

Anne Pollack, Founder of Crossing Point Arts

Published on 02/15/2018



What is your life's purpose? As a committed artist and activist, it is my life's work to shine a bright light on the often-ignored problem of slavery in our times...

How are you living your purpose? I have formed an initiative, Crossing Point Arts: Bringing the Arts to Survivors of Human Trafficking.

song creation. Collectively, we have reached over 2,000 survivors of trafficking with our NYC-based workshops held in local anti-trafficking agencies.

In our workshops, survivors find the voice that was silenced by their exploiters and/or traffickers. There is a powerful moment we witness in every workshop, where the participant crosses over from the place of deep hurt into the realm of aliveness.



Afro-Puerto Rican dance class

"A caseworker called before a workshop recently to say, "Siara presents very severe PTSD and generally resists participation in any creative work." Case-workers know their clients well, so we prepared accordingly.

Siara arrived late and came in looking disorganized and distressed. However, within moments, she was dancing and following the Teaching Artist brilliantly.

At the end of class, she asked, "What is this we are doing? It makes me so strong!" She struck the pose she'd learned and smiled.

Siara (who had danced professionally in Ubud, Bali) literally came back to life through something about herself that she cherished, a part of her that was untouched by the trauma of trafficking.



Art workshop

I also maintain my own art practice: playing the cello, writing music, studying Cuban and Brazilian dance, writing poetry, painting, sketching, and sculpting.

How did you find your purpose? When I entered my 50s, I lamented to a friend who is 20 years older than me: "What can I do now? Before I know it, I will be 60. Then what? This feels bad."

When she caught wind of the fact that I had started this initiative (but was back-pedaling because I found the work so challenging) she pushed me very, very hard to start a nonprofit and keep going.

There were three powerful forces that I had lived with since early childhood: 1) my acute awareness of the man-made catastrophe of slavery in the world, 2) my impulse to be of service, and 3) my abundant creative fire.

Each of these forces in my life grew independently. I continuously volunteered for impoverished children and adults, performed many benefit concerts for social justice causes, and donated money to anti-trafficking agencies.

I knew, in my heart, it wasn't enough, but I had not yet made the connection. The day that these three parts of me merged I was thrilled, exhilarated, scared, but entirely intrigued.

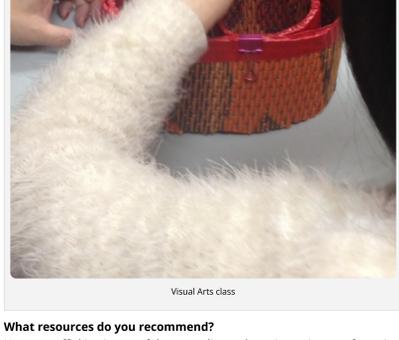


Talko Drumming workshop

What advice do you have for purpose seekers? Notice what demands your attention. Give it your full focus. Listen to hear what makes your heart sing, or melt, or jump.

If an idea scares you, lie down until the feeling passes, and then get back up to see how you can get closer to it. Study it. Talk to many people. Ask good questions and ask stupid questions.

If an idea makes you squirm and scares you, but you can't stop thinking about it, go do it! It will bring out your beauty.



Visual Arts class

What resources do you recommend? Human trafficking is one of the most dire and persistent issues of our times. There are an estimated 40 million enslaved people on earth at this very moment, more than have ever before.

To learn more about human trafficking: Here is a great Ted Talk by Rachel Lloyd, a former trafficking victim. One of our workshops is shot in this CNN video, beginning at 00:53.

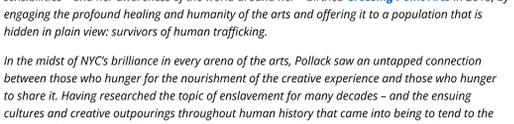
Polaris Project World Without Exploitation United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

My greatest inspirations: The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr. by Martin Luther King, Jr. Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom by Catherine Clinton

Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela by Nelson Mandela My Song: A Memoir of Art, Race, and Defiance by Harry Belafonte

Connect with Anne H. Pollack Email: anne@crossingpointarts.org Nonprofit Website: www.CrossingPointArts.org

Documentary: https://www.crossingpointarts.org/documentary Personal Website: www.AnnePollackProductions.com Facebook Page Instagram Twitter



Anne H. Pollack is a musician, composer, visual artist, writer, student of dance and an activist. Her sensibilities - and her awareness of the world around her - birthed Crossing Point Arts in 2013, by engaging the profound healing and humanity of the arts and offering it to a population that is hidden in plain view: survivors of human trafficking.

In the midst of NYC's brilliance in every arena of the arts, Pollack saw an untapped connection between those who hunger for the nourishment of the creative experience and those who hunger to share it. Having researched the topic of enslavement for many decades - and the ensuing cultures and creative outpourings throughout human history that came into being to tend to the wounds of slavery - Pollack recognized that the NYC area held a minimal connection between its community of artists and survivors of trafficking.

A noted expert in the field of human trafficking aftercare through the arts, Ms. Pollack has more recently been a guest speaker and/or panelist at Yale University, William Paterson University, Macaulay Honors College, The Yale Club, LaMama and the NY Writers Alliance.

As a musician and composer, Pollack has received numerous grants from National Endowment for the Arts, Meet the Composer and Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

Her lengthy experience as a small business owner has given Anne the skills to manage her resources creatively and with great success. As a Restorer, Dealer and Technician of Fine and Vintage Flutes, she has spent more than 35 years refining her talents, as she has dealt with world renowned soloists, orchestral flutists, studio musicians, Broadway players, professors from conservatories of music and students alike.

COMMENT HERE

Want to learn how to THRIVE in your next chapter?

Grab your FREE training and discover the 5 MUSTS to a joyful and FULFILLING next chapter, along with EASY STEPS you can begin taking today to put these MUSTS into practice.

GET MY FREE GIFT!



2 Comments



Rebecca Forstadt Olkowski on 02/15/2018 at 12:36 PM I'm astonished at the extent of human trafficking that still goes on in our society. Anne is performing such a valuable service to those who have been victims. Thank you for this valuable information.

REPLY



Anne Pollack on 02/15/2018 at 2:40 PM Many thanks Rebecca, Human trafficking is an enormous problem that is hidden in plain sight. It is my profound hope that our efforts will spur others to take action. There is much to be done, and no time to waste.

REPLY

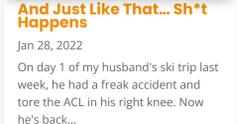
Personally, I feel so fortunate to be able to bring my beliefs into the world to help others. Warm wishes, Anne

Submit a Comment

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Comment form with fields for Name, Email, Website, and a Submit Comment button.

This site uses Akismet to reduce spam. Learn how your comment data is processed.



And Just Like That... Sh*t Happens

Jan 28, 2022 On day 1 of my husband's ski trip last week, he had a freak accident and tore the ACL in his right knee. Now he's back...



Sing Even if You Suck at it!

Jan 14, 2022 I just finished a one-hour virtual sing-along and it was so much fun! I couldn't wait to tell you about it! Today's...



She Dished Me in My Own Facebook Group!

Dec 30, 2021 Last week, I posted in my free Facebook group, Empowering Women in Midlife, about my paid offering, the recently...