

# Ecological Culture Initiative

Restoring Good Ground • *Sowing Seeds of Change*

Hampton Bays NY • 631.268.4166 • info@eciny.org • eciny.org

## ECI Newsletter - Spring 2021



### Good Ground Heritage Garden Groundbreaking

Saturday, November 25th, 2017  
St. Joseph Villa • 81 Lynn Ave, Hampton Bays, NY

**Help us protect the natural beauty & neighborhood culture we love for generations to come!**

ECI serves Hampton Bays, NY with several environmental initiatives, including a new local farmers market, a free seed library at the public library, a community composting program, and an organic heritage garden at the St. Joseph Villa which generates food donated to local food pantries for those in need.

## ECI Mission Statement

Foster a resilient, ecology-based coastal community through advocacy and education in sustainable food production, wellness, and environmental stewardship.

## ECI Initiatives

- Organic Farm-to-Table Dinners
- Good Ground Heritage Garden
- Pollinator Project
- Good Ground Seed Library
- Good Ground Farmers Market
- Zero Waste
- Community Composting
- Film Screenings



### Organic Farm-to-Table Spring Equinox Dinner TO-GO

Saturday, March 20th, 2021  
3 - 5 PM @ the historic St. Joseph Villa  
81 Lynn Ave, Hampton Bays, NY

Welcome in Spring with an organic, plant-based dinner including soup with bread, salad, stuffed cabbage, and dessert... to-go!

Price: \$40 per member - limited to 40 members

Tickets → [eciny.org/dinner](http://eciny.org/dinner)

You are what you eat, and the best way to know the quality of what you are eating is to base your consumption habits on where you live.

ECI hosts four dinners a year based on the ancient calendar that guided our foodways: the Spring and Autumn Equinoxes, as well as Summer and Winter Solstices. **Organic Farm-to-Table Dinners** are held at the historic St. Joseph Villa, and are available only to members of ECI.

Learn More → [eciny.org/dinner](http://eciny.org/dinner)



## 2021 Organic Farm-to-Table Dinner Calendar

- Spring Equinox Dinner TO-GO: Sat., March 20th
- Summer Solstice Dinner: Monday, June 21st
- Summer Gala: Saturday, August 21st? Stay tuned!
- Fall Equinox Dinner: Wednesday, September 22nd
- Winter Solstice Dinner: Tuesday, December 21st

# Good Ground Farmers Market



ECI, with the generous support of Kimco Realty and BNB Bank, has brought a new farmers market to Hampton Bays! 🌻

The **Good Ground Farmers Market** is held rain or shine at the Hampton Bays Plaza, 190 West Montauk Highway (Macy's parking lot) on Thursdays from 2 - 7 pm, from May 27th through October 7th!

The market features all locally grown, caught, and hand-prepared products. Do all your shopping in one place while supporting local farmers, fishers, bakers, and crafters. Take in the fresh air of an outdoor market while safely shopping for healthy food.

Visit → [eciny.org/GGFM](https://eciny.org/GGFM)

## Market Mission

- Provide an opportunity for local farmers, fishers, food producers, and artisans to sell their wares directly to the customer
- Building community by providing a healthy way to gather and connect on a regular basis
- Educating patrons with practical ways to maintain the connection with the sources of their food
- Providing a venue for local non-profit organizations to connect with community members
- Help fill the growing demand for fresh, locally grown and prepared foods
- Promote economic development in Hampton Bays and on the East End

## Participating Vendors

- 4E Green Farm: Vegetables
- Ecological Culture Initiative
- Green Door Woodworks: Cutting Boards, Signs
- Inspired Simple Syrup: Syrups
- Knot of this World Pretzels: Pretzels
- Milla's Puffs: Cheese Puffs
- Serious Chocolate: Chocolates
- Silk and Sea Designs: Jewelry, Scarves, Masks
- Sweet Woodland Farm: Herbs, Herbal Products
- TerraNut: Natural Nut Bars
- The Granola Plant: Granola
- The Perfect Pickle: Pickles
- The Spice Cabinet: Blended Spices, Rubs, Salts



