

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

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The Airbnb Listing Next Door

By Cathy Tyson



From left: Leo (Standing), Harold (in arms), Anthony and Dormain Drewitz
Photo provided

On any given night, weary travelers can enjoy a comfortable bed, clean sheets and a warm welcome in homes across Lamorinda while their hosts earn extra money. With approximately 50 Airbnb listings in Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette, many residents may not be aware that the sharing economy is alive and well in the 'burbs.

The booming San Francisco-based company, founded in 2008, offers a marketplace for people to list and book unique accommodations in 34,000 cities in 191 countries from Phuket, Thailand to Avignon, France to Perth, Australia, and of course all across America.

Rentals in Lamorinda vary by price and location, with each listing clearly described on the easy-to-use website, along with a number of photographs, past customer reviews with a general neighborhood map. With only one hotel in the tri-town area, hosts have found substantial demand for their properties.

The least expensive listing on a recent search is a private bedroom near downtown Lafayette going for \$59 per night. On the other end of the spectrum is a luxurious Sundown Terrace estate that sleeps 10 people; it can be rented for \$1,500 per night, with a hefty security deposit. ... continued on page D4

