

AMERICAN PILGRIMS ON THE CAMINO
23RD ANNUAL GATHERING OF PILGRIMS

Honoring the Past

WELCOMING THE FUTURE



MARCH 12-15, 2020

ZEPHYR POINT CONFERENCE CENTER

Zephyr Cove, Lake Tahoe, NV

WELCOME
FROM THE
CHAIR

Welcome to the 2020 Gathering of Pilgrims!

For more than a millennium, the Camino de Santiago has attracted millions of pilgrims seeking spiritual insight and self-reflection. When we walk the Camino, we are truly following in the footsteps of those who have gone before us.

American Pilgrims on the Camino, established in 2003, builds on the foundation laid by those who came before us. Our volunteers give selflessly to enhance and enrich the pilgrimage experience. Local chapters, hospitalero training and the Gathering would not exist without them. When you walk the Camino, you do not walk alone.

The Camino is more popular than ever—in 2019, more than 345,000 pilgrims received a Compostela—and the upcoming 2021 Holy Year presents challenges as well as opportunities. Let's take this time to honor all who have given in sustenance and soul to the pilgrim community as we welcome the future and all that awaits.

- Sara Gradwohl, *Gathering Chair*

OUR MISSION

We 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.

OUR VISION

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

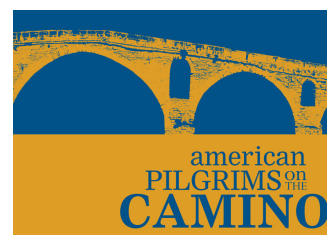
OUR VALUES

Our values are built upon the foundation of our collective experiences as Pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago. In every decision we make and every action we take, American Pilgrims strives to be in accordance with the values of **community, service, gratitude** and **simplicity**.

BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

Dave Donselar - Chair
Steve Lytch - Treasurer
Bill Artz
Sara Gradwohl

Carmen Marriott - Vice Chair
Ruben Mendoza - Secretary
Tom Labuziensi
Barbara Zang



americanpilgrims.org

3:30 pm and on
Tallac Center Lobby

Registration

4:00 - 4:45 pm
Tallac Center Lobby

Guided Walk

Hosted by the Lake Tahoe Chapter

5:00 - 5:45 pm
Inspiration Point
(Tallac Center)

Welcome Reception

Hosted by the Lake Tahoe Chapter

5:45 - 6:00 pm
Inspiration Point
(Tallac Center)

Group Photo

6:00 - 6:45 pm
Tallac Dining Hall

Dinner

7:00 - 7:15 pm
Dobbins Hall

Welcome Remarks

7:15 - 7:45 pm
Dobbins Hall

A Pilgrim's Dozen - Group Activity

8:00 - 9:00 pm
Dobbins Hall

Flamenco Guitar Concert

Milton Merlos, Jr. was born in Boston, MA. At age 12 his love for the guitar was ignited, and at age 16 he found his identity as a professional guitarist. He later traveled to Spain and fell in love with the Spanish flamenco guitar. That experience sparked his commitment to pursue music as a career. Milton has opened for many acts including Jay Leno, Jessy Cook, Michael Franti, Craig Chaquico, George Benson and Michael McDonald (of the Doobie Brothers). He splits his time between Reno/Lake Tahoe, NV, and Palm Desert, CA.

9:00 - 9:45 pm
Fallen Leaf
(Tallac Center)

Meeting of Veteran Hospitaleros and Ribadiso Volunteers

This meeting is specifically for anyone who has already participated in the American Pilgrims on the Camino hospitalero training program and has served as an hospitalero, or served as a volunteer at the albergue in Ribadiso. The focus will be on sharing information about the ways that hospitalero service is changing on the Camino, common issues and information on serving at the various Spanish Federation and other albergues.

7:00 – 7:45 am
Fallen Leaf
(Tallac Center)

Bunk Bed Yoga - Elle Bieling

Join Elle for yoga and learn poses that can be done in your bunk bed on your Camino to keep your body happy and injury-free. Please bring a towel and a pillow if possible.

8:00 – 8:45 am
Tallac Dining Hall

Breakfast

9:00 – 9:45 am
Dobbins Hall

Pilgrim Songs, Silence and Noise on the Way to Santiago - George Greenia

The acoustic landscape of medieval life changed while journeying, every settlement an “auditory island” of its own. There were new forms of song and speech, special noises for labor and law, calls to combat, commerce and curfew. Christian pilgrims made their sacred treks mostly in labored silence punctuated by storytelling, the rhythms of walking songs and the compelling voices of bells. It’s not all hushed piety: raucous pilgrim partying could even stop storms.

