



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 Soil

Hinduism

Earth's ground is the densest element, the ground upon which life takes place: body of the Divine, a living organism, metaphysically, metaphorically and biologically. Hindus have known this for millennia, knowing that all creatures are intimately connected to Earth's soil on wet and dry lands.

Buddhism

Earth's ground has the characteristic of solidity. When we experience hardness or softness, we are experiencing the element of earth. Earth acts as the foundation for the other elements when they appear together. Though earth may seem to be unchanging, we see that it is impermanent in the natural disasters and natural decay. This 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

The Hebrew word for man, *adam*, comes from the Hebrew word for earth, *adamah*. Mankind was made from earth, and therefore people and the earth are linked. In the Yom Kippur service during the High Holy Days, full prostration is a part of the process of atonement. It symbolizes the return of man to earth and to the path of righteousness. We

are reminded of our own humble beginnings and that we are simply part of the soil.

Christianity

Remember you are dust," the Ash Wednesday liturgy says. Scientists remind us we are made from stardust, as the earth itself was formed from the remnants of stars. Stardust became soil, became life. Christians proclaim that God became flesh. The Word, the Wisdom, the all-giving Beloved entered our world to know and to be known, to love and transform. Through earthy, elemental stardust, the soil reformed to evoke the Holy One. The same kind of soil grows our food, and ancient people knew that soil should be cherished and protected, allowed to lie fallow so it might become [healthy again](#). Jesus used [soil and saliva to bring sight to a blind man](#). Reverence for soil's life-giving potential—and also for its vulnerability—are thus profoundly present in Christianity.

Islam

Humans were created from dust and are bound to the earth. [The land](#) exists to hold and sustain all life. God made the land fertile so that humans and other creatures could eat its fruits. It is our duty to preserve this fertility. Soil must be maintained and not exposed to erosion and degradation.