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LA CONCHA

Newsletter of American Pilgrims on the Camino
September 2018

That Fellowship Feeling

by Sandy Lentball, Williamsburg VA

One definition - a feeling of fellowship with others as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests and goals.

A community of folks who had a feeling of fellowship as a result of being a pilgrim on the Camino to Santiago gathered in Williamsburg, VA. Where we lived, how old we were, what our education and travel experiences had been, our gender and physical appearances were “all over the lot” different.

The one common denominator was our interest in the Camino de Santiago. Some had walked; some were planning to walk. Way back in 1994, an article in the Smithsonian magazine reached out to me in such a way that I knew I would be a peregrina someday.

I walked that same year - without a cell phone. When I returned home, friends would ask: “Weren’t you afraid of falling, twisting an ankle, other mishaps?”

No, I wasn’t because I knew that the members of the pilgrim community would do what needed to be done.

The community that gathered in Williamsburg spent very little time *connecting* with each other in small talk. It was straight into fellowship of the variety of:

“What did you carry in your backpack?”

“I preferred not to take a walking stick until one day I stumbled. Then I searched for a strong stick, shaped the handle area with a stone et voilà....a good walking stick.”

“Do you remember the bridge of Puente la Reina? The refugio where bed space could be found for the night? I was invited to sleep in the nurse’s office since there were only top places left in the triple bunks and I must have appeared so old to this community.”

Passing along the way -

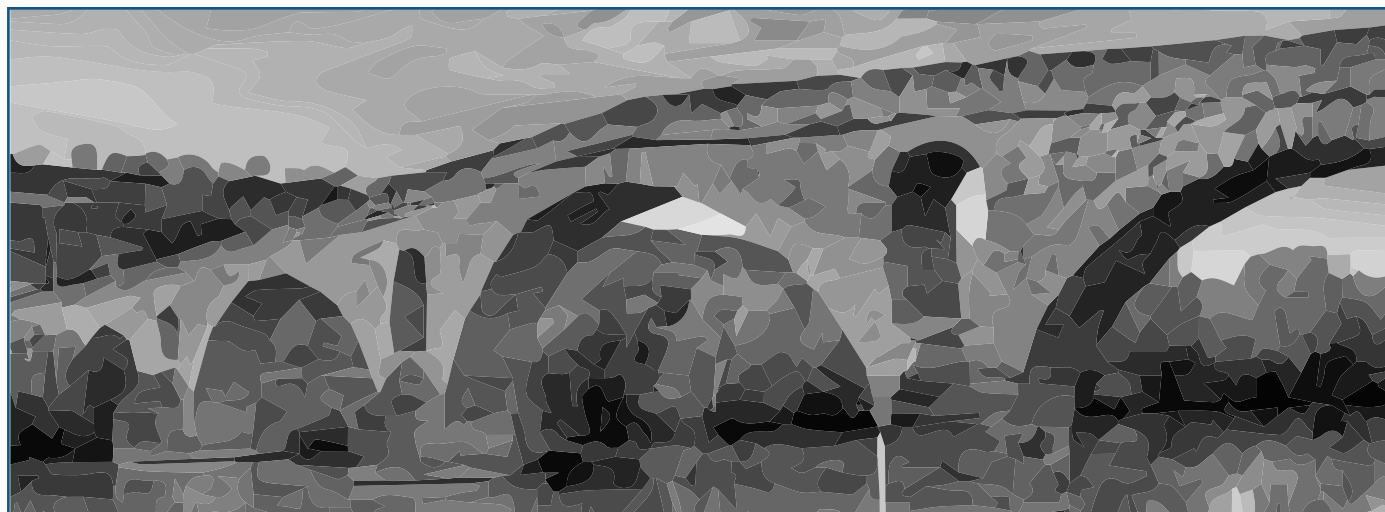
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Member Writings &
Photos Throughout!

smiles, greetings in one language or another, asking about the day’s destination, advice about eating places... the community information which was very valuable to each pilgrim.

Whether in Spain or back home, that fellowship feeling is the same. Getting together in community is great fun! ♦



The bridge at Puente la Reina

Message From the Chair

Dear Members,

As the old saying goes, “The more things change, the more they stay the same.” Those of us who have been around a while see changes on the Camino such as more infrastructure, more information pre-Camino and more access to and use of technology. Yet, the true essence of the Camino remains the same.

In that spirit the board met in July and worked on a planning process that will help guide American Pilgrims on the Camino over the next several years. With the help of our excellent facilitator and member, Susan Austin, the board took a deep dive to think about how the organization can best position itself for the future. American Pilgrims has been around for more than a decade. We wanted to be sure that we remain loyal to our mission but also be very deliberate in support of the Camino and the pilgrim community.

Our new vision statement emerged from these July board meeting discussions. Our mission, our values and the Spirit of the Camino printed on each credential remain the same.

Vision

- We inspire all who seek the spirit of the Camino to connect with the global community of pilgrims.

Mission

- We foster the enduring tradition of the Camino by supporting its infrastructure, gathering pilgrims together, and providing information and encouragement to past and future pilgrims.

Organizational Values

- Community
- Gratitude
- Service
- Simplicity

Spirit of the Camino

- Live in the moment
- Welcome each day – its pleasures and its challenges
- Make others feel welcome
- Share
- Feel the spirit of those who have gone before you
- Imagine those who will follow you
- Appreciate those who walk with you today



Jeff Stys, photo by Joan DeFeis

In the future, your board will be looking at how everything we do helps support our vision, mission and values. I don’t expect any major changes in the things that we do, but I am excited to see new opportunities to help build connections, relationships and opportunities to live the Spirit of the Camino.

I do have some board changes to report. In July, we bade farewell to two dedicated, hardworking members, Peg Hall and Cindy Day, and we welcomed Anne Andert and Tom Labuziensi to your all-volunteer board. You may find their brief bios at <https://www.americanpilgrims.org/board-of-directors>

Those of us who have experienced the Camino know the importance of connection. We strive to sustain and build connections in our lives post-Camino. At American Pilgrims, we are honored to help create connections between those who have walked, are walking now or will walk in the future.

It’s a personal honor to be a part of something bigger than myself and, as a pilgrim, I can help create a world of greater connection and understanding, a global community in the spirit of the Camino. ♦

Buen Camino!

Jeff Stys

Board Chair

La Concha Returns

We're grateful to members who took the time to respond to our *La Concha* reader survey earlier in the summer. We'll continue to work to ensure your newsletter reflects the vision, mission and values of American Pilgrims on the Camino. In the coming issues, starting with this one, you'll find some changes based on what you told us.

But first, what you won't find: Tips on which shoes to get or whether TSA will allow hiking poles as carry-on baggage. We host an American Pilgrims Facebook community of nearly 19,000 that will quickly respond to your requests for information. Recent posts include how to make café con leche at home, suggestions for what to do in Santiago once you've gotten your Compostela and gone to Mass, and how to install a SIM card in your phone. Ask away at www.facebook.com/groups/Americanpilgrims to not only pose questions but also offer your expertise.

In this issue, you'll find two stories from members who have made Camino pilgrimages in other countries, such as Japan and Canada, to connect us with the global community of pilgrims. You'll find descriptions of the projects we've funded through our grants program that support the Camino infrastructure, thanks to your membership dues. You'll read a summary of Gathering

2018 and get a preview of Gathering 2019, which fulfill, in part, our mission of bringing pilgrims together. You'll find accounts from members who show us how they're living the American Pilgrims' value of *Community* – in their lives and in their Chapters. We offer you poetry, a book review, photos and more.