10:00 – 10:45 am
Dobbins Hall

Pilgrimage at the Crossroads of Memory and Utopia - Ryan Goodman

Much of the Camino is veiled in medieval symbols and practices, and yet these spaces may often seem ahistorical in a modern-contemporary sense. In this presentation, we will explore the history of Santiago de Compostela and the Camino by examining some of the many voices that have sought to exploit the symbolic and economic promise of pilgrimage. On the other hand, we will also consider the lived experiences of those pilgrims who, together, imagined new models of community, as well as new ways of “being” in the world.

11:00 – 11:45 am
Dobbins Hall

Camino Palates Unknown - Yosmar Martinez

The glorious food of Spain is an integral part of any Camino experience. It not only helps fuel our feet but it also often brings pilgrims together and creates wonderful memories. In this session, we will embark on a culinary journey throughout various routes to Santiago to help you understand the provenance of ingredients and regional aspects of Iberian food while whetting your appetite for your next Camino.

12:00 – 12:45 pm
Tallac Dining Hall

Lunch

1:00 – 1:45 pm
Dobbins Hall

American Pilgrims on the Camino: So What Are We Up To? - Board of Directors

Get the scoop on the activities, statistics, financials, grants and the future of American Pilgrims on the Camino.

2:00 – 2:45 pm

Dobbins Hall

Breakouts (Choose one)

Via Francigena: Two Roads to Rome – Barbara Zang and Linnea Hendrickson

The Via Francigena, the “Way through France,” is a 1,900- kilometer pilgrim way from Canterbury, England, to Rome that continues to the harbors of Apulia (leading to Jerusalem), which people have walked since the Middle Ages. The Council of Europe designated the route a European Cultural Itinerary in 1994. Pilgrims have recently rediscovered the Via, and the route’s infrastructure is slowly developing. We’ll discuss our experiences during spring 2019 pilgrimages as a solo walker from Lucca to Rome and from Teano to Rome as part of a local volunteer group that supports the Via Francigena del Sud.

Inspiration Point
(Tallac Center)

Be of Service on the Camino – Cheryl Grasmoen

Find out about the opportunities to volunteer on the Camino, including training and serving as an hospitalero or by welcoming pilgrims at the Ribadiso albergue or the Pilgrim’s Office in Santiago.

Echo Peak
(Tallac Center)

New Pilgrim Q & A – Amy Donselar

Are you considering walking the Camino de Santiago and don’t know where to start or are you already planning your pilgrimage and still have questions? This interactive session will focus on pilgrimage basics, including where to begin (literally and figuratively), costs, what to expect and resources and support you can access. This session will not cover packing lists and equipment, but it is the place to ask, without fear of embarrassment, the questions holding you back from walking your first Camino.

3:00 – 3:45 pm

Dobbins Hall

Breakouts (Choose one)

Bicycling the Camino: Are You a Pilgrim or a Problem? – Dave Schoenwald

If you’re interested in biking the Camino, this session will cover such considerations as biking the trail versus the road, trail conditions, making way for hiking pilgrims, safety and servicing your bike along the Way. Learn what to expect from yourself and others, what to pack and what to leave behind. Dave will discuss his journey, the problems he encountered, the absolute joy he felt after reaching León and ending his first Camino in Finisterre after riding the 54 miles from Santiago to the “end of the world” on the trail in a single day.

Inspiration Point
(Tallac Center)

Walking with Children and Grandchildren – Elena Szeremeta

Multi-generational Camino walking provides many opportunities for bonding and companionship, as well as its own challenges. Learn how to prepare and keep kids engaged to ensure a successful journey. This presentation will focus on walking with kids along the Portuguese and French routes.

3:00 – 3:45 pm

Echo Peak
(Tallac Center)

Breakouts (Continued)

Pilgrim First Aid - Daniel De Kay

In this perennial favorite presentation, Daniel discusses and demonstrates the recognition and treatment of the most common pilgrim ailments. This session is useful for pilgrims, backpackers and travelers in general.

4:00 – 4:45 pm
Dobbins Hall

A Long Walk to Church: Tales from the Camino Mozárabe - Carlos Mentley

Among the least-walked Caminos in Spain, the various branches of the Camino Mozárabe begin in Andalucía and make their way to Mérida, where they coincide with the Vía de la Plata. Carlos will present images of this route's many attractions, compare similarities and differences with other Caminos in Spain and share anecdotes of his pilgrimage that stretched from Mérida to Muxia.