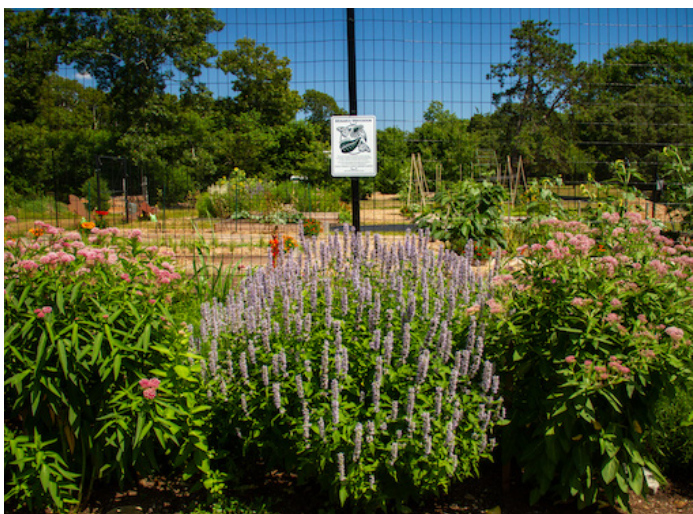


# Good Ground Heritage Garden

The **Good Ground Heritage Garden** at St. Joseph Villa provides community members with the opportunity to learn hands-on organic gardening skills. The delicious, vitamin-rich, fresh herbs and vegetables are harvested from the garden and donated to local food pantries in Hampton Bays. Organic, heirloom variety seeds are collected from the garden, processed, and made available to the public for free through the Good Ground Seed Library. Visit → [eciny.org/GGHG](https://eciny.org/GGHG)



Adjacent to the main heritage garden is our Community Composting Program composting site; the Eco-Shack, which currently houses our Good Ground Seed Library at the Garden; and our Pollinator Project, which includes bee hives, a native pollinator garden, and Monarch Waystation. Future plans include a greenhouse, garden signs, rain barrels, and a brick walkway to increase wheelchair accessibility.




Phase 1 of ECI's new **Zero Waste Initiative** is the development of a **Community Composting Program**. ECI members divert wasted food scraps from the landfill and create nutrient-rich, "black gold" compost to be used at home. A composting site at the Good Ground Heritage Garden has been developed for the program.



Participants use a 6-gallon galvanized pail for collecting and transporting food scraps to the Good Ground Heritage Garden (optional curbside pickup is available). At the end of 3 months, participants receive 1 pail full of the nutrient-rich compost for use at home.

ECI hopes to close the loop on food waste while empowering community members, schools, and local businesses to build healthy soil, and create resilient local food systems while fighting climate change.

 Program participants last year diverted 3950 lbs. (nearly 2 tons!) of food scraps from the landfills! Learn more and sign up → [eciny.org/composting](https://eciny.org/composting)



## Good Ground Heritage Garden: Organic, locally grown food for the community

ECI is proud to offer fresh, organic, locally grown vegetables to the food pantries of Hampton Bays. We are growing heirloom variety produce in the Good Ground Heritage Garden and providing healthy, fresh food to community members in need. Often, food pantries give out high sodium and over-processed foods; however it is our mission, with the help of local volunteer groups, to grow and distribute vitamin-rich, delicious, fresh vegetables and herbs to those in need.



The Good Ground Heritage Garden space is currently 60' x 120' and contains 14 raised beds, including *hugelkultur* beds, made by our staff and volunteers. Food grown at the garden is donated to the St. Rosalie's Church Community Food Pantry in Hampton Bays. The need for fresh food was evident as it was realized that this is a very active food pantry.

Last year ECI had help from Eagle Scout candidate Corey Hoffman and other boy scouts who constructed wood-sided raised beds in order to increase the amount of produce grown. Their outstanding efforts nearly doubled the size of the garden! This year we have been growing a variety of greens, snap peas, strawberries, potatoes, onions, and garlic for the food pantry.

