



LA CONCHA

Newsletter of American Pilgrims on the Camino

www.americanpilgrims.com

November 2009

Dear Fellow Member ~

In September, I traveled to Spain and had the opportunity to meet with key officials in Santiago on behalf of American Pilgrims.

Because both the Xacobeo and American Pilgrims have had significant and unexpected changes in leadership, I wanted to introduce our organization to the new Xacobeo 2010 Galicia Director Xerente, Ignacio Santos Cidrás, and talk about the past partnership between our organizations as well as potential future projects.

The Xacobeo is planning for the demands of the 2010 Holy Year, and Mr. Santos was particularly interested in our ability to train and place hospitaleros. Pilgrims from all over the world often have in common one language: English. American hospitaleros would be most welcome to assist Spanish hosts who may not speak English.

Discussing possible service projects, I quickly learned that good intentions are not enough to avoid potential embarrassment and that talking with host country allies first is crucial. Mr. Santos and I agreed that litter is a problem on the Camino, and I mentioned that we were considering mailing

small plastic trash bags with our pilgrim credentials to encourage Americans to pick up trash along the way. Mr. Santos was appalled. Spain has too many plastic bags, he said, which is a major environmental concern. So, no plastic trash bags!

We parted cordially, and I encouraged Mr. Santos to attend our upcoming Gathering in Orlando. Recently, American Pilgrims received €6,000 (US \$8,825) from the Xacobeo in



APOC Chair Jim Eychaner, right, meets with Ignacio Santos Cidrás, left, Director Xerente of the Xacobeo 2010.

support of our Gathering. We are grateful for this confirmation of the importance of the relationship between our two organizations.

I also had the good fortune to meet with Don Jenaro Cebrián, Delegado de Peregrinaciones,

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Oficina del Peregrino. Don Jenaro stressed the crowds expected in the Holy Year and expressed his desire to encourage pilgrims to consider routes other than the Camino Francés. He also asked that American Pilgrims be ever mindful of the meaning of the pilgrimage.

I thanked Don Jenaro for reviewing and approving our new credential. He was pleased to be assured that with every American Pilgrims credential issued, we provide complete information on the requirements for the Compostela.

This trip affirmed for me that long after we complete our pilgrimage, the Camino lives on in us and the people we encounter and that it changes our lives. I never dreamed I would travel internationally to conduct business for an important American organization. Several “angels of the Camino,” in particular Cherie Pagett, American Pilgrims Vice Chair, and José Suárez of the Xacobeo, worked hard to smooth the way with many hours of patient communication on my behalf.

¡Buen Camino!

Jim Eychaner, Chair

Noticias de los Hospitaleros Voluntarios

Our popular Hospitalero Training will next take place March 16-18, 2010, immediately preceding the Annual Gathering at the San Pedro Retreat Center just outside Orlando FL. Trainees will stay in dorms adjacent to the labyrinth in this peaceful, sub-tropical setting. We'll have access to a state-of-the-art kitchen where we will prepare our own meals.

It promises to be another excellent and meaningful experience for those who want to give back to the Camino. Come join us! You can register on our website at [National Gatherings](#)

In other volunteer news, Franco Chacon and Jeanette Lansbergen became engaged to be married on October 18, 2009. They met while walking the Camino Francés in 2008, after Jeanette “closed the front door of her home in Rotterdam and began walking south.” Enjoy their charming story on the

American Pilgrims website at [Essays & Galleries](#).

After participating in the 2009 Hospitalero Training in Albuquerque, they returned to the Camino to serve in Grañón. Congratulations, Franco and Jeanette!

So far this year 15 members of American Pilgrims have volunteered as hospitaleros on the Camino Francés and Vía de la Plata:

- ♦ Margaret Brown
- ♦ Jane and Richard Carter
- ♦ Franco Chacon
- ♦ Alice & Henny deKnecht
- ♦ Beverley Gardener
- ♦ Joanie Hess
- ♦ Pam Jones
- ♦ Kathy Kennerly
- ♦ Jeanette Lansbergen
- ♦ Rosann & Gene McCullough
- ♦ Chris Slater
- ♦ Joe Sternfeld

During the 2010 Holy Year, a huge increase is anticipated in the number of pilgrims walking the Camino. Hospitaleros Voluntarios will be in great demand. Please consider training, sharing, and serving in this all-important position. ♦

What is a Holy Year?