Our December issue will focus on the American Pilgrims' value of Gratitude. How do you live this value in your own life? In your chapter? We want your stories, your thoughts, your ideas. Deadline for your submission to newsletter@americanpilgrims.org is Nov. 21, 2018. Check the submission guidelines on the American Pilgrims on the Camino newsletter page <https://www.americanpilgrims.org/newsletter-la-concha>. Make sure photos are the correct size, you've included captions, the article length is within the guidelines and you've proposed a headline for your article.

Meanwhile, Team La Concha would be grateful for your help. If you're a wordsmith eager to edit or a designer willing to take over the design of the newsletter, let us know at newsletter@americanpilgrims.org. ♦

With our thanks,

Team La Concha

22nd Annual Gathering of Pilgrims ~ Cultivating Camino Connections

The 22nd National Gathering of American Pilgrims will take place March 28-31, 2019, in Black Mountain NC, just outside of Asheville. A myriad of amazing speakers will address how to cultivate Camino connections and keep the spirit of the Camino alive. As always, we will have new pilgrim favorites such as What to Pack... or Not, Pilgrim First Aid, and New Pilgrim Q&A. Attendees will be treated to a wonderful Spanish

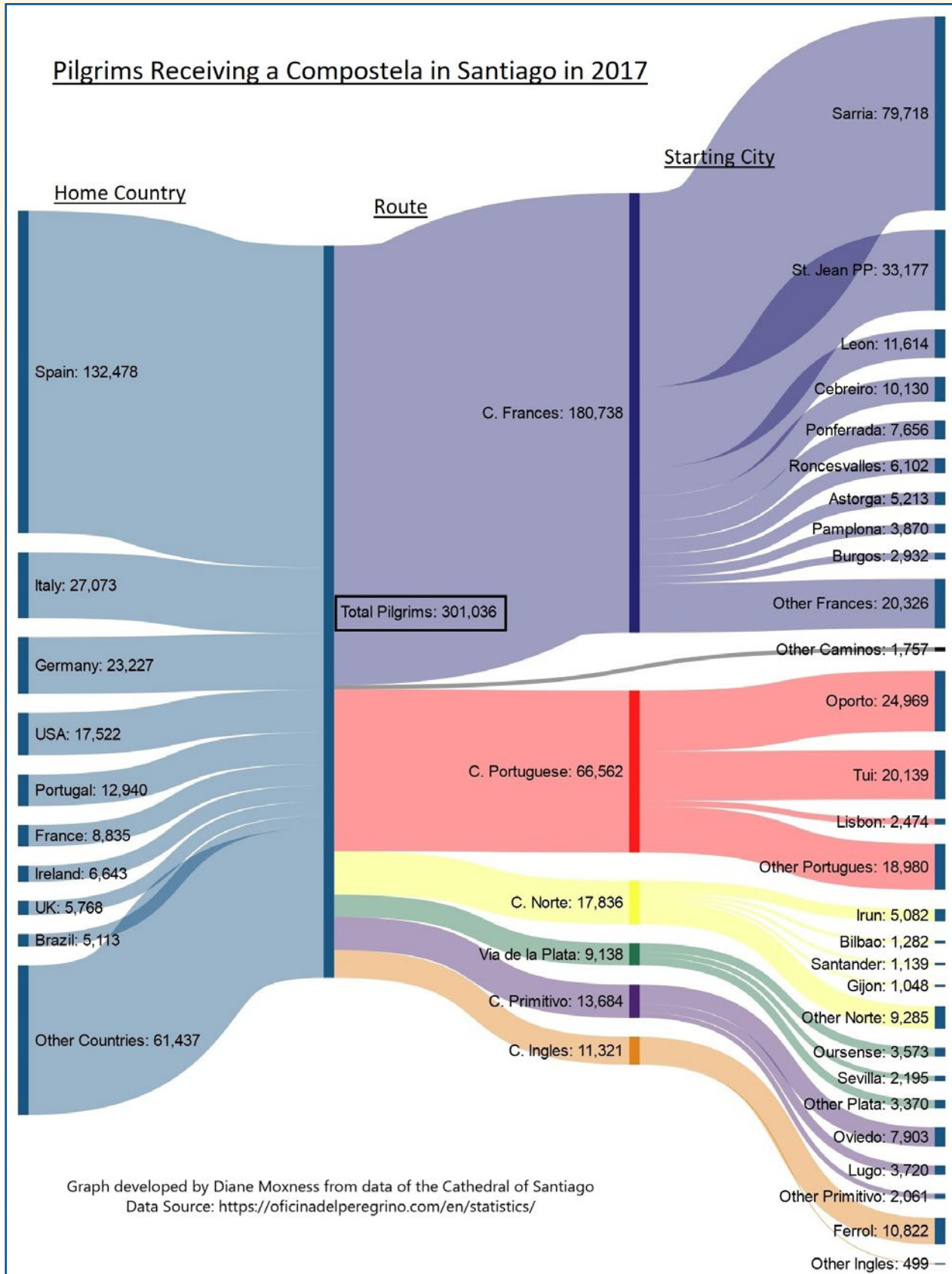
guitar duet, a performance of *Muñeira de Chantada* and the screening of *Strangers on the Earth*. Finally, we are bringing back the Camino Cabaret where you will have the opportunity to share your Camino talents.

Make plans now to attend the 22nd Annual Gathering of Pilgrims, "Cultivating Camino Connections." Registration will open in early January. ♦





Pilgrims Receiving a Compostela in Santiago in 2017



graphic created by Diane Moxness, Anchorage AK

21st Annual Gathering of Pilgrims - April 2018

The theme of the 21st Annual Gathering of Pilgrims was “Making Meaning from Memories” and that’s just what happened at the Vallombrosa Center in Menlo Park, CA April 12-15, 2018.

Session topics ranged from philosophical and informative to artistic and practical, with memorable break-outs on expression through art and words, as well as the benefits of walking poles and the always

popular New Pilgrim Q&A. New in 2018 was our Camino Café with a Song and Story Corner featuring local Jelly Belly® jelly beans and coloring books.

As advertised, we learned and we played, we relaxed and we enjoyed the familiar pilgrim camaraderie, unwound with yoga, wrote poetry and explored watercolor sketching. We also viewed the very inspiring film *I'll Push You*.

For the second year in a row, the Camino Trivia Contest highlighted not only the incredible depth of knowledge but also the creativity our members possess. A very spirited raffle and silent auction raised approximately \$4,300 to be used in the American Pilgrims grants program. We sincerely thank each of you for your generosity and support. ♦

photos by Zach Donselar, Alexandria VA



Pilgrims explore their creative side



© Jennifer Lawson



The beautiful chapel at Vallombrosa



Sir George Greenia entertains and informs



Working on our Gathering social skills

On the Camino by Jason

Reviewed by Sara Gradwohl, Mooresville IN

Many books about the Camino are guidebooks with practical tips or books about personal loss and discovery. Looking deeper we discover watercolor journals and collections of poetry. Most use words and photographs or beautiful illustrations. It's common to record our thoughts, emotions and notes about each day, but this is the first Camino diary I've seen in the graphic novel format. Famed Norwegian cartoonist Jason walked the Camino de Santiago from St. Jean Pied de Port to Finisterre to celebrate his 50th birthday.

In this clever "cartoon journal" we accompany the artist as he documents his 32-day journey along the Camino Francés relating his experiences, thoughts and dialogue with other pilgrims. People are represented as dogs and birds, and the drawings are simple black and white cartoons, but this doesn't distract from his journey and the messages he shares.

