Temple Israel Bulletin

Volume LXXXVII
Bulletin No. 3

November 2026
Cheshvan / Kislev 5787

From the Rabbi's Desk

Shalom & greetings! I hope that you enjoyed a meaningful, uplifting, and significant holiday season over the past nearly month. We have finally arrived at the end of the long season of holidays with the conclusion of the Shemini Atzeret/ Simchat Torah service on Friday, October 2nd. We have now entered a quieter period on the Jewish calendar with regard to holidays, but in other ways we are just getting started. You will see listed in this Bulletin information about courses and classes, special services and events, and notable happenings in the Congregation and Community in the month of November.

Looking Back

As I am drafting this Bulletin article, I want to reiterate my deep appreciation to everyone who helped to make the High Holiday season so very special this year. It was a source of joy for me to celebrate with so many of you, and to have so many enhance our holidays by giving freely of their time, treasure, and self. I tried to list all who deserve thanks in the last Bulletin, but it is quite possible that I inadvertently missed listing someone; if so, I ask again that you please forgive me, and let me know so that I can correct that oversight. So far, no one has told me that I left them out, but I suspect there is at least someone who is just being kind and not telling me!

Looking Ahead

There is a lot that is coming up. Watch for more details on the website, in the Bulletin, and in other messages to the Congregation. Here is a short list of some of the most significant events.

- Torah Study, 11/8, 10:30 a.m., online (Parashah Toldot, Genesis 25:19-28:9)
- Jewish Literature, 11/8, 4:00 p.m., online
- Death Chatter, 11/8, 7:00 p.m., online
- A Bisell Torah, 11/12, 4:30 p.m., online
- Shabbat service with Krystallnacht and Veterans Day observed, Parashah Toldot, Friday 11/13, 5:30 p.m.
- 50th Anniversary Celebration of B'nai Sholom in Huntington, 11/15, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Ask the Rabbis, 11/18, 10:30 a.m., in person at Temple Israel
- Hanukkah is 12/4 to 12/12. Service and Community Hanukkah Dinner will be held at B'nai Jacob on Friday, 12/11. More details to come.

In addition to all the services and special events listed, we will be including ongoing activities, including monthly Board of Trustees meetings, scheduled Sisterhood meetings and Schmoozes, weekly services and Ongei Shabbat (plural). Please watch for more information on offerings.

I always enjoy sharing these events together with others, so I hope to see you at some or all of them, or at any special or additional events we hold beyond these. Whether you are here in person or attending online, I value your presence and participation as a member of the Congregation and community. Please know that you are invited to participate however - and however often - you are able and wish to do so.

For more details on events and activities, see the calendar in this Bulletin – and because things can and

(Continued on page 5)

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 13 at Temple Israel

We will discuss potential consolidation with B'nai Jacob

More Details to Follow

Krystallnacht & Veterans Day Observance During Shabbat Service on November 13

AT A GLANCE: NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

This is a projected calendar of events; it may be incomplete or changed. Services are both in person and online. All meetings, classes, programs, and events are either in person or virtual, as announced. Updates to this information will be included on the Temple Israel website and in the Reminder Links emails. **If you aren't receiving emails from Rabbi Blair about online sessions, please let him know.**