The Holy or Jubilee Year of Santiago (Año Xacobeo) has been celebrated since the Middle Ages, whenever the feast day of the Apostle Saint James, July 25, falls on a Sunday. A Holy Year occurs every 5, 6, and 11 years. The 2010 Holy Year was preceded by 2004 and will be followed by the Jubilee of 2021.

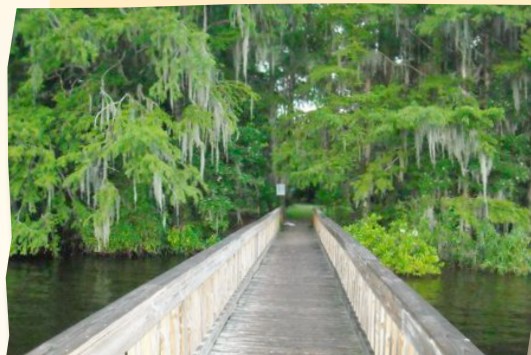
Each Holy Year sees a surge in the number of pilgrims on the Camino, and many more are expected in 2010. The Xacobeo, along with other groups in Spain and abroad, is planning cultural events, celebrations, and accommodations for the Holy Year pilgrims, beginning on December 31, 2009, and ending December 31, 2010.

Due to the expected crowds, there will be a greater need for hospitaleros – and patience – along the Camino. Might 2010 be the year to consider Caminos less travelled? ♦

2010 - 13th Annual Gathering of Pilgrims

We hope you'll join us in beautiful central Florida in March for our 13th Annual Gathering of Pilgrims. Our theme for 2010 is *The Camino Today*. Share your Camino experiences. Be energized to return or to set out for the first time.

The Gathering is preceded by our popular Hospitalero Training, March 16 -18. There will be an Early Arrivals Reception on Thursday evening, the 18th; and the Gathering sessions begin on Friday the 19th, continuing through Sunday morning the 21st. The Spiritual Retreat follows the conclusion of the Gathering and is scheduled for Sunday evening through Tuesday morning. These are three events requiring separate registration.



Our venue -- the modern, secluded [San Pedro Center](#) -- is adjacent to Orlando in Winter Park, yet akin to the remote paths of the Camino. Situated on a lake and naturally adorned with lush sub-tropical vegetation, the facilities include motel-style lodging (bunk house for hospitalero trainees), comfortable conference rooms, a labyrinth perfect for losing oneself, and a lovely chapel. The center, operated by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orlando, provides our gatherers an ideal environment for learning, fellowship, and spiritual development.

Sessions will address such topics as cycling on the Camino, the relationship between labyrinths and pilgrimage, and hospitalero and other opportunities to give back to the Camino. In addition, since 2010 is a Holy Year, or Año Xacobeo, and will bring record numbers of pilgrims to Santiago, we will explore some of the Caminos less traveled.

Program details, registration, and exhibitor guidelines are available at the American Pilgrims [National Gatherings](#) page. Please check back frequently for updates and direct your questions to gatherings@americanpilgrims.com.



Xacobeo 2010 Supports American Pilgrims Gathering With €6,000

The news spread rapidly, all the more exciting because in this year of economic and political uncertainties we had held out little hope. At the end of October, generous funding from the Xacobeo de Galicia in the amount of



**XACOBEO 2010
Galicia**

€6,000 (\$8,825) appeared in the bank account of American Pilgrims on the Camino!

Among the Xacobeo's stated initiatives are activities with an international focus,

including the development and strengthening of worldwide ties with associations of friends of the Camino.