We sense his nervousness, excitement and shyness as he travels to St. Jean, and his attempts

before dawn, and of coming into a café and seeing a group of pilgrims enjoying camaraderie but finding no more chairs at their table. We see his struggles walking in rain, getting lost, asking for help, meeting people and having, or not having, a

“Where’s the scene where Martin-Sheen hand washes his socks?”

smart phone, and encountering bedbugs. One of the funniest threads through the book is asking why we never saw Martin Sheen’s movie character washing his socks in *The Way*.

A non-religious person, he enjoys visiting the numerous churches, appreciating their architecture and beauty, and picking favorites. There’s a bit of social commentary on the economic problems Spain has faced since their housing bubble burst, and another bit on the trash left by pilgrims along the Camino. Are there lessons learned in this book? Yes. He appreciates the simple joys of a café con leche, realizes change of even one degree is still change, and if you can’t find a yellow arrow, toilet paper is a very helpful sign!

Pilgrims who have walked will enjoy this book for the memories. New pilgrims can get a visual of what to expect, and even some advice on where to stay.

If you’re looking for a different type of Camino book you can share with family and friends, one that can be read in less than an hour, this is a great book. Just remember it is an adult comic book and his occasional salty language is inappropriate for young kids. ♦

On the Camino

by Jason

Fantagraphics Books 2017

192 pages

to gain acceptance into the community of pilgrims. There are many relatable moments: when he expresses his regret at having chosen the “wrong” albergue because the one across the street has a communal meal and he’s lonely, of waking early and walking





Your Membership Dues Support the Camino Infrastructure

American Pilgrims on the Camino offers competitive grants to non-private albergues and to charitable organizations to further develop the infrastructure of the Camino in Spain, Portugal and France. Each grant is limited to a maximum of \$6,000. In 2018 we awarded \$30,000 in grants to six projects on five Caminos. In this issue of La Concha, we highlight three of these grants.

If you have witnessed these renovations as you passed these albergues or stayed in them on your pilgrimage, let us know your thoughts on the American Pilgrims Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/AmericanPilgrims

Camino Francés

We granted \$6,000 to the Asociación Hospital de San Anton to purchase and install a 10- cubic meter resin water tank to provide a reliable water source for the approximately 1,000 pilgrims and hospitaleros who stay there each year and for its 15,000 annual visitors. This donativo albergue relied on water from a spring that is running dry due to severe chronic drought.

Camino Mozárabe

This Camino route is gaining in popularity, especially among Spanish pilgrims. We made a grant of \$6,000 to the Asociación Jacobea de Almería Camino Mozárabe so this donativo albergue can

complete the second phase of its project between Granada and Almeria. The local community donated the building in Alboloduy. The asociación has completed its renovation for a donativo albergue. Our grant provides funding for furnishings, and for cooking and eating utensils, which frequently are not found in donativo albergues.

Camino del Norte

According to 2017 statistics from the Pilgrim Office, the Camino del Norte is now the third most traveled Camino after the Francés and Portugués. The town of Irún, the start of this increasingly popular route, gave a shuttered school building to the Asociación Jacobea Irun Bidasoa Jacobi. We granted the asociación \$6,000 to renovate the building into a new albergue. The current albergue in a very old building accommodates 50 pilgrims and has just two showers and toilets. It accommodated 7,300 pilgrims in 2017. The new albergue will accommodate 60 pilgrims, with capability to expand to 80. It will have seven toilets and showers. The Asociación has two other grants pending with the regional and provincial governments and has raised about half of the total project cost. ♦

New American Pilgrims and Astorga Agreement

American Pilgrims on the Camino and the Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Astorga y Comarca have entered into an agreement of shared values.

Consistent with our vision and mission, this relationship will focus on the preservation of the age-old practice of traditional hospitality on the Camino. It promotes the collaboration of the many organizations and individuals in the Camino community in Spain.

This collaboration includes supporting the physical infrastructure of the Camino as well as the

collaborative efforts of supporting hospitaleros serving in the albergues.

Both of these goals are supported by the American Pilgrims' grants program and our hospitalero training program.

We look forward to strengthening our strong relationship with the Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Astorga y Comarca. They have been extremely supportive of our hospitaleros serving in Astorga, a beautiful stop on the Camino Francés. ♦

The Center of the Story

by Beth Jusino, Seattle WA

Before my husband, Eric, and I left for our first Camino, I prepared by reading everything I could find, including memoirs. I was desperate for practical information and advice. Where do we buy food? What are the towns like? And most important: Where are the bathrooms?

I wanted facts, but the Camino narratives I found mostly told stories about the people the authors met.

Wait, I wanted to say to the writers. You're walking through this magnificent country with all this history, and all you can talk about is the Australian guy you met at dinner? Where are your priorities?

I flew to France, started my pilgrimage in Le Puy, and then I met the people. Within days, they became the center of my story, too.

My new friends (retired French executives, bubbly Korean college students, and tattooed Dutch police officers) often asked, "Do you have walks like this in America?" I would look around the communal dinner table at our rainbow of ages, nationalities, and backgrounds and think about how close I felt to someone after just a day, even if we didn't share a common language. I

would remember the graciousness of Camino angels, from nuns who welcomed us into their convent homes to confraternity volunteers who traveled from around the world to clean toilets.

"No," I would say. "There's nothing like this anywhere in the world."

I've been back to the Camino de Santiago three times in the past four years, and every time the people I meet become the center of my story.

When I look at my photos, it's their pictures

that draw my eye. It's their community that draws me back. And when I sat down to write my own Camino memoir, it was their stories that came out. The hours of afternoon conversations shaped me as much as the physical challenge of the mornings.

I'm not alone. If you've walked the Way of Saint James, you know what I'm talking about. It doesn't matter how old you are or where you're

from, whether you're traveling alone or with a group, or whether you consider yourself an introvert or an extrovert. It's the people of the Camino who will change you.

There truly is nothing like this anywhere else in the world. ♦



A dinner in Ostabat, France. Pictured L to R (facing camera): Marieke from the Netherlands, Amanda from Denmark, Beth from the US (the author), and her husband, Eric

L'Arche and the Camino

by Webster Bull, Beverly MA

After forty years as a writer, editor, and publisher—alone in my head, blinded by my brilliance—I hungered for connection and community. I found them in two places where word-smithery is all but useless: the Camino and L'Arche.

L'Arche is an international network of communities in which people with and without developmental disabilities live together. L'Arche (French for ark, as in Noah) is a faith-based organization open to all, Catholic or not. I have been an assistant in the L'Arche Boston North community since 2015.

I've walked the Camino, also Catholic in origin, twice so far, in 2012 and 2018. Here are some parallels.

Words fail: On the Camino, English is the lingua franca—lucky for me, an American with good French but no Spanish. Yet two of the three men with whom I connected most in 2018, a South Korean and a Mexican, had little English. The third's Irish accent was so thick I often had to ask him to repeat himself.

At L'Arche, I share days and evenings with people who have trouble expressing themselves verbally. Some have no words at all. It is difficult communicating with Woody, John, and Tom in Massachusetts, just as it was with Park, Rodolfo, and Moore



The Camino trio

in Spain, yet all six are dear to me.

Connection is quick: What connects us? Without language to build bridges or barriers, the Camino and L'Arche throw us into contact with each other in a fundamental human way. On the Camino, even without words, we share things from sunup to sundown, including walking and blisters.

At L'Arche, the difficulty of verbal communication is overcome by sharing daily experiences like getting up, getting dressed, making breakfast, cleaning house, praying over dinner, watching game shows, and going on outings. We walk together, which can be quite slow. As on the Camino, this is not easy.

A road to community: I am convinced that community on the Camino is created because we all walk the same path to the same destination. This does not happen in life, where you and I pursue individual paths while humming the Frank Sinatra tune "My Way." The seminal book by Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth*, points L'Arche in the same direction as the Camino: away from individualism, toward community. There are no yellow arrows at L'Arche, but there is a clear, single direction: togetherness despite our differences.