NOVEMBER

Sun, Nov 1 10:00 a.m.	Sisterhood General Membership Meeting & Program - AARP Beware of Scams | RSVP Required
Sun, Nov 1 2:00 p.m.	Huntington Federated Jewish Charities Event at B'nai Sholom in Huntington Food, Fun, Games, Israeli Dancing | RSVP Required
Tues, Nov 3 10:00 a.m.	CANCELLED Torah at 10 In Person at B'nai Jacob Synagogue
Thurs, Nov 5 10:00 a.m.	CANCELLED Teshuvot at 10 Online
Fri, Nov 6 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service (Lay Led) Covered Dish Dinner
Sun, Nov 8 10:30 a.m.	Torah Study | Parashah Toldot (Genesis 25:19-28:9) Online
Sun, Nov 8 4:00 p.m.	Jewish Literature Online
Sun, Nov 8 7:00 p.m.	Death Chatter Online
Mon, Nov 9 11:30 a.m.	Sisterhood Schmooze Sisterhood Lounge | Brown Bag Lunch
Tues, Nov 10 10:00 a.m.	Torah at 10 In Person at B'nai Jacob Synagogue
Tues, Nov 10 3:30 p.m.	Sisterhood Board of Directors Meeting
Tues, Nov 10 5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thurs, Nov 12 10:00 a.m.	Teshuvot at 10 Online
Thurs, Nov 12 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah Online
Fri, Nov 13 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service with **Krystallnacht & Veterans Day** Observance | Parashah Toldot
Sun, Nov 15 2:00 p.m.	50th Anniversary Celebration of B'nai Sholom in Huntington
Tues, Nov 17 10:00 a.m.	Torah at 10 In Person at B'nai Jacob Synagogue
Wed, Nov 18 10:30 a.m.	Ask the Rabbis In Person at Temple Israel
Thurs, Nov 19 10:00 a.m.	Teshuvot at 10 Online
Thurs, Nov 19 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah Online
Fri, Nov 20 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service
Tues, Nov 24 10:00 a.m.	Torah at 10 In Person at B'nai Jacob Synagogue
Thurs, Nov 26	Thanksgiving | Office Closed No Teshuvot at 10 & No A Bisell Torah
Fri, Nov 27 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service (Lay Led)

DECEMBER

Tues, Dec 1 10:00 a.m.	Torah at 10 In Person at B'nai Jacob Synagogue
Thurs, Dec 3 10:00 a.m.	Teshuvot at 10 Online
Thurs, Dec 3 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah Online
Fri, Dec 4 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service **First Night of Hanukkah** | First Candle Lit
Sun, Dec 6 10:30 a.m.	Torah Study | Genesis 41:1-44:17, Numbers 7:54-8:4 Online
Sun, Dec 6 4:00 p.m.	Jewish Literature Online
Sun, Dec 6 7:00 p.m.	Death Chatter Online
Tues, Dec 8 10:00 a.m.	Torah at 10 In Person at B'nai Jacob Synagogue
Tues, Dec 8 5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees Meeting
Wed, Dec 9 6:00 p.m.	Public Lighting of Hanukkiah at Light the Night GoMart Ballpark | More Details to Come
Thurs, Dec 10 10:00 a.m.	Teshuvot at 10 Online
Thurs, Dec 10 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah Online
Fri, Dec 11 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service at B'nai Jacob **Eighth Night of Hanukkah** | 8 Candles Lit Communal Hanukkah Celebration & Dinner RSVP Required | More Details to Come
Sun Dec 13 Time TBA	Congregational Meeting at Temple Israel Discuss Potential Consolidation with B'nai Jacob
Mon, Dec 14 11:30 a.m.	Sisterhood Schmooze Sisterhood Lounge | Brown Bag Lunch
Tues, Dec 15 10:00 a.m.	Torah at 10 In Person at B'nai Jacob Synagogue
Wed, Dec 16 10:30 a.m.	Ask the Rabbis In Person at Temple Israel
Thurs, Dec 17 10:00 a.m.	Teshuvot at 10 Online
Thurs, Dec 17 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah Online
Fri, Dec 18 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service
Sun, Dec 20	**Asarah B'Tevet** | Fast of 10th of Tevet
Tues, Dec 22 10:00 a.m.	Torah at 10 In Person at B'nai Jacob Synagogue
Thurs, Dec 24 10:00 a.m.	Teshuvot at 10 Online

(Continued on page 3)

AT A GLANCE: DECEMBER CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

DECEMBER CONTINUED

Thurs, Dec 24 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah Online
Fri, Dec 25 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service
Tues, Dec 29 10:00 a.m.	Torah at 10 In Person at B'nai Jacob Synagogue
Thurs, Dec 31 10:00 a.m.	Teshuvot at 10 Online
Thurs, Dec 31 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah Online
Fri, Jan 1, 2027 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service

Covered Dish Dinner Following Shabbat Service on November 6

IN THE CONGREGATION & COMMUNITY

REFUAH SHELEMAH/MI SHEBERACH (HEALING & WHOLENESS & BLESSINGS)

Prayers and wishes to those who have been included in recent Mi Sheberach lists at services, and wishes for continued good health for those who are on the mend or have returned to full health or wellness. This list includes those on our list during the time since the last Bulletin article who agreed to have their name listed. If we spoke and you did not want your name announced in the Mi Sheberach list, please know that I have included you in my personal prayers for healing and wholeness, though your name is not listed here.