Our mutual commitment to collaboration was strengthened by American Pilgrims Chair Jim Eychaner's September meeting in Santiago with Ignacio Santos Cidrás, Director General of the Xacobeo. The meeting was facilitated by our friend and respected Xacobeo colleague, José Suárez Otero, who, always congenial and supportive, has attended the past several Gatherings, often as part of a grueling travel schedule. We extend our sincere thanks to him, to Sr. Santos, and to the Xacobeo for their continued support; and we look forward to their attendance at future Gatherings and many years of mutually beneficial collaboration.

Take the time to visit Xacobeo 2010 at <http://blog.xacobeo.es>, full of information on the Caminos throughout Galicia. You might even make a personal contribution to the Xacobeo by volunteering as a hospitalero in Galicia during the coming Holy Year. ♦

Bay Area Pilgrims Event

*by Lin Galea
San Francisco CA*

Bay Area Pilgrims met Saturday, November 7th, for a day of presentations and Camino stories.

Kathy Gower took us on a pictorial journey along El Camino de las Estrellas, explaining the meaning to many of the symbols that pilgrims encounter along the way. Phil Cousineau repeated his Albuquerque workshop based on his book, *The Art of Pilgrimage*, showing us the path to an inner Camino that is with us wherever we roam.

The group was enthusiastic and grateful for the opportunity to hear these presentations and to meet with other pilgrims close to home – although there were folks who traveled from as far as Texas and New Mexico. For others, it

was a chance to whet their appetite for the annual American Pilgrims Gathering.

Events like this would not be possible without the generosity of so many. Special thanks to Rozan and Brad Gautier for so graciously opening their home to us and for the delicious pots of homemade soups – potato leek and split pea – they prepared for the participants. Everyone who came chipped in with an offering from their backpack or their kitchen. It was a lovely sunny day, and we were able to gather for lunch in the Gautier's beautiful garden. Thanks also to Ginna and Elizabeth Miller for helping with set up and materials.

Because of all the help received in services and goods, we were able to keep costs to a minimum and pass along close to \$300 in net proceeds to American Pilgrims for Camino support. ♦

John Adams and the Camino de Santiago

by Gene McCullough
Denver CO

"I have always regretted that We could not find time to make a Pilgrimage to Saint Iago de Compostella."

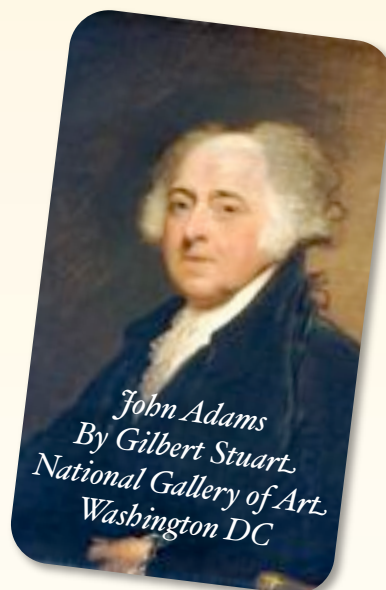
Those of you who read David McCullough's† biography of John Adams [1] were perhaps astonished at the recounting of Adams' journey to Paris December 1779 into January 1780, a journey that finds Adams and his party working their way overland eastward along a major length of the Camino Francés. Was Adams aware of the pilgrimage route to Santiago? What were the conditions that he described along the way, the conditions that would have been experienced by late 18th-century pilgrims?

In October 1779 Adams was appointed by Congress as minister to France with the charge of negotiating treaties of peace and commerce with Great Britain. Adams had made the trans-Atlantic crossing in mid-winter before and had no illusions about the difficulties and immense dangers of this voyage.

On November 15, 1779 he headed eastward across the ocean. Two days out of Boston, the ship began to leak seriously and after more than three weeks of

struggling to keep afloat the captain put in at El Ferrol on the Galician coast. Being told that even if the ship were not condemned, repairs would take at least a month, Adams arranged to make the remainder of the journey overland.

At dawn December 15, 1779 Adams, his party, and hired Spanish guides and muleteers set off, one of the party noting that it was very much like a scene from Don Quixote. Adams mentions in



his *Diary and Autobiography* that he could hardly sleep a wink due to the plague of fleas and bedbugs, Spain's "innumerable Swarms of Enemies of all repose." [2, p. 213] This would not be the last mention of these pests. Indeed they "persecuted me through the whole Kingdom of Spain to such a degree that I sometimes apprehended I

should never live to see France." [2, p. 213]

Their route passed through Lugo, O Cebreiro, Astorga, Burgos, northeasterly to Bilbao and on to Paris.