L'Arche has taught me how much I hunger for connection and community after a life of following my way. Twice now, the Camino has provided me with connection, community, and a hunger to return. ♦

Editor's Note: For more information on L'Arche and Jean Vanier visit www.larcheusa.org

"One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals."

~ Jean Vanier

Canadian Catholic philosopher, theologian and humanitarian

WHY Are You Walking?

by Deb Seelhoff, Waterford MI

Many books about the Camino suggest that you know “why” you are making the journey. The reason for my walk didn’t materialize until I bumped into Josh.

In the last few years, my previously happy life had turned tragically sad and changed me forever. I met Rick, the love of my life. His eyes were blue and kind, his smile and laugh infectious. We made memories together, and on one knee, at sunset in Key West, he proposed. Our wedding date was slated for July of 2015.

I can remember where I was when Rick received the news: cancer. I remember the sick feeling that rushed over me, a feeling I’d never known before. WHY? Why him? Why now?

In perfect Rick fashion, he attacked his challenge head-on, even through chemotherapy, radiation, hair loss, and fatigue. He still managed to marry me with a smile, and we had the best day ever.

Seven days after our first wedding anniversary, Rick died. I still asked “Why?”

The Camino had been on my mind for many years. Every time I got close, fear crept in and kept me away. After my second Christmas without Rick,

it was finally time.

I planned to deliver my “heart package” to Cruz de Ferro: Rick’s ashes, a cross my dad carved from an old family oak tree, a scallop shell from my mom, and a silver angel my students filled with prayers.

I decided not to worry about “why.” Maybe it just was.

On May 2, 2018, in Chiriquí, Spain, I spotted a man sitting under some olive trees and reading a book.

“Hi, where are you from?”

“I’m Josh, from New York.”

We walked together, and he asked me, “Why are you walking the Camino?” I can honestly say that until that moment, I hadn’t known. I shared my story about Rick for the first time on the Camino. And then, without thinking, I replied, “Because I am no longer afraid.”

Life is precious and filled with opportunities, experiences, surprises, and disappointments. People in your life often leave an imprint on your heart. Family includes the faces that make your heart smile. Taking chances feels good even if you fall on your face. Faith can fluctuate, but God never does. ♦

Pórtico de la Gloria

During the summer, the Pórtico de la Gloria, which is the western entrance to the Cathedral of Santiago, opened for visitors after a 10-year period of complex restoration.

However, the Cathedral recently confirmed that on Sept. 18, the current free visits to the Pórtico ended to enable further conservation of the entrance. It will reopen for visits in November. You must then purchase an entry ticket for the Pórtico just as you purchase tickets for visits to the rooftop of the Cathedral.

The Cathedral has published a guide to the Pórtico de la Gloria, a masterpiece of the history of medieval art, which details this work and all its elements, as well as its location in the Cathedral and the importance of Maestro Mateo, its creator.

This guide is available in English or Spanish in the Cathedral stores.

See images and more description of the entrance at <http://www.santiagoturismo.com/percorrido/portico-da-gloria> ♦



Chapter Snapshots

We now have nearly 50 chapters engaged in the work of Gathering pilgrims together. Our chapters are working to foster the enduring tradition of the Camino by gathering pilgrims, providing information, and supporting the Camino. If you are interested in getting involved or forming your own chapter, visit <http://www.americanpilgrims.org/local-chapters>. ♦



At a recent Jacksonville Chapter Spanish Wine Tasting event, chapter co-coordinator Susan Peacock accepted a Camino-inspired painting from co-coordinator Miriam S. Gallet, in recognition of her recent completion of three back-to-back Caminos (each on the Francés, from St. Jean Pied de Port to Santiago de Compostela). ♦

The South Bend IN chapter of American Pilgrims on the Camino at Sara Gradwohl's excellent talk about Japan's Kumano Kodo on August 23. Three "dual pilgrims" were at the meeting. Only about 1,000 people worldwide are dual pilgrims, which means one who has completed at least the last 100km of the Camino de Santiago (or 200km on bicycle) and has walked one of four qualifying Kumano Kodo segments. ♦

Southeast Michigan Chapter

by Paula Jager, Owosso MI

The American Pilgrims on the Camino board ratified its 49th chapter at its July board meeting. Our Southeast Michigan chapter is the only one in Michigan. We are seeking suggestions from other chapters on how to create a vibrant community of pilgrims. What has worked for you in your chapter?

Our chapter's three coordinators, David Larwa, Rose Marie Callahan, and I are busy planning events. Our first is in early October, and we recognize that more "seasoned" American Pilgrims Chapter coordinators have much to offer and we would love to hear from you.

Please contact us at SoutheastMichigan@americanpilgrims.org or check us out on Meetup. ♦



photo by Thomas Labuziowski

“It Was Only a Hike...”

by Don Shaw, Fairfax Station VA

Every January, we three co-coordinators of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter (Lisa Frederick, Kristin Dawson, and I), invite everyone to my home for a planning session. We map out chapter activities for the year.

We pick a date in October for a hike in Burke Lake Park. But serendipity intervenes: A stranger who knows how to tell a spell-binding story will be in town. We transform our hike into a walk and talk session.

On the appointed day, 40 pilgrims, from old hands to newbies and maybes, assemble. I introduce the day’s activity, and we set off with the sun shining and our spirits soaring.

There’s such a spirit of community that it reminds me of a Bible verse: “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

The Camino is in the midst of us as I take the lead, and Jim Larocca brings up the rear. I notice how naturally people fall into step with their neighbor and start talking. I overhear snippets of conversation. A wanna-be bounds up to an experienced pilgrim. She’s tackling the Francés next year with four friends. They’ve already decided to walk every step together, and one of them is going to Mass every day.

The experienced pilgrim gently mentions that sometimes pilgrims like to walk alone for a few hours or even a few days, and Mass at a convenient time can be hard to find.

I smile to myself, noticing she is not giving advice. I’m reminded of one of my favorite sayings: “Advice costs nothing, and that’s often what it’s worth.”

Our six-mile hike is surprisingly Caminoesque with fresh mud, fallen trees, a few ups and downs, lots of laughter, and good cheer.

Now for the talking. We enjoy tales of tasting the Camino with a tour company and the pitfalls of using a backpack service. There are lively exchanges between those who’ve yet to go who seek information and those who’ve already been and are eager for the opportunity to share.

Next up, the stranger in town. Elaine Hopkins, from the United Kingdom, takes the stage, and condenses a healing journey of four Caminos into just 15 minutes. When the stories are done, I’m struck by the power of storytelling to forge communal bonds. Maybe that’s one of the secrets of the Camino: It provides a sacred space in which long-held stories can be shared, witnessed and released.

It was only a hike, but it was so much more. ♦



Lisa Graves, Salt Lake City UT, made lots of sketches while walking her Camino. She’s just begun making paintings from those as well as from her photographs. This is a Sintra relief cut made from a photo she took while on the Camino Francés in fall 2017.

Recreating Camino Community at Home

by *Thomas Labuziensi, South Bend IN*

Standing in front of Santiago cathedral after completing my first Camino with my two oldest sons in 2016, I felt a powerful sense of accomplishment and inspiration, but also sadness that it was over. I returned home asking myself “Now what?”, especially since friends, family and colleagues had only a fleeting interest in my experience. I felt empty.