5:00 – 5:45 pm

Camino Community - Free Time with Friends

6:00 – 6:45 pm
Tallac Dining Hall

Dinner

7:15 – 9:00 pm
Dobbins Hall

***The Camino Voyage* - Film Screening**

A crew including musicians Glen Hansard and Brendan Begley, artist Liam Holden, stonemason Brendan Moriarty and writer and poet Danny Sheehy embark on a voyage to the Camino by sea. Together they take their naomhóg, a traditional boat they built themselves, on a grueling 2,500-kilometer modern day Celtic odyssey from Ireland to Northern Spain. Pulling into coastal towns en route, camping, cooking and nursing their blisters, this crew forges new relationships, surprising those they meet with the simplicity of their vessel and inspiring them with their courage, endurance, storytelling, music, poetry and song. Dónal Ó Céilleachair's uplifting and beautiful film celebrates this expedition which, in the words of Danny Sheehy, led to the "deepening and renewing of friendships, creativity and spirituality."



Irish Film Institute



Culture Ireland
Cultúr Éireann



9:00 – 9:45 pm
Fallen Leaf
(Tallac Center)

Nighty Night: Yoga to Relax the Body and Mind - Joan Effertz

It's the end of a long day. Participate in yoga poses that will help the body and mind relax. Please wear loose clothes and, if possible, bring a blanket or jacket to lie upon.

7:00 – 7:45 am
Fallen Leaf
(Tallac Center)

Rise & Shine Yoga - Laurie Ferris

Greet the day with a bunk bed-friendly sequence to warm the body, followed by basic yoga poses to melt away tension. Those who arrive early can try an essential oil to help relieve stress. Wear comfortable clothing, socks and warm layers. If you don't have a yoga mat, bring a towel to place on the carpeted floor. If you are new to yoga, do the best you can and listen to your own body. Yoga is beneficial for pilgrims of all ages, shapes and sizes and it's not a competition!

8:00 – 8:45 am
Tallac Dining Hall

Breakfast

9:00 – 9:45 am
Dobbins Hall

Propaganda or Tourism? The Camino During the Franco Dictatorship - Lynn Talbot

Today's pilgrims may not realize that St. James gained prominence during the Franco dictatorship for political and economic reasons, long before the modern Camino was established. Santiago represented the military and religious values of the regime during its early years; by the 1960s, the Camino became a model for cultural tourism. However, during these same years, efforts to re-establish the Camino as a walking pilgrimage route already had begun, leading to its popularity today.

10:00 – 10:45 am
Dobbins Hall

Conflict Among Pilgrims - Megan Havard

It is widely believed that pilgrims experience *communitas* - a sense of community with their fellow travelers that is outside of the traditional social structures or markers of difference. Nevertheless, evidence indicates that conflict regularly arises among pilgrims due to differences in personality, divergent cultural backgrounds, the perception of scarcity of resources, the intrinsic stress of transformation or myriad other reasons. How do difference and conflict fit into our understanding of *communitas*? How can pilgrims who seek *communitas* mitigate and/or make sense of conflict during pilgrimage? Megan will attempt to answer these questions and offer some recommendations for the cultivation of *communitas* including mindfulness practices and maintenance behaviors.

11:00 – 11:45 am

Breakouts (Choose One)

Dobbins Hall

St. James, St. Brendan and the Celtic Camino - Sharenda Barlar and Alison Smith

The British Isles, prior to the English Reformation, had numerous pilgrimage routes that led to Santiago de Compostela. In Ireland, pilgrims often walked St. Brendan's Way to Dingle where they would then take a boat to A Coruña to finish their journey to Santiago de Compostela. This presentation will share the history of this restored route as well as document both Alison and Sharenda's pilgrimage in Ireland in the summer of 2019.

11:00 – 11:45 am

Inspiration Point
(Tallac Center)

Breakouts (Continued)

Writing About Your Camino Experience - Karin Kiser

Are you eager to write about your Camino experience but don't know where to start? Confused about the publishing process? Former corporate book publisher and author Karin Kiser knows the ins and outs of traditional book publishing vs self-publishing. In this session, she'll offer tips and techniques for writing your Camino story and sharing it with the world.