In his autobiography, written between 1802 and 1807, he describes in detail the conditions he found and endured en route: "...the Kitchen, where was no floor but the Ground and no Carpet but Straw trodden into mire by Men, Hogs, horses and Mules;" "... nothing but Signs of Poverty and misery among the People: a fertile Country not half cultivated: People ragged and dirty: the Houses universally nothing but mire, Smoke, Soot, fleas and Lice;" "...Villages all appear going to decay and crumbling to dust."

Well, you get the picture. If this intrigues you, you can read a full account on the American Pilgrims website at [Essays & Galleries](#).

† No relation to the author of this article.

References:

1. McCullough, D. 2001. *John Adams*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001.
2. Butterfield, L.H., ed. 1961. *Diary and Autobiography of John Adams, Volume 4, 1777-1780*. Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1961.

Following the Miliarios

by Kurt Buckley
Ventura CA

For my second Camino, I ventured onto the Vía de la Plata - an experience somewhat different from the Camino Francés. I undertook my first Camino in 2004 from Pamplona to Santiago de Compostela, and my second one in 2007, starting on the day after Palm Sunday.

Although I only trekked from Seville to Salamanca with the intent of completing it at a later date, it became a fabulous spiritual adventure I deeply treasure. Seeing

Semana Santa unfold in Seville was its own spiritual experience.

The Camino was well waymarked especially in the autonomous region of Extremadura, taking me along the path traversed by Hannibal over twenty two hundred years before.

Many of the original *miliarios*

pointed the way, and nowadays we see concrete markers as well with their peculiar color codes. The Roman ruins along the way were breathtaking, especially when going through the city of Mérida on the Río Guadiana - probably the best place to visit Roman Spain.

My best memories are those of feeling close to the land - a connection with

nature that seemed to transcend time. I left my all-too-familiar cultural entrapments behind in California and wanted a back-to-a-simpler-life experience. The rolling hills of cork tree plantations and the black pig (*cerdo ibérico*) farms were first-time sights for me - unforgettable.

As I

meandered through grape

vineyards and olive orchards along the way, I saw man



Kurt Buckley's journey included a stop at Fuentes de Andalucía where American Pilgrims has awarded funds for the construction of an addition known as Casa América.



A Roman miliario near Cáceres on the Vía de la Plata

intertwined with nature in ways that reached back in time much further than any of our family trees. What a sense of liberation from today's constraints - raw spiritualism. I chummed up with a German after leaving Seville. He stayed with me for a week, and then I met another German and we walked together until Salamanca.

There weren't many peregrinos, not nearly as many as on the Camino Francés. Maybe that was the secret as to why I thought it so wonderful - or was it that the stretches were longer or that I didn't have to even speak English. That's really leaving your cultural entrapments behind. ♦

Menú de Peregrinos

by Martha Crites
Seattle WA

The loneliness begins as we head toward the Roman road from Calzada de Coto. The way isn't well marked and we are used to reassuring yellow arrows. A local man tells us that most people walk along the highway to El Burgo Ranero. The road ahead is long, with no villages to provide the café we enjoy each morning. We are tired and the short day we plan takes more hours than expected. Jim's back is hurting.

The lack of café doesn't bother me; it's the lack of pilgrims. During the day, Jim and I walk separately, coming together to comment on sights or directions. It's Jim's time for meditation, mine for prayer. We are essentially alone.

The villages are where we come together, find old Camino friends and make new ones. We have a communal dinner at the albergue, or go to a restaurant, pull tables closer to share the pilgrim menu with the famous half bottle of wine. "Con pan y vino, se anda El Camino" expresses best what the Camino means to me. "With bread and wine, one walks the Camino." Whether your walk is secular or

religious, this coming together with pilgrims from different countries is an everyday communion and builds the common bond of pilgrimage.

