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FRAN WESTWOOD

November Table II

These are days
for living on soil
not cement.

We gather to fires.
We walk, feast, listen,
and from our solitudes,
share—

our gifts move horizontally,
everyone gets some
or many,
enough.

Fran Westwood is an emerging poet of Scottish-settler heritage currently living in Toronto.

L.A.R.K

Yours, my, mine: G.i.f.t.s.

Mom, you gave me the gift of life. And I thank you.
I came from your body,
I became yours for a little while.

You gave me the basics: a place to live, food and clothes.
You also gave me some emotional support I needed.
Until it was my turn to take care of myself,
you bought me my first bra,
and you gave me pads for my periods.

When I left home, you wrote me letters,
and you gave me care packages to get me through
the first year of university.
You urged me to get computer training and to finish my course.

These gifts I am grateful for.

When I returned to your home, which became a part of mine,
we would walk, talk, and you would share stories of your life,
so that I could write them down and retell them.

L.A.R.K. lives in Ontario. She received a Bachelors degree in dance teaching and a Masters degree in dance writing. Her writing has been published in Our Voice, a mental health magazine from New Brunswick. She hopes to return to dancing and painting full time. Cooking fills her current time.