Bob Aaron
Maria Gaona Bellamy
Rabbi Joe Blair
Sally Bowyer
The Deutsch Family
Ron Eisinger
Arthur Epstein
Jonathan Freedman
Karl Gattlieb
Ed Goldberg
Joseph Golden
Jack Goldfarb
Mirabella & the Grizer Family
The Hoffheimer Family
Cecile Jordan
Ruth Jordan
Gloria Kelley
The Kushner Family
Paula Kushner
Roberta Lee Levine
Zel Lewis
Ditty Markham
Gary Markham
Deborah Meehan
Lynn Meyer
Eddie Ney
Kay Pickus
Abraham Price
Tilly Price
Ellie Schaul
Mark Schaul
Barbara Braun Tweddle

We also recall in our prayers:

- All who are impacted by illness or disease
- Everyone afflicted by natural or man-made disasters, war, violence, terrorism, or oppression
- All others in need of prayers for healing and wholeness, specifically including those who are in your heart or mind

BARUCH DAYAN HAEMET (CONDOLENCES & PRAYERS)

Condolences to the family of Ann Kushner who passed on Monday, October 12th, 2026, in Hospice care in Huntington, WV. Ann was a long-time active member of Temple Israel, attending services and participating in Sisterhood activities up until she was confined to a wheel chair and was unable to continue. She continued to meet with a small circle of members of

(Continued on page 6)

NOVEMBER YAHRZEITS Names are read the Friday evening prior to the Yahrzeit date, which is beside names.

October 30
Simon Meyer 10/31
Jack Rosenblatt 10/31
R. Bernard Bernheimer 11/1
Alece Schwabe 11/1
Max Frankenberger 11/2
Robert Herzbach 11/2
Celia Jurin 11/2
Ethel Kart 11/2
William F. Hoss 11/4
Seymour Kantor 11/4
Joseph Klee 11/4
Max Pitasky 11/4
Louis D. Glass 11/5
Louis Goldfarb 11/5
Phineas Berenson 11/6
Charles McHale 11/6
Floy M. Sessions 11/6

November 6
Eleanor "Ellie" Burka 11/7
Carl H. Lehman 11/7
Michael M. "Mike" Margolis 11/7
Edwin Stabins 11/7
Hyman Gilman 11/9
Joseph Gotlieb 11/10
Florine Marks Isaac 11/10
Susan Jubelirer Nesi 11/10
Sam Badner 11/11
Louis Cohen 11/11
Harry Fleischmann 11/11
Lilla Wolf 11/11
Barbara Brooks 11/12
Isaac Salem 11/12
Albert Schwabe 11/12
Alma Bernheimer 11/13
Milton Gottlieb 11/13
Louis Jordan 11/13

November 13
Ellis C. Amburgey Sr. 11/14
Anna Gersman 11/14
Bernard Gottlieb 11/14
David H. Kahn 11/14
Jean Merz Klee 11/14
Sydney M. Kleeman 11/15
Herbert Gottlieb 11/17
Minnie H. Kahn 11/17
Anna Barton 11/19
Franc Stern 11/19
H. H. Wills 11/20

November 20
Ester Mendeloff 11/21
Edith Hartley Aaron 11/22
Frances W. Freedman 11/22
Nina Poppelsdorf 11/22
Sadie Shane 11/22
Edith Burnett 11/24
Arthur "Art" Weisberg 11/24
Minnie Hess 11/26
Morton A. Lewis 11/26
Harriet B. "Cissy" Abrams 11/27
Jearoll Casto 11/27
Doris Kleeman Leopold 11/27
Reba Markstein Lindenberg 11/27
Bernard Mordecai Weinstein 11/27

