



GrayIsGreen

Who are we?

Gray Is Green is an online gathering of older adult Americans aspiring to create a green legacy for the future. As environmentally conscious elders, we respond to a generational call: to co-create a future of economic justice, ecological sustainability and social justice.

We hold next generations of humans in mind and consider the future of ecosystems and other species. We are alert to the historic challenges facing our planet. And we are aware of the question arising from descendants generations hence:

What did you do, when you knew?

What do we do?

We aspire to embrace our eldership, living beyond consumerism and ageism. **Our Curriculum for Gray-Green Living** offers a variety of ways to join—and re-engage with—this elder movement.

We offer a periodic newsletter, a speaker's bureau, online resources, a [Facebook page](#) for relevant updates. In partnership with congenial organizations, we serve as a central clearinghouse of ideas and communications for older adults interested in greening their lives, learning about sustainability, advocating for sound public policy, being creative stewards or grandparents, emerging as elders, and mentoring young people.

*We invite **you** to get involved!*

www.grayisgreen.org

Pathways to Gratitude

Reverence for Fire

Hinduism

Fire purifies, destroys, and inspires: as Sun, lightning, cook-fire, temple flame and other forms, it brings warmth and visibility to the world.

Buddhism

Fire is the element of heat. It can be experienced as heat or cold, as cold is simply less heat. Its function is maintaining and maturing. The element of fire is what causes aging. It also is involved in digestion, as it “cooks” our food after we eat it and drink it. In this way, fire is a vital part of any natural phenomenon. Fire is one way of thinking about the physical universe, one way to understand physical phenomena: elements are experienced in a moment and then immediately fall away or change.

Judaism

Fire has a dual nature as a symbol of both [destruction and light](#). Flames such as the ones described in the Torah used to burn sacrifices destroy evil and idolatry. But fire is also used to symbolize the presence of God and good deeds in the world. Most synagogues have an “eternal flame”, a light which is kept on at all times. This harkens back to the light that always burned in the Temple in Jerusalem. It also symbolizes

our eternal faith in God, and God's undying presence as a source of light in our lives.

Christianity

Fire both attracts and repels. We are drawn to fire, yet we fear it. It provides warmth and light, but can also maim and destroy. But a forest horrifically scorched by fire still allows for new growth to emerge, new species to thrive. The numinous, the Holy, also both attracts and repels. Remember [Moses and the burning bush?](#) Recall that the prophet Isaiah's lips were touched with a [burning hot coal](#). Each event was both fear-inducing, yet transformative. No wonder that for Christians, fire is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. [Tongues of fire touched Jesus' disciples](#), they were filled with God's Spirit, and new life emerged where once desolation had dwelled.

Islam

Fire serves two primary purposes in Islam. It is often referred to as the eventual punishment for nonbelievers. However, it is also a symbol of comfort and safety, associated with the hearth. In the Qur'an it is written, “O fire! be a comfort and peace to Abraham” (21:69). Muslims are said to share three things amongst themselves: water, pasture, and fire.