Fallen Leaf
(Tallac Center)

Yo y Mi Mochila (Me and My Backpack) - Joan Effertz

Learn practices to ease the body and mind while walking. Use what you have at hand. For example, the backpack will be used as a bolster to support the body as in traditional restorative yoga. Please wear loose clothes and if possible bring a backpack, pillow, towel or clothes that can roll up to create a bolster upon which to rest. This is an integrated yoga, kundalini and reiki class where participants will be introduced to techniques available to peregrinos while on the Camino.

12:00 – 12:45 pm
Tallac Dining Hall

Lunch

1:00 – 1:45 pm

Breakouts (Choose one)

Dobbins Hall

Walking the Camino Portugués - Elena Szeremeta

The Portuguese Camino has gained popularity in recent years due to its excellent infrastructure, beautiful terrain and proximity to the Atlantic Ocean. Learn more about what to expect along this multicultural route rich in history and spiritual heritage. The presentation will touch on the landmarks of both the coastal way and the traditional way from Porto to Santiago.

Inspiration Point
(Tallac Center)

Camino Competent: Spanish for Pilgrims - Dawn Bratsch-Prince

There is no disagreement that English is the utilitarian lingua franca among the international pilgrims who walk the Camino, supplemented by body language, gestures, facial expressions and tone of voice. Nevertheless, using a little Spanish with our hosts can go a long way as a sign of respect and fellowship. In this interactive session, we will learn basic Spanish vocabulary and phrases that will be most helpful to pilgrims, including greetings, modes of politeness and key words for food and lodging. This lesson will be helpful in situating the language within the cultural norms and practices that shape Spanish life, so participants can start to become Camino competent.

1:00 – 1:45 pm

Echo Peak
(Tallac Center)

Breakouts (Continued)

Grateful for Your Camino Experiences? Opportunities to Give Back - Carmen Marriott and Steve Lytch

American Pilgrims on the Camino, an all-volunteer organization, offers many possibilities to give something back whether it be to your organization, your local chapter or in ways that directly benefit the Camino. We'll discuss one-off, short-term and longer-term opportunities for volunteer engagement. Join us to learn how you could make a difference in the global community of pilgrims.

2:00 – 2:45 pm

Dobbins Hall

Breakouts (Choose one)

Encuentro Musical - Jane Carter

Music has always been an important part of the Camino experience. This session is modeled after the Encuentro Musical that the Sisters lead at Santa Maria Albergue in Carrión de los Condes. We will learn a few Camino songs and prepare to sing some of them at the Shell Ceremony on Saturday. Bring your voices and, if you wish, your instruments and we will have fun making music together!

Inspiration Point
(Tallac Center)

Walking in France - Herbert Medina

In this presentation we will explore some of the wonders of the Camino in France. We also will discuss some of the logistical differences between the Caminos in France and Spain. We hope that after the presentation, pilgrims will have enough enthusiasm and knowledge to undertake a Camino in France.

Fallen Leaf
(Tallac Center)

Wellness on the Way - Laurie Ferris

Discover the wellness that is inherent on the Camino. Explore the reasons why it makes us feel so good and why we keep coming back. We know that being surrounded by kindred spirits and walking in nature have obvious benefits. What about unplugging, forest bathing, mindful walking or doing something completely out of our comfort zone? In a world of French fries, bocadillos and churros, is it possible to eat healthy on the Camino? From survival and sustenance to inexpensive luxuries and creative play, Laurie hopes to encourage pilgrims to become their own wellness ambassadors along the Way.

3:00 – 3:45 pm
Dobbins Hall

Warriors on the Way: Walking Off the War - Fr. Steve Rindahl and Emanuel Salazar

PTSD and Moral Injury are unseen wounds of war pervasive in our combat veteran community. With the United States being in a state of persistent conflict since 2001 and only one half of 1 percent of the US population serving in the Armed Forces, the same men and women have gone to war multiple times during their military service. Warriors on the Way provides a purpose-designed pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago to facilitate healing of PTSD and Moral Injury.

4:00 – 4:45 pm
Dobbins Hall

A Decade of Supporting the Camino – Herbert Medina & Carmen Marriott

Just over 10 years ago, a little-known albergue, on a little-known route called the Via de la Plata, and an even lesser-known organization named American Pilgrims on the Camino found each other. Supporting the infrastructure on the Camino is a key part of our mission. Our first grant to Fuenterroble de Salvatierra, an albergue just south of Salamanca, was the beginning of our grant-making history, which now totals more than \$400,000 and has supported more than 75 projects in Spain, France and Portugal. This session highlights key projects, member involvement and future opportunities.

5:00 – 5:45 pm
Dobbins Hall

Shell Ceremony

Join us in honoring those departing on their first Camino.

