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LA CONCHA

Newsletter of American Pilgrims on the Camino

July 2011

Gathering 2011



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Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

A good friend recently asked me what it was about my first Camino experience that touched me so deeply. My quick reply: "The ritual. Ritual was missing from my life." Not the coffee-every-morning ritual that really is habit, but the ritual that is the deliberate set of actions taken to remind oneself of the sacred in this world.

My wife Maureen and I had not expected the extent to which we would encounter ritual on the Camino. It was deeply Catholic, of course, but also ritual generous and rich enough to touch the non-denominational me.

First was the pilgrims' Mass at Roncesvalles, in at least five languages, offering protection and guidance to those of us just embarked on the Camino. Then the evening service by the nuns in León. All in Spanish, but I somehow understood most all Sister was saying to us with her ritual words and phrases. Of course the pilgrims' Mass in Santiago, with the spectacle of

the botafumeiro in the grandeur of the Cathedral.

And smaller gestures in between, from the cheerful, respectfully spoken *Buen Camino* (mispronounced *Bon Camino* by mis-hearing me—hey, we were on the *French* Route) to silent thanks given for my friends the yellow arrows, always there to guide when needed.

More recently, ritual came into my life at our Annual Gathering. Spearheaded by our own Cherie Pagett, our beautiful shell ceremony was truly a highlight of the Santa Barbara event, beautifully written and spoken by Cherie and Reverend Michael Barham. Those of us privileged to witness the ceremony were moved by its powerful simplicity.

Saint James' facts are few. Catholic scholar Dr. John Meier lays out the defensible facts in a single paragraph.

Saint James' myth fills volumes. By myth I mean what Joseph Campbell taught: the mythic tale as a symbol of a

powerful spiritual truth. In his academic and popular work, Campbell stressed the need for ritual and myth in modern life. We have both, absolutely, from the Camino.

The rituals of Saint James -- viewing the silver casket, hugging the statue -- are rituals that allow us to take part in the myth, in the spiritual truth of Saint James. Our shell ceremony, as I experienced it, does the same thing. It's a powerful ritual that helps us to learn and to remember powerful spiritual truth. As pilgrims, we are never alone, and we are never lost.

I want to close by wishing all of you all the best on July 25, the feast of St. James, which is celebrated with great fanfare in Santiago de Compostela. Your own observance of the day, whether with a walk or sharing your stories of the Camino with others, will give you an opportunity for your own ritual. ♦

Jim Eychaner

Board Chair

*Jim Eychaner
participates in the ritual
of commissioning new
pilgrims
Photo by Annette Argall,
Baltimore MD*





XACOBEO
Galicia

Xacobeo Director Attends Gathering

María del Camino Triguero, the newly appointed Director General of the Xacobeo in Santiago honored American Pilgrims with her presence at the 2011 Gathering. Camino, as she is called, emphasized the importance of maintaining connections between the Xacobeo and international groups like ours in order to inform people throughout the world about the Camino.

Camino also underscored the importance of promoting other routes in Galicia, besides the Camino Francés, which is very heavily traveled. Pilgrims can discover the beauty of Galicia on the Camino Primitivo, Camino Portugués, Camino Inglés, and Vía de la Plata. For more information, visit [Xacobeo Galicia](http://XacobeoGalicia). ♦

Gathering 2011 Wrap-Up

The 14th Annual Gathering of Pilgrims at the Old Mission Santa Barbara was a remarkable success. With over 100 registrants, nearly one-quarter of our membership was present for several days of reminiscing and learning about the Camino.

This year's highlights included a formal shell ceremony in the Serra Chapel, during which eighteen members who will make their first Camino this year were blessed and adorned with scallop shells for their upcoming pilgrimages.

The beauty and acoustics of the Serra Chapel brought many of us back to the *capillas* along the Camino, and also embellished a concert of early Renaissance music by Ciaramella, an early Renaissance music group from UCLA. The audience enjoyed not only an explanation of the musical significance of the *Codex Calixtinus*, but the opportunity to sing along.

The first ever Camino scholar forum, our keynote presentations about history and archaeology of the Santiago cathedral, and other sessions were enthusiastically received. Judging by the comments on the evaluations, you can look

forward to more programs like this at future gatherings.

