

January 5, 2018

Dear BQLI Region Friend,

In the weeks before the New Year, I was under the weather for a few weeks. One (relatively minor) thing after the next sucked me into a “woe is me” state, especially after I was forced to cancel our family’s Chanukah party. I couldn’t wait for our annual trip to Aruba!

The eight of us, Saul and I, our daughters and their men, along with my parents, headed south on Christmas Day where my sister and her family already were. Planning for Aruba, for me, means so much more than renting our timeshares, booking our flights, and packing our warm weather clothes. To meet our needs as a kosher family, I bring along a 99 lb. suitcase filled with a great assortment of frozen food, which we will enjoy throughout the week for dinner.

On the surface, it may seem as if shlepping food to Aruba isn’t much of a vacation, but that’s absolutely not the case! Being kosher doesn’t limit us, it defines us, it identifies us, and it unites us as a Jewish family. This is, after all, a family vacation! Our timeshare apartment becomes our happy hour meeting spot and we don’t have to worry about getting all farpitzed!

And, luckily, Chosen Garden in Forest Hills knows exactly what dishes freeze well and how to package them for travel! I may have had to call off our Chanukah party, but New Year’s Eve was a delicious and fun-tastic night!

We may no longer be able to look forward to the gluttony of the Catskill hotels, but my family has come to appreciate our new normal: Aruba + kosher food = Catskills South! Because, any time we can all be together, it’s a celebration.

B’Shalom and wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2018,

Grace