Seeds from the Good Ground Heritage Garden are collected, processed, and saved for the Good Ground Seed Library, another one of ECI's initiatives. Our seed library is located in the Adult Reference section of the Hampton Bays Public Library. Here, individuals can take up to 5 packets of seeds per month, for free, to grow in their home gardens.

The Good Ground Heritage Garden provides an opportunity for community members to volunteer and learn how to grow their own food, which they could then use to start their own garden at home. Community service hours are available as well. Please contact ECI if you are interested, we'd love to see you in the garden! Learn more → [eciny.org/volunteer](https://eciny.org/volunteer)



Corey and boys scouts digging a new garden bed




Corey Hoffman, George Hoffman, and ECI Staff






Located in a vintage card catalog in the reference section of the Hampton Bays Public Library, the **Good Ground Seed Library** enables community members to procure organic vegetable seeds for free as a public benefit. Establishing a seed library is an important step in developing a network of community-based seed savers who create locally adapted plant varieties, increase biodiversity, and mitigate the loss of plant gene integrity due to the genetic engineering of commercially produced seeds and plants.

**New:** Good Ground Seed Library at the Garden, a remote station found during Spring months on the porch of the Eco-Shack at the St. Joseph Villa.

 **Volunteers Needed!** The seed library is in need of volunteers. Please contact ECI's President & Agro-Ecology Director Rachel Stephens if you would like to help → [rachel.stephens@eciny.org](mailto:rachel.stephens@eciny.org)



**Film Screenings!** In 2019, ECI and the Southampton Arts Center hosted a free Earth Day screening of **Normal Is Over 1.1** with over 100 attendees! After the screening, a Q&A session was held with the filmmaker Renée Scheltema 

Learn more about our film screenings and community events → [eciny.org/movie](https://eciny.org/movie)

## Buy A Brick Program

Inscribe your name or dedication for posterity in our Engraved Founders Bricks, to create a garden pathway for wheelchair-access • \$100 per brick for sponsorship.

Learn more → [eciny.org/brick](https://eciny.org/brick)



## New Annual Fundraiser

On a brilliant Saturday last autumn ECI Members gathered to enjoy a special day in the Good Ground Heritage Garden. ECI staff and volunteers displayed works by 14 local artists, for sale, and served cheese plates and a variety of drinks, all from donated products. We sold 8 art pieces and 2 engraved founders bricks to raise funds toward constructing a greenhouse and a wheelchair-accessible garden bed. It was a wonderful day for the community, seeing old friends and making new ones. We hope you join us again this coming fall!

See photos and learn more → [eciny.org/gardenart](https://eciny.org/gardenart)

# ECI Volunteer Opportunities



## Good Ground Heritage Garden at St. Joseph Villa

We are looking for enthusiastic and energetic individuals interested in learning permaculture techniques and small-scale, bio-intensive, organic farming practice. Work will mostly be outdoors in the sun and sometimes in the rain. Work includes some heavy lifting and digging. Applicants must not be allergic to bee stings. Duties will include: soil, compost, and garden bed preparation; planting; weeding; watering; and harvesting of vegetables and herbs. Coordinate drop-off of produce harvest to local food pantries. Assist in beehive inspections and management.

## Good Ground Farmers Market

We are looking for individuals interested in helping to coordinate and manage the Farmers Market and ECI booth. Volunteers are asked to be courteous, look presentable, be able to work as a fundraiser, and communicate the mission of ECI. The market schedule is Thursdays, 1:30 - 7:30 pm, including setup and breakdown time. Duties will include setup and breakdown ECI tent, tables, signage, and displays.

## Good Ground Seed Library

We are looking for individuals to help maintain the seed library. Volunteers will help sort and process collected seeds for restocking the seed library during the fall and winter months. Duties will include: separating seeds from the husks; labeling, stuffing, and cataloging seed packets; and checking the seed library weekly for tidiness.