The closing dinner on Saturday included the second annual Volunteer of the Year Awards, recognizing Kathy Kennerly and Mary Wallis. Saturday night brought more performances at the second annual Camino Cabaret. Jim Eychaner's trademark "grand gesture" introduced a variety of talents from gymnastics (Cara Cerise hopes to be the first person to walk the Camino on her hands!) to poetry, to original music, as well as musical parody, closing with Team La Concha's *Goin' to Santiago in my Mind*, with apologies to James Taylor.

Reverend Michael Barham led our post-Gathering spiritual retreat, which was well received.

I personally want to once again thank all of you who participated in any way, whether by your presence or a presentation or behind-the-scenes

coordination. In the same way that help was always available to me when I needed it on the trail, there always seemed to be someone to help with all the various needs of putting together the Annual Gathering. ♦

¡Muchísimas gracias!

Marlena Lambert

2011 Gathering Chair



Shell Ceremony

*Photo by Annette Argall,
Baltimore MD*

Volunteers of the Year: Kathy Kennerly and Mary Wallis

Kathy Kennerly and Mary Wallis were recognized as Volunteers of the Year at the 2011 Gathering.

Kathy is known for her work as an hospitalera and her particular interest in the food of the Camino. Kathy has stepped up for multiple tours as an hospitalera and is an hospitalero trainer. She was a presenter at last year's Gathering and was also instrumental (pun intended) in several key aspects of this year's Gathering, including pulling together the opening reception tapas menu and securing the amazing musicians of Ciaramella.



Mary Wallis
Photo by Scott Tiffin,
Cochrane AB Canada

Long-time member and former Board member, Mary has stepped in at a moment's notice on many occasions. She organized the 2009 Gathering, has led two spiritual retreats, and been instrumental in recruiting new Board members. Mary coordinated this year's Gathering raffle, with a promise to do it again next year and sell even more tickets! ♦



Kathy Kennerly
Photo by Grant Spangler
Ojai CA

Gatherings

by Sandy Lenthall, Williamsburg VA

Remember going to visit your grandparents as a child and if there were aunts, uncles and cousins living close by they all came too? It was such fun to see them again, feel grandma's extra long hug and grandpa's whiskery face.

How about that first high school reunion when the years had gone by and sure enough some of the "best friends ever" were back together? Happiness about rewards and successes. Sadness about losses. Awareness that years had gone by quickly...ever so quickly.

College reunion with special friends when you could sit cross legged on the beds all night talking and pick up where you left off? Some connections made just don't seem to change a bit.

Meetings at a refugio when after a number of days of walking, there on the steps is the couple that you so much enjoyed 60 some kilometers back?

Different country, different language, different age, no idea what they do to make a living and it was like a reunion with special friends from years ago.

National Gatherings are like all of these "gettings-together" in some ways with the addition of meeting some new folks with a common interest.

This thread seems to weave us together into something

like a comfy covering for the time we spend together. Gatherings have a sense of community rarely felt in our "real" worlds.

By the way, thanks to all the folks who created such a wonderful one in Santa Barbara. ♦



Hospitalero Trainees
Photo by Grant Spangler, Ojai CA



Chapter News

New Chapter Forms in Southern California

Welcome to the newest Chapter, American Pilgrims Southern California! The Chapter is newly formed, and plans are in the making for an August get-together. [Contact SoCalChapter@americanpilgrims.com](mailto:SoCalChapter@americanpilgrims.com). ♦

Northern California Chapter to Host St. James Day Walk

On April 10th, fellow pilgrims and friends went on a docent-led tour of the Oakland Museum's exhibit *Splendors of Faith/Scars of Conquest*, where we experienced a sample of the rich artistic legacy of the Franciscan and Jesuit mission churches in northern Mexico and the American Southwest. Our thanks to Susan Alcorn for organizing this event!

Saint James Day Celebration: On Saturday July 23, 2011, we are hosting a walk in San Francisco's Mission District on the Saturday before St. James Day. Join fellow pilgrims and follow the yellow arrows from historic Mission Delores to St. James Catholic Church where you will be recognized at the late afternoon Mass.

If you would like to participate in the Saint James Day celebration, please email us at norcalchapter@americanpilgrims.com. For planning purposes, please let us know if you are bringing friends/family.