When we walk into Calzadilla de los Hermanillos, the streets are empty, the mud-walled houses shuttered and the albergue deserted. Outside the restaurant, the chairs are tilted against the tables to keep the

seats dry. We decide on a rare stay in a Casa Rural to nap away the fatigue of long days on the meseta. We wake up stiff-muscled and a little depressed.

On the way to the

restaurant, I peek into the albergue. At the common table I see, for the first time in several days, Irene from Finland and Bela from Hungary! We share hugs and news and head out for the menú de peregrinos. We are warm and dry after walking 22 km in a driving rain, and all our aches and pains and flagging spirits are forgotten.

Jim and I have just returned from walking from St Jean Pied de Port to León. We are unpacking our bags when I get an email from Irene. She is in Sarria, still walking and says, "Now awaiting menú peregrino (do you even remember what it is?)" Yes, Irene, I do, because sharing the menú with you and others was one of the best parts of my Camino. ♦



*Menú de Peregrinos,
Calzadilla de los Hermanillos*

!Buen Provecho!

We plan to feature a recipe with each edition of *La Concha*. If you have a favorite Spanish recipe or one that might be handy for hospitaleros working in a refuge that serves an evening meal for pilgrims, please send it in.

Calabacitas

Submitted by Martha López
Sacramento CA

This traditional Southwest recipe was a great favorite when I was growing up. It's quick and easy to make for a few people or a crowd. It's always a hit and makes a good vegetarian option.

Use squash and corn in roughly equal proportions and however much onion and cheese suits your taste.

- ♦ Chop some onion and sauté in a bit of olive oil until just golden.
- ♦ Add chopped summer squash and simmer (without water) until just tender.
- ♦ Add canned or frozen corn, (and finely chopped bell pepper if desired) and simmer until tender.
- ♦ Season with salt and pepper to taste.
- ♦ Sprinkle with cheddar or longhorn cheese, cover and allow cheese to melt.

4,800 Miles to Santiago

*by Mike Metras
Paso Robles CA*

Our pilgrimage to Santiago is longer than most. Santiago is only a stop between our front door in Paso Robles, California and Jerusalem, our ultimate destination. By the time we reach Santiago we will have covered 4,800 miles. We are Petra Wolf and Mike Metras. Many of you met us at the Albuquerque or Santa Barbara Gatherings.

We started our pilgrimage January 16 and stopped at the March Gathering. We have since followed the Santa Fe Trail across a windy and rainy Kansas, sweltered in Missouri, walked north to Milwaukee, and crossed Michigan and Ontario to Niagara Falls. By the end of November we'll be in New York where we'll fly to Portugal and walk the Camino Portugués to Santiago, arriving around the beginning of the 2010 Holy Year.

After Santiago we will continue walking east via Rome to Jerusalem arriving around the end of 2010.

Our pilgrimage has opened our eyes to so much good in

the US and Canada. Contrary to the fears of many, we have had only good experiences with all we have met in our more than nine months of walking.

Those who have walked the Camino de Santiago know how quickly deep conversations develop. On our pilgrimage across North America we have had many similar conversations. But these are with non-pilgrims, those we meet for a few minutes, an hour, or a day. We find them opening to us spontaneously and telling us their deepest dreams, sometimes hidden for a long time; and we leave them seemingly more ready to pursue those dreams.

One morning we met a man at a coffee shop. In fifteen minutes he told us of his dream to return to California and his fears of doing so with his wife and children in the current economy. Before he left he had renewed his resolve to trust the Universe and take

dream seriously. Similar encounters happen several times a day. We feel honored that the Universe has chosen us to be ambassadors of dreams.



We haven't seen many yellow arrows, but walking from your front door to Santiago like the pilgrims of old is open to anyone who has the time and willingness to search out the pathway in his or her heart. Buen Camino.

If you would like to join us along the way or have any questions or comments, contact us via www.WalkingEast.com. ♦

Excerpt from My Camino León to Santiago May 2009

*by Jason Grogan
Ocala FL*

Sue Kenny in her book, *My Camino*, states, "Where there is passion, you will find your purpose."

