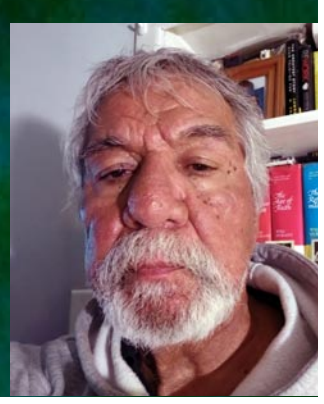
Childhood Homes

Gilbert Arzola

Where the bushes are now a house once was.
See there—where branches are twisted together like skinny
arms hugging air? You'd think it was one thing instead of two
until you look closer and follow to its roots.
Right there—where the branches
are highest there was a window and
a boy looking out.

My life is passing. The snow melts.
In another day it will become water and disappear
into the ground.
Over there—across the field you can count
one, two maybe three trees I used to climb.
Walk there—
And you can ask each blade of grass on the way
to tell you my name.



I am the second son of a former migrant worker living with my wife in Valparaiso, Indiana. Winner of the 2019 Passager Poetry Contest and the 2021 Rattle Poetry Chapbook Contest; I have been nominated for two Pushcart Awards. My book of poetry PRAYERS OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE was published in 2019 and a Chapbook THE DEATH OF A MIGRANT WORKER was published in 2021. My work has appeared in Crosslimb, The Elysian Review, The Notre Dame Review, Palabra, The Tipton Review, Craft, Acentos Review and Rattle among others.

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