November 27
Max Feinberg 11/28
Jane R. Glaser 11/28
Bernard H. Jacobson 11/28
Carol Katz 11/28
Robert "Bob" Albert 11/29
Jacob Solon Broida 11/29
Reba Blustein Cohen 11/29
Bob Baer 11/30
Susan Eisinger 11/30
Maxine Stabins 11/30
Larry Zakin 11/30
Joanne Mendeloff Misaqi 12/1
Cecile Rossin 12/1
Cherie Cremer 12/2
Hannah Kaplan 12/2
Dave Kahn Jr. 12/3
Mary Beth Chadwick 12/4
Raymond Dodson 12/4
Minnie Elgart 12/4
Fran Fahey 12/4
Frances B. Kay 12/4

CORRESPONDENCE/EMAIL

I send Reminder Links emails on Sundays and Thursdays (most weeks) using the Google email list. That email list is set to send a copy of each message to everyone at one time. It does not pick and choose who will receive the messages: anyone whose valid email is on the list should receive a copy.

Some email providers (notably, AOL, but others as well) automatically mark messages from an email list as spam/trash/junk, unless they are marked otherwise in advance in their system. Other providers don't even deliver the messages, simply blocking them as suspected spam.

We want everyone who is interested to be able to receive these emails with the events and Zoom links for the period of time they cover. I can control the list of who will be sent those emails, but receipt of them at the other end is dependent on the provider allowing messages to be delivered and the settings in your email for what is valid email and what is to be blocked.

If you are not seeing those emails in your inbox regularly, and you don't find them by looking in your spam, junk, or trash folders, please be in touch with me (the Rabbi) to try to remedy the situation.

Rabbi Joe Blair ▪ rabbijoeb@gmail.com ▪ 304-989-4014

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

often do change after the Bulletin is published, the most up-to-date information is to be found in the Reminder Links emails sent on Sundays and Thursdays, and on the Temple Israel website calendar (templeisraelwv.org).

You may also find it valuable to connect to the Wondering Jews website (wonderingjewsinc.com) for a survey of Jewish themed events throughout West Virginia.

THOUGHTS, BLESSINGS & SALUTATIONS

A word about the secular holiday this month. The biggest event on the November calendar would seem to be the secular holiday of Thanksgiving. Although this is now seen as an example of civic religion, it is based on a Jewish foundation. When the Pilgrims were planning the first Thanksgiving day, they drew for inspiration on the Biblical sources that described Sukkot, the harvest festival, and formulated the celebration along those lines, so even the very secular holiday of Thanksgiving is built on acknowledgement and gratitude for the bounty of creation and echoes the *Shehechiyanu* prayer which expresses appreciation for the grace and kindness that allowed us to arrive at this time of rejoicing. This feels to me like a very appropriate – and Jewishly aligned – expression of acknowledgement and thanks. As you enjoy your holiday meal, remember to take a moment, at least, to express your sense of gratitude for the many blessings in your life. In this light, may each of us find many reasons to be grateful for blessings and joys in our life, and take pleasure in celebrating them at this time of acknowledging the bounty afforded us.

> *...may each of us find many reasons to be grateful for blessings and joys in our life, and take pleasure in celebrating them at this time of acknowledging the bounty afforded us.*

As we close out the High Holy Day season for this year, I offer you this prayer.

May wishes for blessings and a sweet and good year be fulfilled and continue throughout 5787, with awareness of the Source of Blessing close to us.

May the blessings we receive that come into our lives be acknowledged this year, including healing and wholeness, health and happiness, joys and time with loved ones, prosperity and belonging, friends and community.

May we act in such a way that we will be accounted a blessing to others, taking every opportunity to be kind to all those around us.

May we be good stewards and good friends, behaving and acting in a manner that will lead others to see us as embodying 'mentschlichkeit' *and representing the highest ideals.*

I hope to see you soon - at services, or at one of the other events that are upcoming in our community. Warm wishes for you as we step forth into the new year of 5787.

