

## Rabbi's Column

This week's Torah Portion is mostly about the theme of blessings and curses. A few weeks ago, Moses reminded the people that he had set before them a choice to make - whether to listen or not listen, and therefore be exposed to the consequences of either listening or not listening. This week the details are laid out.

The bad stuff take a lot more room than the good stuff. I guess blessings are considered simple, perhaps boring (how much detail can a person go into in terms of their good health, after all?) Curses, on the other hand, can be quite inventive and detailed. Many of the Yiddishisms seen in the newsletter are that kind of statement, which sound a lot more impressive in the original, I am told.

We often live everyday life in the same fashion. It seems easy to detail all the ways in which our lives are less than perfect, and when things are going well, the answer to the question "how are things going" is "everything's good." Of course, we all know people who say "I'm fine" whenever asked, even when they aren't. It still indicates that the shortest answer is based on good things happening.

What I would like to propose is a small change in emphasis. Maybe we could try to expand, at least when we are thinking about them, the list of things that are going well for us or the world, and minimize our lists of all that is going wrong. In this way, we can balance out in the Torah that is lived the inequity in the Torah as written, where the blessings Israelites could receive base on their behavior are given shorter shrift than the curses.

Save the date: Thursday night October 19 and Friday October 20 will be the last meeting of the Wyoming Association of Churches and simultaneously the first meeting under their new name: Wyoming Interfaith Network. We have been expressly invited to attend this event in Cheyenne - further details to be announced. [At a recent meeting of the planning and transition committee, someone jokingly suggested that I be voted in as President during the meeting. At least I hope it was a joke - doing it properly should involve a lot of travel throughout the state.]