Facebook users can find us at APOC-NorCal; be sure to "Like" us when you visit. ♦

Rennie Archibald & Bob Holm
Co-Coordinator

St. James Day Walk and Second Sunday Strolls Led by Puget Sound Chapter

The Puget Sound Chapter is once again this year hosting a walk in Seattle from St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral to St. James Cathedral for late afternoon Mass, with return to St. Mark's afterwards for a potluck. The walk will take place on Saturday, July 23. Meeting time is 2:30 p.m. at St. Mark's, 1245 Tenth Avenue East, in Seattle, and the walk will begin between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m. Mass is at 5:30, and St. James Cathedral is located at 804 9th Avenue in Seattle.

Second Sunday Strolls are monthly walks of three or six miles. Meeting time for the six-mile walk is 12:45 p.m. at the entrance to the Ballard Locks, 3015 54th Street, NW, Seattle for a 1 p.m. departure to Discovery Park, 3801

W. Government Way in Seattle. Walkers who only want to go three miles can join the group at Discovery Park at the main visitor center near the drinking fountain at around 1:45 p.m. Pace will not be too fast or slow, probably around two miles per hour. The next Second Sunday Stroll will be Sunday, August 14.

Rebecca Andrews &
Martha Crites
Co-Coordinator

My Favorite Pools

by Andrew Brown, Salem OR

After a summer's day of walking through the heat and dust of northern Spain, no sight was more inviting to me than a cool, oasis-like swimming pool. Some albergues now have their own lap pools or foot pools, but my passion has always been for the big municipal pools in towns like Hontanas, Hospital de Órbigo, and Portomarín.

The communal pool in Hontanas is 50m long, with lots of green grass around it and a nice bar on the premises that serves light food and cold beer. It is located almost at the edge of town and is totally worth the trip.

At more than 100m long and very wide, the biggest pool is in Hospital de Órbigo. It is located across the river via the new, short bridge, but just follow the signs that say *piscina*, which is Spanish for pool. This pool requires that swimmers wear a cap but you can purchase one for one euro at the entrance desk. There is a cool little restaurant/bar right next to the pool and a large grassy area, almost a park, with big trees and shade for lounging when you are not swimming.

The prettiest pool -- my favorite -- is in Portomarín. This pool is large, free, and set up as an infinity pool overlooking the river below. A mere five minute walk from the main street, this pool is my favorite as it always seemed full of people and the view is second to none.

A few tips on Spanish pools. Admission is free but in some cases you will need a cap to swim. No need to bring your own since you can purchase caps inexpensively on the spot. Municipal pools in Spain are very clean, but do remember to shower afterwards to remove the chlorine. Chlorine dries out your skin, and it is no fun to walk the next day in the sun with chlorine-bleached skin. Avoid staying in the sun too long at the pool. It may be tempting to try and mitigate some of the strange tan lines from the Camino with some poolside sunbathing, but the last thing you want in the morning is sunburned legs or a scorched back.

I had a great time swimming in Spain, and the pool is an obvious spot to spend some time with friends after a hot, long day walking. Just keep your eyes open for that *piscina* sign and enjoy! ♦

*Andrew's favorite pool in
Portomarín.
Photo by Andrew Brown.*



The Artist's Journey: The Perfumed Pilgrim Tackles the Camino de Santiago

by Marcia Shaver

Reviewed by Annette Argall, Baltimore MD

At the end of her book, *The Artist's Journey: The Perfumed Pilgrim Tackles the Camino de Santiago*, Marcia Shaver shares her packing list for would-be pilgrims that includes a couple of items most probably do not take: a sketchbook and pens and pencils.

Rather than engage in marathon walking, Shaver and her traveling companion, fellow artist Tannis Moore, allowed time in their day for drawing much as some pilgrims race off to see the local sites. Shaver's book is a record of how they experienced the Camino through the artist's eye, and interspersed with her narrative are the drawings she made throughout the journey.