6:00 – 6:45 pm
Tallac Dining Hall

Dinner

7:00 – 7:45 pm
Dobbins Hall

Raffle & Silent Auction

8:00 – 9:00 pm
Dobbins Hall

El Peregrino Cantante: The Singing Pilgrim – Dan Mullins

Dan's repertoire features songs about the Camino, inspired by the Camino and songs pilgrims love to sing along to. A show not to be missed, you'll laugh, cry and sing to your pilgrim heart's content.

9:00 – 10:00 pm
Dobbins Hall

Camino Game (with prizes!) with Dancing to Follow

8:00 - 8:45 am
Tallac Dining Hall

9:00 - 9:45 am
Dobbins Hall

10:00 - 10:45 am
Dobbins Hall

11:00 - 11:45 am
Dobbins Hall

12:00 pm

Breakfast

Your Place in the Camino Family – Dan Mullins

Dan Mullins, host of My Camino - the Podcast, has interviewed more than 160 pilgrims for his Camino podcast. His presentation will focus on the Camino resonating in our lives, our place in the global community and how we can take the lessons learned on the Camino into our communities across the world. Dan will also touch on how the Camino has changed his life and will bring with him stories and memories from along The Way. A session not to be missed, Dan is the consummate Australian storyteller.

Post-Camino Purge: How to Lighten Your Load and Embrace Simplicity in Everyday Life – Karin Kiser

You were able to live quite well for weeks or months on the Camino with everything you needed on your back. After the Camino, perhaps you were inspired to immediately declutter your house or let go of an unsupportive habit or relationship. But how do you keep the momentum going long term? How do you integrate that Camino-like simplicity into your daily life? In this interactive session, you'll discover the tools and techniques to lighten your load and live the pilgrim way at home.

Pilgrimage-in-Place: A Spiritual Journey at Home – Elle Bieling

Maintaining the soul of a pilgrim after leaving the Camino is a challenge. The Camino takes us to new frontiers both within and without, physically and contemplatively. We can make a decision after the Camino, to continue to explore our own interior edges through classic spiritual practices. Experience how even the simplest body movements can change our energy and direct us towards the inner journey to explore the frontiers within ourselves.

¡Adios y Buen Camino!

B I O S

Sharenda Barlar

Sharenda Barlar teaches Spanish at Wheaton College and takes students on the Camino de Santiago. In addition, she has published several articles on pilgrimage and Santiago de Compostela. Her most recent book is *Pilgrimage as Transformative Process: The Movement from Fractured to Integrated*, 2018, and her chapter on Pilgrimage as Transformation will appear in *The Routledge Handbook of Tourism and Religious Pilgrimage*, available Spring 2020.

Elle Bieling

Elle Bieling is a Camino aficionado, a registered nurse and a yoga teacher. She specializes in the spirituality of the body and how healing can be brought into one's life through movement and body awareness, whether walking on the Camino de Santiago or in daily body meditation practices. Elle is continually planning for, or walking on, or writing guides about the Camino de Santiago on her website, PilgrimageTraveler.com. She also integrates her nursing and yoga skills for holistic health coaching on her second website, BodyWindow.com.

Jane Carter

Jane Carter has been a music teacher her entire professional life. She and her husband Dick walked the Camino Francés in 2008, and after that they returned to volunteer as hospitaleros. They have served in El Acebo, Estella, Zamora, Salamanca, and Carrión de los Condes. It was in Carrión that Jane was inspired to learn to play the guitar so she could share music with pilgrims, both in Spain and at home. She is one of the founding members of the Puget Sound Chapter of American Pilgrims on the Camino, the very first local chapter.

Daniel De Kay

In 2002 Daniel De Kay walked from St. Jean Pied de Port to Finisterre and back. He has returned to the Camino Francés several times and walked the Voie du Puy, Via de la Plata and Camino Portugués. He served on the board of directors of American Pilgrims for five years. Daniel has been a volunteer hospitalero multiple times and since 2004 has been the lead trainer for American Pilgrims' Hospitalero Training Program and a liaison with the Spanish Federación de Asociaciones de Amigos del Camino. Professionally, he has taught wilderness medicine courses around the world.

Amy Donselar

Amy Donselar walked the Camino Francés in 2013 with her husband and son. Believing herself too out-of-shape, she was skeptical she could complete such a trek. She had never heard of the Camino and staying in dorm-style accommodations was not an ideal vacation. A goal-oriented person, she found collecting stamps appealing and you can ease off dieting when walking 12-15 miles a day! She trained, they walked and she was hooked. She has since walked the Voie du Piemont through the Pyrenees, finishing where her first journey started in St. Jean Pied de Port and bicycled the Camino Portugués.

