

A scenic sunset over a desert landscape. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow across the sky and the silhouetted mountains in the distance. The foreground shows a dark, rocky hillside with several saguaro cacti. The sky is filled with scattered clouds, some of which are illuminated by the setting sun.

# **Valley of the Sun Chapter American Pilgrims on the Camino Chapter Meeting**

**November 18, 2021**



# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Recap of activities since last quarterly meeting
- Welcome home 2021 Pilgrims
- Stories from the Camino
- Favorite Places on the Camino
- 2021 American Pilgrims Grant recipients
- 2022 Chapter Activities Calendar
- How You Can Help
- Next Steps and Action Items





# Introductions

## Chapter Coordinators

- Kath Stoll
- Pruitt Layton

## Core Team

- Bill Berry
- Shirley Brencick
- Ann Connelly
- Barb Erwin
- Gloria Lowe
- Tina Strickler





# Recap of Activities since July 22 Meeting

- 2 monthly zoom presentations  
Sharing the Camino and Camino Frances – A Pilgrimage
- 5 in-person hikes around the Valley  
Scottsdale, South Mountain and White Tanks
- 4 coffee meetings (zoom)
- Facebook Group has grown to 138 people





# Recap of Activities since July 22 Meeting

- Chapter coordinators meeting in September
- Valley of the Sun patches – available for a donation.
- 14 pilgrims walked a Camino





# Welcome Home - 2021 Pilgrims





# Welcome Home – 2021 Pilgrims

**Jan Bestwick  
Gloria Brewster Lowe  
Joni Grubitz  
Susan Hammock Hanger Turner  
Charlotte Helbig  
Rusty Humphries  
Ron Hutchens**

**Hope Lipman  
Vernon Meyer  
Brent Neck  
Alyssa Nill  
Pamela Paine  
David Rutledge  
Donna Simon**







**Jan Bestwick  
Gloria Brewster Lowe  
Joni Grubitz  
Susan Hammock Hanger Turner  
Charlotte Helbig  
Rusty Humphries  
Ron Hutchens**

**Hope Lipman  
Vernon Meyer  
Brent Neck  
Alyssa Nill  
Pamela Paine  
David Rutledge  
Donna Simon**



# Welcome Home – 2021 Pilgrims

The Camino may have given you something different than what you expected. Can you identify those small and great epiphanies on your Camino? Can you distill them into values and intentions that you can integrate into your life?

If so, you have returned home with something far more meaningful than the Compostela that you carried home in your backpack. You have experienced the gift of pilgrimage.

Now the challenge is to incorporate those moments into your daily life.

*Returning Home Workbook - American Pilgrims on the Camino*



# Welcome Home – 2021 Pilgrims

**Daniel:** *You don't choose  
a life, dad. You live one.*



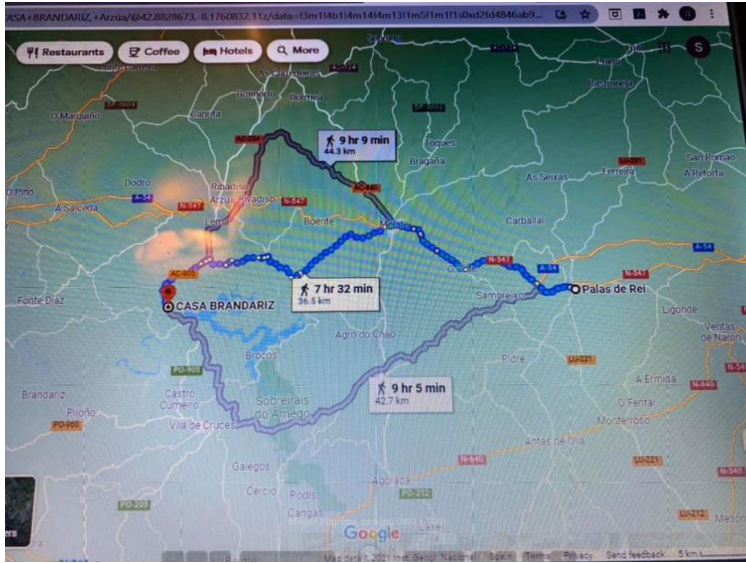


# Stories from the Camino

## Vernon Meyer – Camino Frances - Sarria to Santiago











Meyer Pilgrims rest.jpg (720 x 960)











*In the last week  
9,380 pilgrims  
registered at  
The Pilgrims' Office in Santiago*















Questions?