## Organic Farm-to-Table Dinners

We are looking for skilled volunteers to help prepare and serve plant based, locally sourced meals to approximately 45 guests during our farm-to-table dinner and lunch events. Celebrated during the equinoxes and solstices, the dinners are served to ECI guests. Volunteers are asked to look presentable and to be able to keep up with a fast pace for the duration of the meal. Duties may include: setting up and breaking down of the dining area, assisting the chef with food preparation, serving and clearing plates, and helping with kitchen clean-up.


Applicants should send a brief letter of interest and include any experience and related skills and abilities. Please email [info@eciny.org](mailto:info@eciny.org) or mail your letter of interest to ECI at PO Box 1035, Hampton Bays, NY 11946.

*We look forward to working with you!*

# Become a Member of ECI!

A contribution to ECI supports our environmental initiatives, including a new local farmers market, a free seed library at the public library, a community composting program, and an organic heritage garden at the St. Joseph Villa which generates food donated to local food pantries for those in need.

**ECI Membership** starts at \$5/month or \$50/year, and includes invitations to our [Organic Farm-To-Table Dinners](#) at the historic St. Joseph Villa, invitations to our [Annual Wine Tasting and Art Show Fundraiser Event](#), invitations to our [Holiday Makers Market](#), access to our [Community Composting Program](#), a subscription to our e-newsletters, \$10 in tokens to spend at the [Good Ground Farmers Market](#), and gardening tours, workshops, and lectures at ECI's [Learning Center](#) and [Good Ground Heritage Garden](#).

We welcome checks payable to the "Ecological Culture Initiative" sent to "PO Box 1035, Hampton Bays, NY 11946" or contribute on our website, which offers options for Credit Card, PayPal, Apple Pay, and ACH Electronic Bank Transfers → visit [eciny.org/donate](https://eciny.org/donate) 

The Ecological Culture Initiative is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the full extent permitted by law.

Donor Information (please print or type)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Choose Amount

\$1000 - Steward

\$500 - Ecologist

\$250 - Environmentalist

\$100 - Naturalist

\$25 - Explorer

\$5 - Member

Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Volunteer With ECI?

Good Ground Heritage Garden

Good Ground Farmers Market

Good Ground Seed Library

Organic Farm-to-Table Dinners

Membership/Volunteer Coordinator

Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you so very much for supporting the Ecological Culture Initiative and our efforts!*





## Volunteers

Good Ground Heritage Garden Manager Doria Hughes and ECI Volunteers have been busy growing food for our local pantry. This year we are donating garlic, tomatoes, potatoes, summer squash, watermelons, soybeans, onions, brussel sprouts, winter squash, and cabbage! Let us know if you'd like to **volunteer** or **donate** to help support the garden! 🌱💚



## Social Media

 +  → @ecocultureinit

 +  → @eciny

## Sponsors

We are grateful for the outstanding support of our sponsors, partners, and members. We would especially like to thank:

Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Joseph Villa  
The Michael & Annie Falk Foundation  
The Leo S. Walsh Foundation  
Alfred L. Scherzer, MD, EdD, FAAP  
Julie A. McConnell  
David P. Schultz  
Melissa Shapiro  
Suffolk Federal Credit Union  
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Barbara Roman, Tax & Financial Services of NY  
Rich Mistretta & The Garage  
Kara Billingham & the House of Wellness  
Ron Reatherford & The UPS Store  
Joe Fuchs & Hampton Style Construction  
Carolyn's Good Ground Cleaners  
Treetola's Arbor Care  
Ed Elka and Quinlan Electric  
Richard Mato & Shawn Leonard Architect  
Kara Hoblin  
Fritz Cass  
Hampton Bays Fire Department  
Nurel's Farmers' Market



*We Do Not Inherit the Earth from Our Ancestors; We Borrow It from Our Children.*  
— Wendell Berry