B'virkat Shalom (with blessings of peace), and prayers for health, joy, healing, and peace,

Rabbi Joe Blair

rabbijoeb@gmail.com
304-989-4014

PARTICIPATION REQUESTS

If you are willing to lead a service, read Torah or Haftarah, lead a prayer or a reading (or perhaps several), be called up for an Aliyah to the Torah, serve as Gabbai for the Torah service, or give a devar Torah (sermon) for our services occasionally, ***we would warmly welcome your participation.***

Ronni Spudich invites members to bless and light candles for our Shabbat services each week. Blessings can be in Hebrew or English. This is possible to do in person or online, as well!

If you are interested in participating, please be in touch with Rabbi Blair, Ronni Spudich, or Betty Stern to select a date that works for you, as well as the role that you would like to take on. We would be happy to have you participate in a way that you wish.

NEED A CHANGE IN 2027?

Did you know that you may request to change your dues billing cycle? For example, if your dues are billed quarterly and you wish to be billed once a year in January or October instead of quarterly, that adjustment can be made.

Billing cycles to choose from are:

- Annually in January or October
- Quarterly
- Semi-annually in April and October

Please contact the Temple Israel Office to request a change.

SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Shalom, we are looking forward to our first General Membership Meeting & Program on November 1st at 10:00 a.m. (RSVP required). I hope to see everyone there!

Please bring your old, unused cell phones to the meeting. We are donating them to Sojourner's Shelter for repurposing, to then give to residents.

We have more exciting things upcoming to help the Veterans Lifeway Center, a program operated by Peak Living Services. More details to follow. *Jill Epstein,* Temple Israel Sisterhood President

IN THE CONGREGATION & COMMUNITY CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)

the Sisterhood and Congregation for conversations and lunch until she entered Hospice care, and even beyond that. A memorial service was held at Curry Funeral Home in Alum Creek; a Celebration of Life will be held at a date to be announced at Temple Israel (watch for information in a future Bulletin). May those who mourn Ann be comforted from heaven, and may her memory be an enduring blessing.

Our heartfelt prayers go out to all who were affected recently by fires, floods, or other severe weather events throughout the U.S. and the world. Many, many have been overwhelmed and left in dire straits, and are in need of assistance. Recent flooding, fires, and earthquakes have devastated people all around the world. **Please consider donating to one of the many organizations that are seeking to help the affected people recover from overwhelming losses, not to mention the death of so many of their loved ones.**

We pray for all who are under attack, for innocents caught in the crossfire in war zones and battle grounds, and for all those targeted for violence. May there be an end to all their suffering, and may peace come to pass throughout the world.

Our prayers go out to those fallen in service to their country and to their fellow citizens. We remember members of the military, first responders, utility workers, road crews, and all who place themselves in the way of harm for the sake of others. We pray for the peace of their souls, and for comfort for their families and loved ones.

MAZAL TOV (CONGRATULATIONS)

Please tell us about these events so we can acknowledge them as appropriate.

MILESTONES & EVENTS

To those who reached or will reach milestones, and to all who had any birthday or anniversary or other life event worth celebrating, we wish you a happy day, and many returns! Mazal tov to each person on our list. Among those we know who are/were to be acknowledged we include:

October: Mary Hart; Ina Angel; **Janie & Moe Rubenstein (MILESTONE)**; Richard Hess; Ladonna & David Kushner; Julie Schaul; **Gary Winter (MILESTONE);** Marlo Weisberg Erwin; Millie Snyder; Alan Fleischmann; Debby Sonis; Gloria Kelley; Marsha Platnick; **Anne Fishkin & Bill Kroesser (MILESTONE)**; Tasha Medley; Steve Meyer

November: Barbara Braun-Tweddle; **Jennifer Stern (MILESTONE)**; Mark Schaul; Betty Stern; Jill Epstein; Gregg Stern; Anne Fishkin; **Kim Aaron (MILESTONE)**

December: Ellie Schaul (MILESTONE); Cookie Glasser; Robert Hess; David Feibelmann; Jackie Artz; **Ellen Kay & Vic Bastron (MILESTONE)**; David McAfee; Ellyn & Ed Goldberg; Laura & Jace Goins; Angela Cannon; Phyllis & Harvey Sherman; Joy Kleeman

Please let me know about reasons to celebrate and offer congratulations. If you have a milestone of any kind, or any birthday, anniversary, or life event that is worthy of celebration, please let us acknowledge and celebrate it with you! If I missed something, let me know!