# Stories from the Camino

## Charlotte Helbig – Camino Ingles & Via de la Plata







Questions?



# Favorite Places on the Camino





# Do you have a favorite town or place?

Email\* us and let us know you would like to share your favorite place at a future meeting.

Create a powerpoint slide, or just send us a couple pictures and the location information and we will be happy to create the slide for you.

\* *phoenix@americanpilgrims.org*





# American Pilgrims on the Camino **Grants Program**

Since 2008, membership dues and special donations to the Grants Program have enabled American Pilgrims to make grants in an amount exceeding \$400,000. These funds have supported a variety of Camino projects.

Thanks to all of our members for supporting this program! As always, the number of worthy applications in 2021 exceeded our available funds. However, many projects that will directly benefit pilgrims and the Camino will be supported.

In 2021, American Pilgrims distributed 11 grants in the total amount of \$48,214. A team of ten volunteers reviewed qualified applications and then made recommendations to the board based on the most needed and well-planned projects. The ten reviewers are all American Pilgrims members and include former board members, hospitaleros, chapter coordinators, Gathering presenters and other active members.

The following is a list of this year's grantees:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVifT\\_OHbcU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVifT_OHbcU)



Asoc Gaditana Jacobea "Via Augusta"/VÍA SERRANA (LA LÍNEA-UTRERA-SEVILLA); VÍA DEL ESTRECHO (ALGECIRAS-BAHÍA DE CÁDIZ); VÍA AUGUSTA- **\$2,350** This grant was awarded for signage and way marking across “ Via Augusta”. It includes funds to include posts, arrows and ceramic tiles to improve the signage as the route described above.

Associacion Gerunda: Amics dels camins de Sant Jaume de les comarques gironines- **\$3,592**. This grant provides funds to add posts with signage along the Via Heraclea to the Camino de Rodes.

Asociación de Amigos de los Caminos de Santiago de Madrid / Camino de Madrid-**\$3,372**. The funds provided are for the installation of shower walls and shower fixtures in the Alberge.

Asociación Amigos del Camino de Santiago Briviesca-Bureba / Via Bayona- **\$3,100**. This grant provides funds for Albergue furniture.

Albergue Parroquial Santa María del Camino / C. Frances-**\$5,000**. The funds provided are for the repair and installation of the heating system in the Alberge and the casa parroquial of the Santa Maria del Camino Church.

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago en Cádiz- **\$6,000**. The grant provides funds for signage posts and sign maintenance on the Via Augusta

Albergue de Peregrinos de Emaús / C. Frances- **\$3,800**. The grant funds replacement of equipment and repairs in the Albergue.

FEAACS - FEDERACION ESPAÑOLA DE ASOCIACIONES DE AMIGOS DEL CAMINO DE SANTIAGO / todos los caminos-**\$3,000**. The grant provides funds for Albergue improvements for Covid protocols.

ALBERGUE SANTA MARIA DEL AZOGUE. FUNDACION ACOGIDA CRISTIANA EN LOS CAMINOS DE SANTIAGO / C. Ingles-**\$6,000**. Funding provides for electrical installations and replacement of kitchen equipment.

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago en Cadalso de los Vidrios / CdeS del Sureste y C de Levante-**\$6,000**. The funding provides signage on the Camino del Sureste.

