



# A Few Words

From Jan Carroll

March 2024

A funny thing happened on the way to my winter newsletter—I made an album. Yep, an album. Yep, me. It wasn't on my to-do list OR my bucket list, but then I picked up a video at the local library that changed all that. *The Elephant 6 Recording Co* tells the story of a group of young people in the Athens, Georgia, area in the 1990s who, not having much money, decided to make recordings with what they had. They had a few instruments, a four-track tape recorder, and lots of enthusiasm. Their joy in this was infectious and I couldn't help myself from plunging into a similar project, though initially I just created one song. Then another. And another—it was SO MUCH FUN! Eventually, I asked myself, “Hmm, do I have an album here?” I don't have a lot of money either, but I did have a reasonably good mic, the software program Audacity, and a hodge-podge of “instruments,” including an ocarina gifted to me, a drum and xylophone found in the children's section of Savers thrift store, and lots of everyday items around the house that became instruments (for example a package of staples for my staple gun and a wire rack that usually holds four mugs). Oh, AND a newfound enthusiasm. The other big factor was I discovered there were songs I wanted to create for ME. For my philosophical and spiritual pondering. For my joy. So, yeah, I made an album. It's not perfect. That's why I called it Rough Around the Edges Recordings. The whole point is to create with what you have. And to have FUN! If you find something in it that resonates, awesome. If not, no worries.

I'm giving newsletter subscribers a first listen to one of the songs at this link:

<https://www.jancarrollpoetryetc.net/no-longer>

I hope you are well and staying encouraged.  
Jan

In the coming weeks I will be posting two more songs on Facebook and on my website [jancarrollpoetryetc.net](http://jancarrollpoetryetc.net) with their lyrics and liner notes. Eventually, the whole album will be on the website. It will be free to download.