A few weeks after my return, I was sitting in church when an idea to share my Camino adventures came to me. I decided then and there to find a way to teach a Camino course. The local “Forever Learning Institute” was very excited to offer my Camino de Santiago class, and the class was filled to capacity. After teaching three 10 week semesters, almost every student indicated interest in doing their own Camino. The class covers topics such as the history, preparation, books, videos, guest speakers and much more. Guest speakers have included our Catholic Bishop, a podiatrist, and experienced pilgrims sharing stories, pictures and videos. The last day of class, we also take a hiking pilgrimage to a basilica.

All students pay a \$45 class fee to the institute, but teachers are unpaid. Each week, I look forward to teaching the class, and it provides me with a way to share my Camino experiences with a receptive audience. Researching and teaching this course is a real act of love, an act that provides a strong sense of Camino community. It’s particularly fulfilling when graduates tell me how the

class has helped them with their own Camino - which is, of course, their final exam.

Another way of creating community is to start a local chapter of American Pilgrims. Fellow pilgrim Chuck Rupley and I did that. In the first few months, our South Bend chapter had nearly 50 people participating at monthly meetings. Moreover, our area had over 50 people on the Camino this spring and summer, and more are going this autumn. Perhaps the Camino classes I teach are Camino 101, and the local chapter meetings provide advanced study. To continue to enjoy the community of the Camino, just teach a course, join your local chapter, or, if you don’t have one, start one. For more information, you may contact Tom Labuziensi in South Bend, Indiana at tomlab@outlook.com. ♦



*Along the Camino Portuguese.
photo by Barbara Zang Worcester MA*

Finding Community Among Tribes of Pilgrims

by Laurie Ferris, Oakland CA

When I attended my first Northern California chapter event in the spring of 2015, the idea of walking the Camino was daunting, yet surprisingly appealing. After the potluck came the shell blessing and sharing of stories. These stories were inspiring to me. That was my initiation into the American Pilgrims on the Camino Tribe, and I was hooked.



Northern California Chapter Tribe

After a year of training hikes, Camino events, and pilgrim interviews with the NorCal Tribe, I made my first Camino—a short-but-sweet walk on the Camino Portugués—and it had a major impact on me. It didn't hit me until I returned home that the Camino would never make sense to many people. So I kept going back to the only people who could relate, my tribe.

I soon learned the greater tribe of Camino pilgrims encompasses many subtribes, each with a different focus, but all with something in common: kindred spirits who want to give back to the Camino. I became very involved in organizing and promoting local events. The founder of our chapter saw my enthusiasm and recruited me to join the NorCal Steering Committee Tribe. In February 2017, I trained to join the Hospitalero Tribe



Trained Hospitalero Tribe

of albergue volunteers.

Shortly after completing my Camino Inglés, I started to do Camino presentations and coordinate more chapter events. Our chapter's liaison to the American Pilgrims Board Tribe invited me to their meeting in January 2018 to help plan the National Gathering in Menlo Park, California. I then officially became a member of the Chapter Coordinator Tribe. I was so fortunate to meet more coordinators at the Gathering, along with a few international guests, presenters, and VIPs. That experience made me appreciate American Pilgrims' value of community even more.

Through my blog, I've met my Camino Creatives Tribe—dozens of authors, filmmakers, artists, musicians, and craftspeople who are inspired by their Camino experience to use their talents to create something special.



Chapter Coordinator Tribe

Although we may not have bonded while walking the Camino, I have made some good friends among the diaspora of pilgrims. It is no surprise I feel connected to the Camino year-round.

I know now that I am meant to serve wherever I am planted. Whether working as a hospitalera, writing route reports, teaching yoga, mentoring new pilgrims, or just making people feel welcome, I have found ways to serve with joy through my tribes of pilgrims. ♦

On the Camino Francés, Spring 2018

Wildflowers line the path.
Green fields surround us walking.
Enjoyed by my eyes.

Near trail, trampled weeds.
Boots avoid recent rain's mud.
Peregrinos, trudge !

Rain sprinkles my face.
Blustery wind blows poncho,
Stormy day challenge !

by Marion Morris, Moraga CA

Illness and Death in the Pilgrim Community

by Linnea Hendrickson, Albuquerque NM

As the Chapter Coordinator responsible for sending out notices, until this spring I've only dealt with happy events such as announcements of gatherings, walks, talks, Spanish classes and pilgrimages. However, during the night before our Spring Gathering, the husband of one of our members was rushed to the hospital with a brain hemorrhage. Marilu, a recent walker and hospitalera in Estella, nevertheless felt a need to connect to her pilgrim "family" and managed to get away from the hospital to briefly join us. A few weeks later, her husband died and his picture and a link to his obituary were posted to our Facebook page.

Then, only weeks later, Mike Metras, a long-time chapter member who presented programs and led walks with his wife, Petra Wolf, was stricken with a serious heart attack, from which he never recovered. Members offered to house Petra near the hospital in Albuquerque where Mike spent several days, although she chose not to stay. After Mike's death, long-time pilgrim, Kate Lopez and her brother Peter Goodwin, hosted a Remembrance Gathering at her home in Santa Fe, where Mike and Petra sometimes shared a casita. On a lovely afternoon in July, twenty-five or so pilgrims, relatives, friends and neighbors gathered in Kate's

garden to remember Mike and read passages from some of his writings. At the end of the ceremony, every person received a length of purple or pink ribbon to tie to one long ribbon, sharing a memory as they tied, and wishing Mike a "Buen Camino" on his journey.

Mike and Petra were partners in pilgrimages and in life. They had walked together in many parts of the world, and written books about their experiences since meeting in 2003 on the Camino Francés. In the spring of 2008, they gave a presentation at the Gathering in Santa Barbara, and the following year met more New Mexicans at the National Gathering in Albuquerque, while they were on their walk across America to Jerusalem. For more about Mike and Petra, see their website: www.walkingwithawareness.com/

I was amazed to learn that several of the pilgrims present at the Remembrance Gathering had first met Mike and Petra at the Albuquerque Gathering in 2009. As many of us have discovered, the bonds formed within the community of pilgrims can be life-long and perhaps continue even beyond. We are often united in community not only in joy, but in sorrow. ♦

Connecting with Nature on Japan's Kumano Kodo

by Sara Gradwohl, Mooresville IN

As I stood in the middle of a cedar forest on Japan's Kii Peninsula this past March, I could sense the spirits of the forest in the serenity and beauty that surrounded me. The rocks, the mist, the trees, and the mud all seemed alive.

Wilderness walking has long been popular in Japan, and most significant paths begin and end near Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples. The Kumano Kodo is one of just two pilgrimage routes recognized as UNESCO World Heritage sites, the other being Europe's Camino de Santiago.

The Kumano Kodo pilgrimage began more than 2,000 years ago, linking the three Grand Shrines called the Kumano Sanzan. Initially emperors and their entourages walked from Kyoto, often as a way of redemption or penance. Over the centuries, it has grown to become something the common person could aspire to, similar to climbing Fuji-san, Japan's most sacred mountain. Today it draws people to its trails from all over the world.

Since February 2015, more than 1,000 people have registered on the website www.spiritual-pilgrimages.com as a "dual pilgrim," or one who has completed at least the last 100 kilometers of the Camino de Santiago on foot or horseback (or 200 kilometers on bicycle) and has walked one of four qualifying Kumano Kodo segments.

The most popular Japanese route, the Nakahechi, begins at Takijiri-oji and covers approximately 40 kilometers to Kumano Hongu Taisha, the first

of the three Grand Shrines. It was on this trail, outside Chikatsuyu, where I acutely sensed the forest spirits in the singing stream, the chirping birds, and my pounding heartbeat. I gasped for air after yet another uphill slog in the mist. When I stopped for water and to catch my breath, I took the time to look around and appreciate my surroundings. It was gorgeous and so very much alive. Countless life forces surrounded us even though my husband and I hadn't seen another person for the last five hours.