ASOCIACIÓN JACOBEO DE JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA SHARISH / Via Augusta, C. Ceretano-**\$6,000**. The grant provides funds to purchase and install milestones, vertical signs, tiles and wooden posts to improve the signage along the Camino on less well traveled roads along the Camino.



# Join American Pilgrims on the Camino as a Member



Your membership brings you so much!

## Membership benefits:

- Unique opportunity to connect with Spain and the Camino de Santiago
- Eligibility for hospitalero training
- Discounted registration for the annual American Pilgrims' Gathering
- Direct email delivery of "La Concha," the newsletter of American Pilgrims on the Camino and access to past editions
- American Pilgrims' patch
- Access to the membership database through the membership system
- The privilege and pleasure of spreading the word, sharing the Camino, and being part of an 11-century-long tradition

## Membership Level: \*

- ☐ **Household Member - \$75/1-year**
- ☐ **Individual Member - \$50/1-year**
- ☐ **Individual Lifetime Member - \$500**
- ☐ **Student Member - \$15/1-year**

...and you can get a free Credencial del Peregrino (Pilgrim Passport) by visiting the American Pilgrims website



# 2022 Activity Calendar

Month	Quarterly Chapter Meeting		Monthly Presentations	Hikes		Coffee Meetings (mornings)	Social Meetings (evenings)
	Hosts	Favorite Places?	Topics		Leader	Host/s	
Jan			Camino 101	x	Steve Coutinho	x	
Feb	Coordinators	tbd		x		x	
Mar			Portugues discussion	x	Kath Stoll	x	
Apr			Norte discussion	x		x	
May	Coordinators	tbd		x		x	
Jun			tbd			x	
Jul			tbd			x	
Aug	Coordinators	tbd				x	
Sept			tbd	x		x	
Oct			tbd	x		x	
Nov	Coordinators	tbd		x		x	
Dec			tbd	x		x	



# Activities Monthly Hikes

Dec 15 & 18 Hackberry Loop, Apache Junction

Jan - Scottsdale Preserve

Feb - tbd

Mar - Go John Trail, Cave Creek Regional Park

Apr - tbd

May - tbd

June, July & August -





# What you can do to make us a strong, fun chapter

## Volunteer Opportunities

- **Hike Leaders** – volunteer to lead hikes
- **Mentor** – provide guidance to new pilgrims who may be training for their first Camino
- **Subject matter or topic expert** – talk at our chapter meetings, post articles to our Facebook Group page

## Consider joining American Pilgrims on the Camino

Email us for any of the above at [phoenix@americanpilgrims.org](mailto:phoenix@americanpilgrims.org)





# Next Steps and Action Items

In January we'll issue a survey to see how you think the chapter progressed in 2021, and what you would like us to focus on in 2022.

Next Presentation (Zoom) Thursday, Jan 20, 2022 at 5:00 pm, Camino 101.

Next Quarterly Meeting (Zoom) will be Thursday, Feb 17, 2022 at 5:00 pm.  
Meeting focus: Preparing for a 2022 Camino and reviewing survey results





# Keep in contact with us on Facebook or Chapter page

## FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/382089232918428>

## VALLEY OF THE SUN CHAPTER PAGE

[https://americanpilgrims.org/iwpmap\\_directory/valley-of-the-sun/](https://americanpilgrims.org/iwpmap_directory/valley-of-the-sun/)



**American Pilgrims on the  
Camino - Valley of the Sun  
Chapter**

## CHAPTERS CALENDAR

<https://americanpilgrims.org/calendar/>



[◀ All Locations](#)

## Valley of the Sun Chapter





Questions  
or  
Feedback?



# ULTREYA!

[phoenix@americanpilgrims.org](mailto:phoenix@americanpilgrims.org)



# HIKES

## DAYS?

- *Sat vs weekday*

## DISTANCE?

- *Training vs social*

## VOLUNTEERS?

- *New Hike Leaders*

