



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 Water

Hinduism

Water is both source and sustainer of life: its immense sacredness rivaled only by its importance to human agriculture, health, enjoyment and civilization. Mother Ganga embodies as river the vast sacredness of water.

Buddhism

Water is the element of liquidity and cohesion. Unlike the other elements, it cannot be experienced through touch, but only through the mind. Water is what makes all other present elements cohere into a single physical phenomena. Water also symbolizes purity, clarity, and calmness: it is used at the beginning of some ceremonies as offerings to Buddhas and Boddhisatvas and to clear any obstacles that interfere with the understanding. Water 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

Water symbolizes purification and kindness. The ritual bathing in the [mikveh](#) allows for transformation and purification before entrance into the temple or as part of conversion. During the High Holy days, the peak of the Jewish spiritual year, Jews throw bread, symbolizing the year's sins, into the rivers and streams as part of the *tashlikh* service. By

standing at the water, we beseech God's kindness and forgiveness.

Christianity

All earthly species arose from water. Humans still arise to life in water—amniotic water surrounds us, sustains us. Emerging from our watery gestation, we are offered drink, mostly water, from mother's breast or elsewhere. Some borne into the Christian paradigm will soon experience another water birth at their infant baptism. Others who practice believer's baptism emerge from death to life through a water-laden portal. Water gives life, sustains, regenerates, and cleanses—no wonder then, that this primal source of life is a primary symbol of Christianity. We are beckoned to faith by water, Christ's saving reality is mediated through water. We are drenched, our thirst is quenched—and the fine line between *symbol* and *reality* dissolves.

Islam

Water is the substance from which God created all life. It is a purifying and sustaining element, symbolizing God's benevolence. The Islamic laws of *Shari'a* originated as a series of [rules about water distribution](#). Water must be shared equally among people, and withholding surplus water is a sin. It is said that Paradise will be filled with fountains and streams.