Shintoism is a uniquely Japanese religion that recognizes the inherent spirits inhabiting the trail, rocks, trees, and streams—everything in nature, including forces of nature and humans. Wanting to connect with nature's objects, from stones to humans, makes sense to me; I want not to tread upon the earth but conjoin with it.

Every religion has its rituals, and in Shintoism I appreciate the *harai*, the purification ritual done with water from a *chouzubashi* fountain after a pilgrim passes through a *torii* gate, before saying a short prayer or making a request from the *kami* (the resident spirits). At every opportunity along my walk, I took time for a proper *harai* at each *oji* (subsidiary shrine) before tossing a lucky five-yen coin into the offering box and ringing the bell. It was then that I could begin communicating with the *kami*. I looked forward to each small shrine along the way. While similar to the small chapels and churches along the Camino,

these practices felt so much more intimate and profound to me.

After thanking the *kami* for our safe passage and requesting their continued protection, we

Planning a Kumano Kodo pilgrimage from outside Japan has never been easier given the wonderful staff at Tanabe City Kumano Tourism Bureau and their English website www.tb-tanabe.jp/en.

Select your route and duration of walk. They'll give you options for accommodations in traditional Japanese lodgings; baggage transfer, which is a must, given the terrain and for your safety; and even meals. Make arrangements a few months in advance as lodging fills up and not all accommodations are open year-round.

A Kumano Kodo pilgrimage is approximately \$100 per person per day, but it is significantly shorter than a Camino de Santiago route. Pick up a free Dual Pilgrim credential before you leave Tanabe or at the office in Santiago. You must stamp it along the way to prove you have walked the required distance. The comforts we rely upon in Spain (regular cafes, bars, and even bathrooms) are non-existent, but Japanese hospitality at lodgings and shrines is unmistakably familiar to Camino veterans, even with a significant language barrier. Just remember: A smile is universal. ♦

continued on our way. The few minutes spent at each *oji* allowed me to connect with the trail on a different level and focus my thoughts away from “if the trail keeps climbing like this, the last shrine must be atop Mount Fuji” to “slow down, breathe, and appreciate the beauty of the nature all around you.”

Upon reaching Kumano Hongu Taisha, I performed one final *harai*, made an offering, and thanked the *kami*. I asked them to continue providing guidance and protection for pilgrims and travelers following in our footsteps.

My husband and I were each given a certificate from the head



The author on the Kumano Kodo

priest, offering gratitude and congratulations. A monk invited us to use the sacred Taiko outside the Grand Shrine to separately celebrate the completion of our pilgrimage. By the time I finished my short, heartfelt, and embarrassingly loud expression (it was a drum, after all), I had tears in my eyes, and the monk was beaming. An experience of the body completed my spiritual journey, and along the way I discovered the spirit of the Camino is also alive and well in Japan. ♦

Three North American pilgrims - from Michigan, Toronto, and New York - on the Camino Inglés, April 2018. ♦

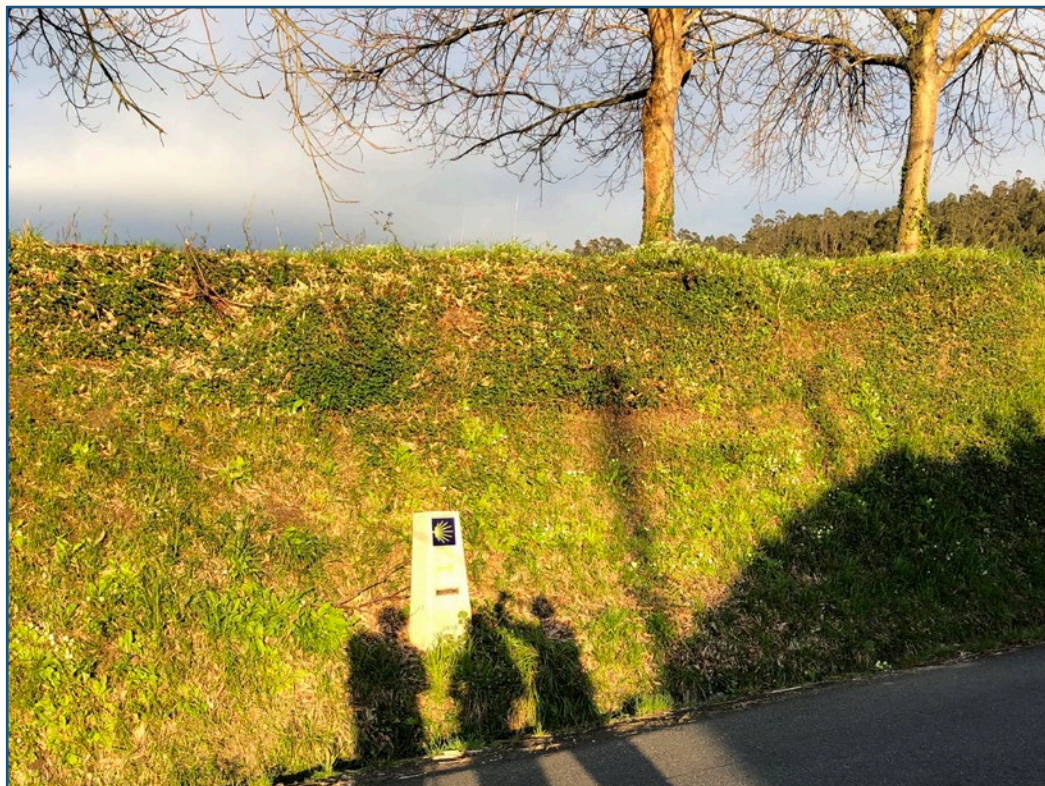


photo by Anne Born, Bronx NY



Saguenay Fjord

A Spiritual Path

by Stacey Wittig, Flagstaff AZ

“Spirituality is not just being outdoors and looking at the birds,” explained Brother Sylvain Richer of Saint-Antoine Hermitage. “Spirituality needs to be rooted and grounded.” I sat with the Capuchin Franciscan in a retreat center where he leads walks, foraging expeditions and other programs that link Christian spirituality to nature. The retreat center makes a fine endpoint of the Sentier Notre-Dame, Kapatakan, a pilgrim trail in Quebec, Canada, which is dubbed the “Petit Compostelle du Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean” or the “Small Camino of Santiago de Compostela.”

Pilgrims walk 215 kilometers (133.5 miles) from Parc national du Fjord-du-Saguenay (Saguenay Fjord National Park) to the hermitage that houses Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, one of Quebec’s five National Shrines. In this fairly short distance, walkers experience a variety of stunning landscapes. The first stage weaves through green spruce and white birch, up stone steps, cedar staircases and over glacier-polished cliff-tops to overlooks above the magnificent Saguenay Fjord, one of the largest fjords in the world. Later, the path follows the picturesque Saguenay River, and, in the manner of European Caminos, pilgrims find themselves in charming villages along the way. They complete their journey in lush forests that fringe the quiet lakes of

Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean country, where I spoke with the naturalist spiritual director.

The Sentier Notre-Dame, Kapatakan can be done in 10- or 14-day stages with lodging at a municipal albergue in a renovated rectory, small family-run hotels or chalets (cabins), camping facilities or spiritual retreats like Saint-Antoine Hermitage. The path passes religious sites such as Notre-Dame-du-Saguenay statue in Saguenay Fjord National Park, the Monastère des Servantes du Saint-Sacrement and the Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes at Saint-Antoine Hermitage. The monuments are just one aspect of the spiritual landscape of this route that imparts opportunities for contemplation and reflection through both the natural and built landscape.