B I O S

Joan Effertz

Since 2014 Joan Effertz has walked five Caminos. She is a retired teacher, visual artist and yoga practitioner. Her travels to Cuba, Spain and other locations provide on-going inspiration for her prints and mixed media images. Through her art Joan reflects upon and deepens her experience of the spiritual and divine. You can see it at joan-effertz.com.

Laurie Ferris

Laurie Ferris is co-coordinator of the Northern California chapter of American Pilgrims on the Camino and has walked the Camino Portugués, Inglés, Primitivo, and Invierno routes. At UC Berkeley, she is the communications strategist at International House, and serves as a wellness ambassador by leading hikes around campus and teaching yoga for faculty and staff. On the Camino, she has led yoga sessions and has discovered some interesting ways to enhance well-being. Laurie is dedicated to keeping the spirit of the Camino alive in our everyday lives through the chapter and on her blog, thecaminoprovides.com.

Ryan Goodman

Ryan Goodman is a doctoral candidate at Princeton University who specializes in modern and contemporary Iberian literatures and cultures. His dissertation, *Wayfaring Visions: Contemporary Iberia and the Projects of Pilgrimage*, explores the phenomenon of pilgrimage from the late 19th century to the present through a variety of lenses, including religion, tourism, popular culture, memory and aesthetics. Ryan first walked the Camino in 2014 with George Greenia and the College of William & Mary's Institute for Pilgrimage Studies. Since then, he has walked to Santiago five more times.

Cheryl Grasmoen

Cheryl Grasmoen served on the board of directors of American Pilgrims on the Camino for six years and as the board's chair for almost three. Since 2007, she has walked five Camino routes and has volunteered as an hospitalera three times and in the Pilgrim's Office in Santiago twice. She also is one of the trainers in the American Pilgrims' hospitalero program. When not working on American Pilgrims projects, she spends many hours each year volunteering with a hospital in the middle of Tanzania. A retired attorney, Cheryl lives with her family in Minneapolis, MN.

George Greenia

George Greenia is founder of the William & Mary Institute for Pilgrimage Studies and an authority on medieval material culture, books and written culture, religious traditions, travel and art. He has often walked along the pilgrimage trails to Santiago de Compostela and to other sacred and patriotic sites in Europe and the Americas. For his work promoting Spanish literature and culture, he was knighted in the Order of Isabel the Catholic (2007) and was the first American awarded the Compostela Prize (2019).

B I O S

Megan Havard

Megan Havard Rockwell is an assistant professor of Spanish at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL. She teaches courses in Spanish on language, literature and history, as well as a course in English on pilgrimage. She has walked various segments and routes of the Camino de Santiago, including as the director of a study abroad program. She will return to the Camino in summer 2020 with another group of intrepid college students. Her research on conflict among pilgrims was published in the *International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage* in 2018.

Linnea Hendrickson

When she learned of the opportunity to take a walk in Italy during the Easter season, guided by Italian volunteers, with lodging, backpack transport, breakfast and dinner included, for 45 Euros per person per day, she thought, "Why not?" Linnea walked her first Camino solo from Le-Puy-en-Velay to Finisterre in 2010 and has returned every other year since then to walk other pilgrimage routes with her husband, Kent. They have served as hospitaleros in El Burgo Ranero, and she is a founding coordinator of the Albuquerque Chapter of American Pilgrims on the Camino.

Karin Kiser

Karin Kiser is the founder of Radical Simplicity and author of 10 books, including *Your Inner Camino*, *After the Camino* and the international bestseller *Lighten Your Load*. She has been on and off the Camino since 2011 - as pilgrim, hospitalera, trash collector and guide for small groups. Part of her book proceeds goes toward cleaning up the Camino. Learn more about her work at KarinKiser.com and CaminoChroniclesPress.com.

Yosmar Martinez

Yosmar Martinez has walked the Camino five times. In 2015, she also walked the Kumano Kodo, an ancient pilgrimage route in Japan and was among the first 25 people to become a Dual Pilgrim. In addition, she has volunteered twice at the Pilgrim's Office in Santiago, founded the South Florida chapter of American Pilgrims on the Camino, and served as a board member of American Pilgrims for five years. Her first cookbook, *Tastes of the Camino*, features recipes for foods found along the Way of St. James.