Throughout this journey, this has been the theme of my writings. I have sought to find my true passion, where it lies in hopes of finding my purpose and the will of God in it all. This journey has allowed me to purge or better yet free myself from all that I held within. I've thought everything out, there's

nothing left to think about.

Now I'm just left with myself and the decision to either accept or not where this journey has brought me. Although a bit of uncertainty towards returning still lingers, the fear no longer holds a grip on me as it once did. The Bible states "perfect love casts out all fear." ♦

One More Hill... A Memory from the Camino San Salvador

by: *Michael Burriss*
Athens GA

This is my second time walking the Camino. The first was in the winter of 2003. It is very different this trip. Many things have changed since then. I am not the same person I was back then. I have a job now. Responsibilities. Bills. However, some things never change. One of those things is the Camino and the life-altering power it has over every pilgrim who makes this spiritual journey.

My first Camino with my undergraduate college led by my Spanish professor, was the hardest task I had ever undertaken. Walking the Camino Francés, we started in Roncesvalles and made our way all the way to Santiago de Compostela. Leaving La Meseta and entering Galicia, the hills started to become more pronounced. On one particularly difficult day, as our group was struggling and breathing heavy with snow in our faces, our professor tried to reassure us that this was the last hill.

Well, to anyone who has walked the Camino they know that there is never one last hill. In fact, there were many more hills that day and

every day for the rest of the trip. So that statement "one more hill" became kind of a joke among us. Whenever we were tired and wanted to give up we would say, tongue-in-cheek, that there was just "one more hill."

This summer, returning to the Camino for the first time in almost six years, that same lesson held true. The idea that there is always one more hill is not discouraging but rather comforting because it reminds me that

climbing up one more hill is just another opportunity to conquer not only the physical challenges of the Camino but to conquer that part of your body that wants to give up, not only in the face of physical difficulties but in the face of any obstacle in life when things don't



Michael Burriss prepares to tackle one more hill on the Camino San Salvador.

go your way.

In some sense, finishing the day's walk is a metaphor for a battle won. It is you, as a pilgrim, not as a businessman, doctor, lawyer, etc...reclaiming what God has in store for you and unlocking your purpose in life through climbing over that one last hill. ♦

Create Winning Tagline for American Pilgrims ~ Win a Prize

WE TRY HARDER. JUST DO IT. IT DOES A BODY GOOD. While these phrases might describe pilgrims or the Camino itself, most of us recognize them as the taglines for Avis, Nike and the Milk Board...in other words, phrases that identify these organizations and their products or services and what they hope people will remember about them.

American Pilgrims on the Camino wants to add a tagline for just the same reasons. We want to tell members and prospective members more about our organization -- who we are, what we do. And we need your help.

So we are asking you to put on your best creative thinking cap and help American Pilgrims come up with a tagline. It can be catchy, it can be serious. It can be one word or several, concrete or abstract. It is only bounded by imagination. It just can't be copied from somebody else.

Please submit your ideas to tagline@americanpilgrims.com no later than January 31, 2010. A panel of judges will evaluate the submissions and pick the winner.

The winning tagline creator will be announced at the Annual Gathering in Orlando FL, and will receive one year's free membership (a \$50 value) in American Pilgrims on the Camino. ♦

Don Elías and the Yellow Arrows

Where would pilgrims be without the ubiquitous yellow arrows that mark the Camino? Probably lost. Which is why Don Elías Valiña, parish priest at O Cebreiro and champion of the Camino revival in the 1980s, decided the Camino needed markers to help pilgrims find their way. Unable to get official help, Don Elías was happy to receive some cans of yellow paint from a work crew in his area. Armed with the paint, Don Elías drove along the Camino Francés from the Pyrenees to Santiago, painting yellow arrows wherever he could.

These icons of the Camino and now the yellow scallop shells are found not only in Spain but also on the Camino routes that extend far into Europe, confirmed by these photos taken in Bayreuth, Germany by Paul Scudder of Coleyville TX. Don Elías died in 1989, but his yellow arrows continue to keep pilgrims from many locales going forward toward Santiago.