The spiritual path is a good alternative to European caminos for American pilgrims because:

- transatlantic flights are not necessary;
- you can still practice language skills (98% of the people in the area speak French); and
- the remote route is not overcrowded.

A guidebook (in French only) and credential are available from the Sentier Notre-Dame, Kapatakan website.

Getting there

Fly into Montreal and take the train to Jonquière or fly to Bagotville airport and taxi to Saguenay Fjord National (about \$30 CAD.) Other options include <https://www.amigoexpress.com/covoiturations/saguenay-vers-riviere-eternite/qc>, rideshare service and the marine shuttle from La Baie to the park, which operates from the end of June to the beginning of September. <http://www.sentiernotredamekapatakan.org>. ♦



Along the Saguenay path

Getting Lost

by Larry O'Heron, Rochester NY

For more than a thousand years,
people of many faiths,
backgrounds, generations
have made the pilgrimage,
walking the path to Santiago de
Compostela
walking the Way of St James.

The sunflower stems
taller than me
browning
in the Castillian sun.

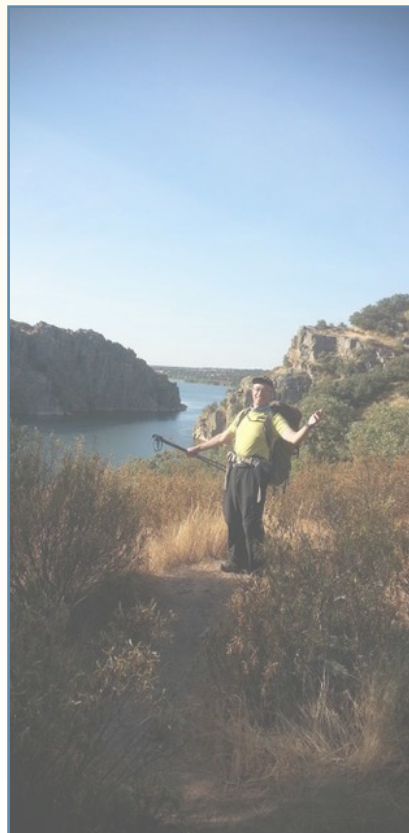
Late afternoon
cloudless sky
temperatures climbing
summer sun
only now starting its descent.

High, rock covered banks climbed
cool blue waters of the Río
Esla
flowed under my feet
miles ago.

Zamorans gladly accept
90 degree temperatures
not me
wet pack on my wet back
from the sweat
lips salty from the drops on
my face.

water too low
skin too brown
too many days here.

Where are the little yellow
arrows
pointing the way to Tábara
markers for the pilgrims
pointers that point the way.



*The author on the banks of the Río
Esla on the way to Zamora
October 2016.*

Turn around?
Press on?
Go forward
Go back.

Was that bleach white town
Tábara?

Do I get to rest
take the pack off my aching
shoulders
pause and ponder, rest and
reflect?

Not enough arrows
is this the right track
insufficient arrows
doubt this is the right track
sufficient enough
almost convinced - wrong track.

How can I know
I made a mistake
how long before I admit
I made a mistake.

Am I on the path? Off the path?
I'm not lost.
I know where I'm going,
I just don't know where I am.

I should be in Tábara.
I should be on the right path.
But I'm not and I'm probably not.

Is that bleach white town Tábara?

A Memorable Encounter

by Richard Rindone, Santa Fe NM

One of the pleasures of being on the Camino is the friendly people you can meet. Total strangers can provide an experience that can make you feel right at home. In 2017, I bicycled on the Camino Francés from Pamplona to León and had such an encounter.

At San Anton, less than six kilometers beyond Hontanas, lie the ruins of a monastery dating from the 15th century. Pilgrims on the Camino pass right under one of the ruined arches on their journey. Just beyond the arch is a small lot with a shed. A fellow named Angel had set up a little snack shop called El Cataro (The Taster), and was resting in his hammock waiting for customers when I pulled in.

I sat beside him, and we talked a bit. He commented that the colors of

my cycling jersey are the colors of Spain. I told him I was from New Mexico, a former Spanish colony. The jersey looks like the state flag, featuring Native American iconography and the colors of Spain. He had questions about the USA and we talked further. Eventually, he jumped up and offered me a thick slice of watermelon, happy for the company. He said he wasn't interested in making money but liked to provide a service. Out there in the boonies

he was almost entirely dependent upon the people passing through on the Camino, so he probably wasn't making much money. But, the watermelon and the homey conversation were great gifts, and I'll always remember the encounter. ♦



The author in New Mexico T-shirt at San Anton.

New Guidebook for Pilgrims from the Xunta de Galicia

In late August, the Xunta de Galicia published a booklet entitled “Emergency Guidebook for Pilgrims on the Way of St. James—Self-protection Measures.” It contains information not only on planning a walk but also on first aid, personal safety and more. It is available for downloading in three languages: Galician, Spanish and English. ♦

GALLEGO - GALICIAN - <https://goo.gl/TWjACa>

ESPAÑOL - SPANISH - <https://goo.gl/kDWa5W>

INGLES - ENGLISH - <https://goo.gl/8BisnC>

Lifetime Members!

We are pleased to welcome these new American Pilgrims on the Camino lifetime members from March to August 2018. ♦

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| ♦ Michael Barham | ♦ Miriam Gallet | ♦ Stewart Messman | ♦ Michael Stockman |
| ♦ David Cook | ♦ Amy Horton | ♦ M.J. O'Meara | ♦ Benjamin Voss |
| ♦ Carol Coughlin | ♦ Patricia Ireland | ♦ Daniel O'Sullivan | ♦ Morning Waters |
| ♦ Frank Coughlin | ♦ Steve Lytch | ♦ Susan Peacock | ♦ Martha Wilson |
| ♦ Kerri Daniels | ♦ Siobhan Marie | ♦ Steven G. Rindahl | |
| ♦ Jesse Fernandez | ♦ Carmen A. Marriott | ♦ Don Shaw | |
| ♦ Matt Fleming | ♦ Miriam G. Martinez | ♦ Carla Skog | |

What Your American Pilgrims on the Camino Membership Means

You are part of a vibrant group that shares a common experience, values and aspirations. We're active and growing. In our Chapter activities—nearly 50 chapters now, annual Gathering, Facebook group—nearly 19,000 members, and through La Concha, we've been building community since our beginnings.

Your membership enables us to “pay it forward” for those walking the many paths to Santiago. We award grants to Spanish, French and Portuguese Camino Associations so they can improve Camino signage or local water systems or renovate albergue sleeping or eating facilities. We have awarded more than \$300,000 in the past 10 years. We'd like to do more. Certainly, the need exists.

At our chapter coordinators workshop last March, we learned from coordinators that about 10 percent of those who participate in their chapter activities are members of American Pilgrims. In the



spirit of the Camino, we don't turn anyone away from chapter events. But clearly, we have room for membership growth.

When your membership comes up for renewal, we hope you'll renew. We also hope you'll recruit new American Pilgrims members from your chapter. We value your membership. It makes a difference to pilgrims on the Camino. ♦

Gratefully,

Your membership committee

"There are many wonderful things that will never be done if you do not do them."

~ Charles D. Gill.