Herbert A. Medina

Herbert A. Medina was born in El Salvador and has lived in the United States since age 8. He has been on many Caminos (Francés, Via de la Plata, Norte, Primitivo, Aragonés, Finisterre and Portugués) 12 times. His last Camino was from Le Puy-en-Velay to Santiago in 2015. He served on the board of directors of American Pilgrims from 2008-13 where he developed and oversaw the organization's grant program and began bringing the organization to a more "electronically modern" place. He is a dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and professor of mathematics at the University of Portland.

B I O S

Carlos Mentley

Carlos Mentley teaches Spanish at Lander University in Greenwood, SC, where he also serves as director of the Study Abroad program. A passionate believer in the art of pilgrimage, he walked his first Camino—with a group of 12 students—in January of 2003. Since then he has walked Caminos in Portugal, Germany, France, and Spain. He has served as a volunteer hospitalero in Grañón and is a former chair of the American Pilgrims on the Camino board.

Dan Mullins

Dan Mullins is a Sydney based radio producer, writer, podcaster and singer-songwriter with more than 35 years of experience as a live performer. He plays more than 80 shows a year in pubs and clubs across Australia. He has walked Spain's famed spiritual pilgrimage the Camino de Santiago twice finding the inspiration to record the album he always promised himself he'd make. That album *Duende*, debuted at #2 on the ARIA Country charts. The video for the single *Somewhere Along the Way (the Camino Song)* has been viewed almost 60,000 times.

Fr. Steven G. Rindahl

Fr. Steven G. Rindahl, DM is a retired US Army chaplain and the founder/director of the Warriors on the Way pilgrimage program for combat veterans. In the Army he developed the Army Chaplain Corps' course on providing a ministerial response to PTSD/Moral Injury. He first walked the Camino in 2016 upon his retirement from the Army, and that experience motivated the design of a PTSD/Moral Injury healing pilgrimage. When not leading Warriors on the Way, he provides Ignatian Spiritual Direction and reads lightly from the Desert Fathers and medieval mystics.

Emanuel Salazar

Emanuel 'Manny' Salazar is a 24-year veteran and social worker specializing in working with youth who have experienced trauma. When transitioning from the military into civilian life, he discovered the healing power of the Camino de Santiago, yoga and mindfulness. Watching "The Way" inspired him to walk the Camino in 2015, where he learned walking helps pilgrims reclaim the core of their inner being, self-reflect on the encounter with nature and engage in conversations. He has taken his four children on the Camino and plans to start a Camino de Santiago club at his daughter's high school to encourage kids of color to find healing, compassion and love on the route to Compostela.

Dave Schoenwald

Dave Schoenwald is an electrical engineer at Amazon working on advanced concept products. He enjoys mountain biking, landscape photography and sailing on the San Francisco Bay. He biked his first Camino in May 2013 and joined an Irish pilgrim in Finisterre for dinner. Corresponding by email for six years, they were married in January 2019. He biked the Camino in 2016 after a serious mountain biking injury the year before. In a moment of male bravado he decided not only would he bike the Camino, but he would start in Le Puy, France, riding more than 1,000 miles to Santiago.

B I O S

Alison Smith

Alison Smith first walked parts of the Camino by accident on the GR 10 trail in the French Pyrenees in 1995. Her intellectual and personal exploration of the Camino began through the study of film, especially Luis Buñuel's *The Milky Way*. A professor of modern languages at The Citadel, she has walked sections of the Camino in France and Spain with colleagues, with students and alone. She has published several articles and book chapters on her Camino research and experiences. This past summer she served as a volunteer at the Ribadiso Welcome Center and walked a segment Ireland's Kerry Camino.

Elena Szeremeta

Elena Szeremeta is the founder of Adventure Camino, a company specializing in supporting pilgrims on the Camino. She has walked the Camino on her own as well as with her husband and three children. She enjoys sharing her passion for this ancient journey and practical camino knowledge by teaching at Colorado Free University, organizing her Meetup group Camino de Santiago Colorado, writing her blog on adventurecamino.com and making YouTube videos.

Lynn Talbot

Lynn Talbot first walked the Camino, from St. Jean Pied de Port to Santiago, in 1974. Since then, she has walked many times, with her son, friends, students, and alone on several different routes. She is a professor of Spanish at Roanoke College in Virginia where she is known for her enthusiasm for the Camino. With her son, she edited a collection of essays, *Following the Yellow Arrow: Younger Pilgrims on the Camino* (2011). She has also volunteered in the Pilgrim's Office in Santiago de Compostela.