Camino Signs will be a regular newsletter feature. Do you have photos of yellow arrows or scallop shells in unusual places? The yellow arrow painters can be very creative with where they put the arrows, and we invite you to share your photographic creativity with the rest of us. Please send submissions to newsletter@americanpilgrims.com.



*Side door of the Schosskirche
(Palace Church)*



*Light pole on Ludwig Stasse in
the city center*

Association News

Three New Directors to Join the Board

The Board of Directors of American Pilgrims is pleased to welcome three new Board members effective January 1, 2010.

- ♦ **Bill Edwards**, from Mattituck NY, brings to the Board extensive non-profit and business experience.
- ♦ **Ann Howley**, from Culver City CA, is a Certified Public Accountant who will provide financial expertise to the Board.
- ♦ **Martha López**, from Sacramento CA, continues her work on several American Pilgrims projects including hospitalero training, the production of *La Concha*, and the organization of regional American Pilgrims events.

We also bid goodbye to **Carlos Mentley**, who has provided exemplary service as member and Secretary of the Board of Directors since 2006. We will miss him, and we thank him for his valuable and generous contributions.

New Grant Program Implemented

The Board of Directors of American Pilgrims is proud to announce the inception of its new Grant Program. The program aims to formalize the initiative funding efforts that American Pilgrims has undertaken in past years. Indeed, in 2008 American Pilgrims funded the initial construction phase of the Casa América in the albergue in Fuenterroble de la Salvatierra, Salamanca on the Vía de la Plata.

The new Grant Program is more comprehensive as it will make awards to support the camino in two categories: 1. Infrastructure grants to fund initiatives in Spain; and 2. Gathering, information and

encouragement grants to fund initiatives in the U.S.

We are happy to announce the 2009 award recipients as follows:

- ♦ The project titled “Conclusión de la Casa América en Fuenterroble de Salvatierra en Salamanca - España”, submitted by the albergue in Fuenterroble, and for which an \$8,000 grant was awarded.
- ♦ The project titled “The Camino de Santiago Documentary Film Project” submitted by Future Educational Films, Inc. which was awarded a \$4,000 grant.

The deadline for the next grant funding cycle is September 15, 2010. Applications will be available on the American Pilgrims website. For more information, please contact grants@americanpilgrims.com.

New Membership and Dues Structure

Two significant changes will take effect on January 1, 2010.

We are pleased to announce a Student Membership category, available to *full-time* students, with annual dues set at \$25. In order to qualify, students will provide the name of their educational institution.

Annual Membership dues will increase for the first time ever. The new amount will be \$50 per household. As an added

membership benefit, American Pilgrims pins are now being distributed to new and renewing members.

Please look for updates and revised membership forms on the American Pilgrims website at [Membership](#) or contact us with any questions at membership@americanpilgrims.com.



American Pilgrims Pin



*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 Stories or Events to Share?

We would be pleased to report on Camino-related activities in your part of the country. Tell us about your plans, and we'll try to announce them in *La Concha*.

In addition to announcements and news, please tell us in 400 words or less about a part of the Camino you would like to share with your fellow pilgrims. Consider a photo, a poem, or a new found understanding of an idea – a pilgrim's perspective. Visit [Newsletter](#) on our website for suggestions and guidelines.

Submission deadline for the next issue is January 11, 2010. We welcome your questions, comments, and submissions at

newsletter@americanpilgrims.com. You can also submit to the street address provided below.

Happy Holidays and Buen Camino.

Your Newsletter Team -

*Cherie Pagett, Annette Argall,
Martha López, Zita Macy*

Board of Directors 2009

Jim Eychaner, Chair
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Carlos Mentley, Secretary
Nicholas Hayes, Treasurer
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Cherie & Annette
Cherie & Annette
Herbert
Marlena
Daniel
Bill & Marlena

Other Key Personnel

Association Manager: Zita Macy
Board Development: Mary Wallis

Credentials Distribution: Rosann McCullough
Webmaster: Gene McCullough

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American Pilgrims on the Camino is registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization.