Combustion

Vachine

You ignited my well-fire.
Endless feed to burn,
I torched the night sky.

I popped off my Top Hat, we
shag danced in the Devil's
slippers. Conflagration reigned.

Sirens beckoned toward molten coals.
We burned bedposts, asphalt off roads,
all the bridges to eternity.

Belladonna recaptured your body.
With as little as a changed mind,
you top-killed my well head.

Blaze out, feed plugged, like a self-cleaning
oven, all that's left is a little pile of gray
ash from our drippy messes.

A bottomless pit for more arson, I'm blind
to consequence, my hands crawl low arroyos,
strike iron rocks for latent sparks.

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Rolland Vasin uses the pen name of Vachine (Vah Ch (as in church) Een) which is the Romanian pronunciation of his last name, which means "neighbor". Son of a literary family, father a former reporter for the *Detroit Free Press* and Chief Editor of *Whidbey Island News*, mother the owner of Encino, California's Alphabooks, both father and grandfather were writers and poets but never submitted their work for publishing. Vachine is the first across three generations to achieve this recognition. Anthologized in the forthcoming Master Class (Duende), Vachine's poetry has also *been published in Open Minds Quarterly, Gnome,* and *Found and Lost* and he is an active Open Reader in U.S. poetry scene having read at venues from Cambridge, Massachusetts to Big Sur, California. He has also featured at Los Angeles' World Stage, The Rapp Saloon, and Encino Barnes & Noble venues, among others. Picking up the guitar, banjo, and harmonica after a forty-year hiatus Vachine has curated a collection of classic stringed instruments all of which he plays frequently. A former U.S. Naval Officer of the Vietnam era, and a naturalized "native" of Southern California, Vachine currently resides in Santa Monica, is a devoted bodysurfer and dabbles in improvisational theater and stand-up comedy for which we was recognized as the Laugh Factory's 1992 3rd Funniest CPA in Los Angeles.