Barbara Zang

Barbara Zang had been thinking about returning to Italy, the land of her maternal grandparents, for another visit when she discovered the Via Francigena. Armed with a guidebook and a few words of Italian, she started looking for waymarks in Lucca in April 2019. Despite no helpful yellow arrows, she made it to Rome to collect her Testimonium in mid-May. She is a board member of American Pilgrims on the Camino, a veteran of several Camino routes in Spain and Portugal, an hospitalera and Pilgrim's Office volunteer.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Venue

Zephyr Point Conference Center is located at 660 Highway 50 in Zephyr Cove, NV, 55 miles from Reno and 110 miles from Sacramento, CA. Learn more about the facilities at zephyrpoint.org.

Accommodations

Accommodations are double occupancy rooms with private baths. A limited number of triple rooms are available upon request. Linens and towels are provided, but hair dryers and toiletries are not provided. There are no televisions or telephones in the rooms.

Altitude Sickness

Zephyr Point sits at an elevation of approximately 6,300'. Some people visiting altitude above 5,500' will experience a form of altitude sickness. While often mild, symptoms include headaches, dizziness, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, fatigue and poor sleep. Allow your body to acclimate, take your time and stay hydrated. Coffee and alcoholic drinks can affect people differently at higher altitudes. If you drink wine, remember to drink plenty of water before going to bed. A healthy diet including whole grains, fruits and veggies are exactly what your body needs.

Airports

The closest airport to the venue is Reno-Tahoe Int'l Airport (RNO), 53 miles away. Sacramento Int'l Airport (SMF), 119 miles away, offers more flights on more airlines, which may result in more affordable fares and greater flexibility.

Ground Transportation

The South Tahoe Airporter (operated by Amador Stage Lines) offers transportation from Reno-Tahoe Int'l Airport to Lakeside Inn & Casino, 2.8 miles away. From Lakeside you would need to take an Uber/Lyft or taxi to Zephyr Point. For questions call 866-898-2463. You can find more information, see the current schedule and book tickets at southtahoeairporter.com.

Members of the NorCal, Sacramento and Lake Tahoe chapters have graciously offered to help bring people to the venue. To connect with others willing to provide a ride, we have created a Gathering 2020 Facebook Group (see below for more information).

Facebook Group

To help you connect before, during and after the Gathering we have created a Facebook group dedicated to the Gathering and exclusive for confirmed attendees. Go to facebook.com/groups/2020Gathering to join. You must be registered to be admitted to the group.

Donations to Raffle
and Silent Auction

We hold a silent auction and raffle each year to help fund our grants program. If you have new (unused) gear, guidebooks, gifts or anything else Camino, we welcome your donations!

We encourage chapters to offer a gift box of items special to their area or with a Camino theme for the silent auction.

If you would like to donate an item, please fill out our [online donation form](#) and either bring your items with you to the Gathering, or ship them to:

Gathering Donations
c/o B. Longshore
389 Winding Way
Incline Village, NV 89451

Contact the raffle/silent auction coordinator at windsong903@gmail.com if you have any questions or for ideas or more information.

Chapel

The Charis Chapel (Tallac Center, Third Floor), is open 24 hours and available to all. There are no scheduled Sunday services at Zephyr Point.

Weather

Expect wintry weather with temperatures ranging from 27°F-47°F, with a chance of rain or snow. We recommend you bring warm clothing, comfortable shoes or boots and an umbrella. Please bring a flashlight to help you navigate back to your room at the day's end as lighting around Zephyr is kept to a minimum to enjoy the starry nights.

Need More
Information?

Please email us at registration@americanpilgrims.org if you have any questions.

Volunteers &
Presenters

American Pilgrims on the Camino relies on many volunteers to run our organization, including local chapters, hospitalero training sessions and the Gathering. We thank each of our dedicated volunteers and presenters who give so generously of their time, skills and knowledge.

Venue

A huge thank you to the staff of the Zephyr Point Conference Center.

Silent Auction and
Raffle

All proceeds benefit Camino programs sponsored by American Pilgrims on the Camino. We thank all those who generously contributed raffle and auction items.

Supporters and
Friends

American Pilgrims on the Camino offers a hearty "muchas gracias" to our friends from the Xacobeo organization in Galicia, Spain who have provided encouragement and support for American Pilgrims on the Camino. For outstanding resources on the Camino and Spain, please visit their website, xacobeo.es.

Special thanks to Total Wine & More for their generous in-kind donations to our annual Gathering.