Hospitalero Happenings

American Pilgrims continues to be a strong volunteer presence along the Camino. We work closely with the Spanish Federation of Associations of Friends of the Camino to provide hospitaleros in the eighteen donativo albergues the Federation assists. Many of our hospitalero volunteers have also served in private, municipal, and parochial albergues that are not connected with the Federation. Hospitalero opportunities exist in France, Portugal, and Italy as well. ♦

Our last two hospitalero trainings in Los Altos CA in April and Minneapolis MN in June added 31 new hospitaleros to our team. Congratulations to the new graduates. We look forward to hearing about your hospitalero experiences on the Camino. ♦

- Jean Appert
- Beth Barry
- Mick Beede
- David Carpenter
- Rebecca Carpenter
- Elizabeth Connelly
- Violetta Dufek
- Jane Flannigan
- John Frank
- Vern Hartenburg
- Kathryn Hartmann
- John Hartmann
- Linda Harvey
- Paula Jager
- Steve Kerr
- Joann Kerr
- David Larwa
- Ania Lato
- Joy Lewis
- Heidi McGough
- Erin Moore
- Kim Plawchan
- Amul Purohit
- Yvan Quinn
- Beth Ramirez
- James Resor
- Ann Rolle
- Marilyn Russell
- Theresa Ruttger
- Jacqueline Saxon
- Nancy Schulman

Upcoming Hospitalero Training
Nov 9-11, 2018 - Winter Park FL
Jan/February 2019 - California - location TBD
March 2019 - Black Mountain NC
June 2019 - Seattle WA
September 2019 - Colorado Springs CO

Our Newest Hospitaleros



April 2018. Los Altos CA



June 2018. Minneapolis MN

Experiencing Camino Community Through Volunteering

by Loren Thomas, Philadelphia PA

Every day last May, I experienced a deep, spiritually rich, loving community on the Camino. I served as a hospitalero in Grañón. It's a magical place, a small town in the province of La Rioja. The albergue is in San Juan Bautista Church, which is the living center of the community. There is a spirit that dwells in the albergue that creates a wonderful, rich, loving community every day.

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is there your heart will be also,” said Jesus. Throughout my life, I’ve interpreted that to mean that where we put our treasure is a reflection of what we value. My experience in Grañón taught me that when we invest, our heart follows. In Grañón, we invested in and loved people we didn’t know. From my first day, I realized that I would invest love - actively in such people.

Each day, community happened. People arrived, sometimes very early. The albergue is never closed; the door is never locked. Sometimes, people arrived sick, with hurt feet, thirsty, wet and cold. Our calling was to love them. Some didn’t speak English or Spanish.

Love became action. Caring about people, finding warm or dry clothes, getting them water, looking at their feet, listening to their stories, offering support, finding mat space even when there was none.

Cooking together as a group every night continued to create community. Each evening, we shared in a meditation service. The day began by getting up early to prepare a breakfast before folks left on their Caminos. Although I only knew most for 15-20 hours, I was sad to see them leave. My heart followed my treasure. What the Camino community came to mean to me is that when we love people and invest in them and their *buen camino*, our hearts follow.

Camino community now means about 75 new Facebook friends. It means people I will see again. It means about 100 happy birthday messages. It means sharing a spirit with others that I do not know. It means experiencing the love of God. And, it means wishing amazing experiences for others I may not know or I may come to know. For me, Camino community means experiencing the love of God. ♦



Camino Haiku

Sunflowers, their heads
Bowed gently towards the east sky
To pray the sun up.

by Morning Waters, Fair Oaks CA

Worse Than a Fly in Your...

by Karin Kiser, San Diego CA

What's worse than a fly in your soup? How about 200 flies in your bedroom? Having experienced both of those scenarios, I can tell you that 200 flies in your room is definitely worse.

After a long day on the Camino Francés, I decided to stay at a private hostel. The room seemed nice enough, only it smelled like an ashtray. There were also a few flies in the room. "No big deal," I said to myself, "I'll just open this window and go to dinner. By the time I come back, problem solved."

Only it wasn't. When I returned, the cigarette smell was gone, but now there were 200+ swarming flies! I tried getting them out – by swatting them, shooing them, directing them to the exit – all to no avail. So, what did I do?

Nothing. I watched them. I even tried counting them. It was fascinating. Why were they in the room? It made no sense, as there was no food anywhere.

Now, the former me would have been upset about this. Angry, disgusted, perhaps even outraged. But I wasn't. This wasn't my first Camino.

The weird thing is that most of the flies were minding their own business. They weren't swarming around me. They were mostly on the ceiling, the walls and the curtains.

I decided to forget about them and go to sleep. Truth be told, it wasn't a very restful sleep. But it was certainly an interesting experience.

The next night I was in a town 10 miles away. As I settled into my room, I heard a familiar sound

Bzzzz...

This room had exactly 4 flies.

Now, I've traveled for years and have never, up until the day before, had a fly-in-my-room situation. Now it's two days in a row, two different towns. The 4 flies seemed to be making as much noise as the previous night's 200 flies. Is there a message I'm missing here? There are no coincidences on the Camino, so what was really going on?

Intuition provides answers where logic cannot, so I checked in with mine – and received valuable insights about what was needed in my life.

What's the moral of this story? Get curious! Getting annoyed or frustrated does precisely zero to positively affect anything. It's a lot more interesting to become curious about why you attract a situation into your experience in the first place. ♦



Contributors

- ♦ Anne Born
- ♦ Webster Bull
- ♦ Zach Donselar
- ♦ Laurie Ferris
- ♦ Sara Gradwohl
- ♦ Lisa Graves
- ♦ Linnea Hendrickson
- ♦ Paula Jager
- ♦ Beth Jusino
- ♦ Karin Kiser
- ♦ Thomas Labuzienski
- ♦ Jennifer Lawson
- ♦ Sandy Lenthall
- ♦ Marion Morris
- ♦ Diane Moxness
- ♦ Larry O'Heron
- ♦ Richard Rindone
- ♦ Deb Seelhoff
- ♦ Don Shaw
- ♦ Loren Thomas
- ♦ Morning Waters
- ♦ Stacey Wittig
- ♦ Barbara Zang



The mission of American Pilgrims on the Camino is to foster the enduring tradition of the Camino by supporting its infrastructure, by gathering pilgrims together, and by providing information and encouragement to past and future pilgrims.

Do You Have Camino Impressions to Share?

With every issue we are delighted anew by the quality, variety, and abundance of submissions – and especially by the fact that so many are from first-time contributors. Your enthusiasm for the Camino and for *La Concha* as a medium for sharing that enthusiasm keeps us going!

So, please keep telling us, in 400 words or fewer, about your Camino. Consider a photo, a poem, or a new found understanding of an idea – a pilgrim’s perspective. Please visit Newsletter on our website for suggestions and guidelines.

The theme for the next issue is Gratitude, one of

our organization’s values. How do you practice this value in your life, in your chapter? The submission deadline for the next issue is, November 21, 2018. We welcome your questions, comments, and submissions at newsletter@americanpilgrims.org.

iBuen Camino!

Anne Andert, Sara Steig Gradwohl, Elaine Hopkins, Beth Jusino, Zita Macy, Mona Spargo & Barbara Zang
September 2018 Team La Concha

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Anne Andert
Emilio Escudero
Tom Labuzinski

Yosmar Martinez – Vice Chair
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Dave Donselar
Sam Hull
Barbara Zang

membership@americanpilgrims.org
newsletter@americanpilgrims.org
grants@americanpilgrims.org
chapters@americanpilgrims.org
hospitaleros@americanpilgrims.org
gatherings@americanpilgrims.org

Sam, Tom, Dave, Emilio & Jeff
Barbara, Anne & Tom
Carmen & Yosmar
Emilio, Dave & Barbara
Emilio
Yosmar, Dave & Anne

Key Volunteer – Webmaster

Gene McCullough

American Pilgrims on the Camino
120 State Avenue NE #303
Olympia, WA 98501-1131
Fax: 1 650 989-4057
www.americanpilgrims.org