

PRAISE

"I love Gilbert's poetry! It is so raw, powerful, direct and real. No wasted words, no fat to be found, only clear, lasting emotions and unflinching imagery. When you read his words you can't help but feel his pain."

David Bright, Editor Gemini Magazine

"Gilbert Arzola's poems craft an inviting space for readers: We enter, sit down, accept the tea, stir in sugar, then look up toward a shift in perspective only a skilled magician could manage."

Irena Praitis, Faculty Advisor DASH Magazine

CONTACT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Passager Publishes Debut Book by Mexican American Poet

Passager Books announces the publication of *Prayers of Little Consequence*, a debut book of poems by Gilbert Arzola of Valparaiso, Indiana.

Arzola recalls that "at age five I was a poet, and then the world turned me into someone else." Now, in retirement, he has time to return to being the poet he left behind years ago.

Passager editor Kendra Kopelke says that "Arzola's lyrical voice cuts through the noise of the day and goes straight to the heart, sometimes with a hammer, but always without flash. He is a natural."

Passager's editors first became acquainted with Arzola's work when he submitted poems to and won the 2019 Passager poetry contest for a writer age 50 or older. Five of his poems and an interview appeared in *Passager* journal.

In addition to writing poetry, Arzola coaches a girls' softball team in Valparaiso and has written a book on fastpitch softball.

Prayers of Little Consequence is available at passagerbooks.com.

Passager Books is a nonprofit press dedicated to publishing the work of older writers, encouraging the imagination throughout life, and creating beautiful and welcoming publications. In its 29 years, Passager has shared the work of more than 1,000 poets, fiction writers, and memoirists, many in their 80s and 90s, gaining a reputation for longevity in a world in which few magazines and journals last more than a handful of years.

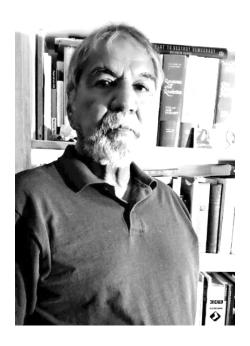
INTERVIEW



Do you remember what you wanted to be when you grew up? Gilbert Arzola explains that he was a poet at 5 but the world changed him. From "Of Some Renown," a video series.

January 2020.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Gilbert Arzola was raised in North Judson, Indiana, one generation removed from the back of a migrant truck, where his family was one of three Mexican-American families in an otherwise white community. He started writing in the eighth grade when an English teacher said that he had "a way with words." Retired now, his children grown, he has returned to writing poetry, fiction and essays. Arzola is also a high school softball coach and author of a book about fast pitch pitching. His poems and stories have appeared in numerous publications and online, including *Whetstone*, *Palabra*, and *The Tipton Review*. He was the 2019 winner of the Passager Poetry Contest.

ORDERING INFORMATION

Prayers of Little Consequence by Gilbert Arzola

Paperback: 110 pages Publisher: Passager Books ISBN 978-0-9836209-3-8

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.3 x 7.5 inches

\$16

Bookstores: Order through Small Press Distribution at <u>spdbooks.org</u>. For consignment sales, order directly from Passager Books at christine@passagerbooks.com.

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