to all the great guests.
It's an honor to share time with you.**

SB