

James B. Nicola

“Imagine”

Imagine all the people living life in peace

—John Lennon

I was listening to the song
and sinking in the overstuffed chair
when the day went dark and the record player
went off. In the silence and the dark
rose images of Central Park
all flowery and green in May
where everybody gets along
with each other, and with every thing.

I wanted so to stay

but then someone flicked a light switch on
and what I'd been imagining
was gone.

James B. Nicola's poetry and prose have appeared in *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *Antioch*, *Southwest*, *Green Mountains*, and *Atlanta Reviews*, *Rattle* and *Barrow Street*. His full-length collections are *Manhattan Plaza*, *Stage to Page*, *Wind in the Cave*, *Out of Nothing*, and *Quickening: Poems from Before and Beyond* (2019). His nonfiction book *Playing the Audience* won a Choice award. A Yale graduate, he hosts the Hell's Kitchen International Writers' Roundtable at Manhattan's Columbus Library: walk-ins welcome.