

really addressing the root causes of injustice.

Rita Thapa has over 20 years experience as a feminist educator and community activist initiating and supporting institutions relating to women's empowerment in Nepal as well as internationally. She is widely recognized for her ground-breaking work in founding Tewa the Nepal women's fund, and is currently involved in founding Nagarik Aawaz an initiative for conflict transformation and peace-building in Nepal. Rita is the Dame Nita Barrow Visitor 2002 to the University of Toronto, a Board Member of the Urgent Action Fund/U.S.A., and is an Ashoka Fellow.

Elinor Bray-Collins has studied and worked in international development for more than a decade. Her work in feminist activism, research, and popular education has taken her to communities in Canada, Thailand, Lebanon and Tanzania. At present she is working with a women's NGO in Beirut, doing research on the impact of foreign aid on feminist organizing in the Arab region. Elinor is a Ph.D. student at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto.

¹Both Mama Cash and Urgent Action are examples of what is referred to as "feminist funds." These are independent feminist funding organizations that fund activists and projects that directly support women's rights. Mama Cash was founded in Holland 20 years ago. It provides grants to women's groups internationally on issues pertaining to women's human rights. The Urgent Action Fund, based in Denver, U.S.A., is a much younger fund addressing urgent needs in terms of women's human rights issues. Both organizations have funding structures that are more flexible than other agencies in order to allow feminist activists to take advantage of unanticipated opportunities or situations where women's rights must be advanced (see www.urgentactionfund.org and www.mamacash.n1).

²Initially Mama Cash in Holland and The Global Fund for Women in the U.S. were the only funds in Europe and America that gave to women's organizations outside of their countries. But in last seven to eight years

there has been a growth of women's funds internationally. Today there are over 30 indigenous women's funds scattered in Asia, Africa, South America and Eastern Europe.

ALEXIS EASLEY

White Garden

That summer you planted a garden for each of us:
delphiniums for one daughter, butterfly flowers
and potted roses for the others.
On the telephone, you told me
about the sweet alyssum you planted for me
in an all-white garden, best viewed at night
under a summer moon.

Somehow we forgot that in July
the sun never sets,
the moonlight would never make
those petals glow.

Now as icicles hang from black boughs
and the stalks of last year's growth
cast shadows on the snow, I look up and see
the moon we had imagined together.

Like a searchlight, it finds me walking alone,
shining down on me instead of white flowers,
on a world no longer tended by your dear hands,
a garden run riot, now frozen over in silence.

But as moonlight illuminates my face,
I imagine all you planted coming into blossom
all at once—white flowers under this winter moon—
and know that the promise of spring is in your hands.

Alexis Easley is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Alaska Southeast, where she teaches literature and composition. Her book, First-Person Anonymous: Women Writers and the Victorian Print Media, is forthcoming from Ashgate Press.