Rabbi Joe Blair

Tzedakah (Charity)

I continue to be grateful for all the donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund that allow me to assist those who have needs. My heartfelt and sincere thanks to everyone who has made a donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

I can only repeat how highly I value this mitzvah, and how important I believe it is, both as a mitzvah, and to the health of our community. **From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HELPING**.

Of course, as much as there is need in our congregation and community, it is still true that **there are many others in need, and there are multiple worthy causes** that deserve your consideration. Please do whatever you are able. Support those causes that are close to your heart. As always, I pray that your heart be moved to give more than you otherwise might, and that your generosity be a blessing for those who receive it. May the blessing you make possible reflect back onto you and your loved ones. *Rabbi Joe Blair*

A WARM NOTE *of Appreciation*

I want to thank each of you who has asked after my health and offered good wishes regarding it. I am truly grateful to be able to assure you that I have continued to improve and move forward, approaching a fully healthy status. I still tire more easily than I did before my surgery, but I am finding the endurance and strength to accomplish the tasks that I undertake. I am reminded of the prayer that appears in the Torah service, the Birkat HaGomeil, which echoes in my heart. This prayer is a call and response, with the one who is reciting the blessing saying: "Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has bestowed every goodness upon us," and the Congregation responding, "Amen. May the One who has bestowed goodness upon us continue to bestow every goodness upon us forever." This captures my feelings, and expresses my gratitude. May we have many reasons to recite such a prayer – I know that I do, and I feel it fully. *Rabbi Joe Blair*

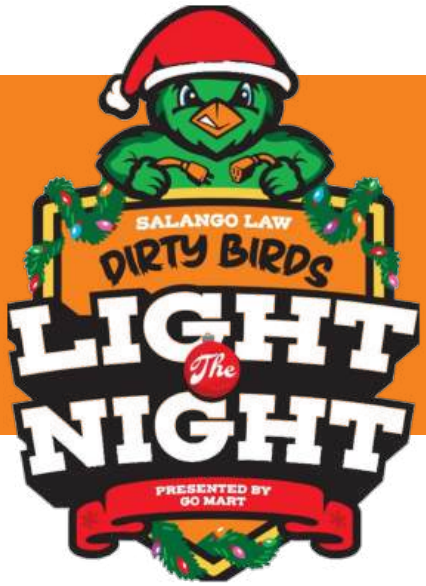
As we have entered cold and flu season, **we urge you to take care of yourself and be considerate of others.** Please consider making certain you are up to date on recommended vaccinations, and be aware of any risks you may encounter.

If you are feeling ill or have been exposed to illness please consider staying home and joining us online. If you wish to attend a service and are not feeling 100% healthy, we encourage masking, but do not require it. Masks and hand sanitizer are provided at all building entries.

Festival of Lights Hanukkah Celebration!

at

Light the Night



GOMART BALLPARK IN CHARLESTON

WED. DECEMBER 9

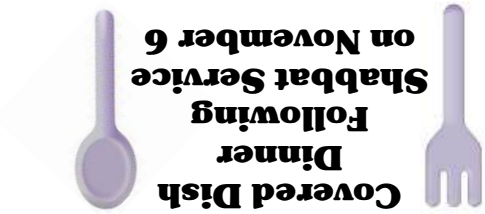
MORE DETAILS TO COME

You are warmly invited to join Rabbi Berman & Rabbi Blair as we light the menorah on the 6th night of Hanukkah!

Watch for more information about how to buy tickets and where we will gather in the ballpark for our celebration.

As we did last Hanukkah, we wish to gather members of the Jewish community to join in **singing Hanukkah songs, celebrating the Hanukkah holiday, and lighting the Hanukkiah for the 6th night of Hanukkah**

Graphic credits throughout the Bulletin are available upon request.



TEMPLE ISRAEL
2312 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, W.Va. 25311

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Charleston , W. Va.
Permit No. 2161