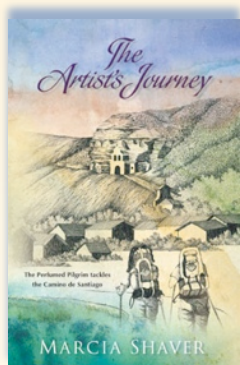
Shaver and Moore experienced many of the same insights and emotions expressed by other authors of many other

Camino books -- Camino camaraderie, perseverance through the aches and pains of long days of walking, history and architecture, the realization of the abundance that comes of simplicity, affectionately recalling the characters she met along the way. The uniqueness of this book is the visual experience of these particular pilgrims, and in true Camino fashion, their willingness to share it with the rest of us.

The subtitle of the book alludes to the 2 ounces of Chanel No. 5 that the author carried on her journey, but she could just as easily refer to herself as the visual pilgrim. When she isn't presenting us with a drawing, she gives us word pictures, always full of color and vivid descriptions. Although her drawings are in black and white, her language is full of the color and textures of the Camino, whether "eating sweet, juicy oranges in the sunshine," petting "a cream-colored burro

so shaggy and fluffy you could hardly see his face beneath all the hair wildly emerging in all directions," or contrasting gray slat roofs to the "bright yellow-green fields sprinkled with thousands of thriving red poppies."

In spite of its visual strengths, the narrative could use a more careful edit. The often-misspelled Spanish words and phrases are bothersome to Spanish speakers and possibly misleading to pilgrims not familiar with the language, especially the place names, and detract from an otherwise engaging book. Shaver's word pictures and drawings transport pilgrim veterans back to the Camino, and, one hopes, encourage new pilgrims to go see the images for themselves. ♦



Marcia Shaver's book is filled with her drawings from the Camino.

My Camino as Haiku

Two soles, but one soul
Camino captured her heart
One step at a time

by Kathy Kennerly, Fort Worth TX

Ways to “Unpack Your Camino”

By Tom Friesen
London ON Canada

At the Gathering in Santa Barbara, I was inspired by Grant Spangler’s session on “Integrating the Camino Experience into Daily Life.” Here are my ideas and some lessons from our local pilgrims in a discussion at a recent meeting:

- Continue walking. It got you to this place; walking can take you farther
- Understand. You have had a “focal living experience” as described by Arthur Paul Boers in his book *The Way is Made by Walking*
- Find other focal living experiences, such as art, music, service, creative expressions, celebrations, cooking, gardening, trail work
- Volunteer doing something important to you, such as:
 - Take hospitalero training and serving in Spain or France
 - Feed the homeless
 - Work at a food bank
 - Serve in your church, library or a local school
 - Resettle refugees
 - Volunteer at folk festivals
- Learn another language
 - Exchange language learning with someone else
 - Engage in conversation classes or groups
 - Read, write, and watch films to immerse yourself
- Journal and read the blogs of others, such as Rebekah Scott’s *Big Fun in a Tiny Pueblo* or Karen and Dayton Hypes’s *Hypeing the Camino*
- Read pilgrim accounts, such as *All the Good Pilgrims* by Robert Ward, *To the Field of Stars* by Kevin Codd, *I’m Off Then* by Hape Kerkeling, and *Among the Pilgrims* by Mary Wallis, to name but a few
- Start a book club
- Hold conversations over coffee
- Engage in songs and music
 - Listen with intent
 - Learn to play a musical instrument
 - Join a choir
 - Sing as you walk or serve
- Investigate other Caminos, such as labyrinths (as a mini pilgrimage) and hiking trails
- Host pilgrims in your home or at events, such as reunions and Spanish dinners



Tom Friesen
Photo by Grant Spangler,
Ojai CA

Many of the above reflect the lessons selected pilgrims learned from the Camino: to simplify; to prioritize; to meditate and reflect; to be mindful; to assume a state of peace; to serve and be other-directed; and to appreciate and count your blessings. ♦

The Great Boot Exchange

By Randy Bernard
Norwalk CA

I arrived in the tiny medieval village of Ages, 15 miles east of Burgos on May 17, 2008 (331 miles to Santiago). As in many albergues, the albergue El Pajar asked us to remove our boots and put them on a rack near the front door to help keep the floors clean.

The next morning, I got up with the late group at about 8 o'clock. When I began to put my boots on, I suddenly realized that they weren't my boots! Same color but a different lace pattern. When I looked more carefully, I saw they were a different brand and a half size larger than mine.

The few remaining pilgrims formed a search party, but after 15 minutes of looking,

my boots were nowhere to be found. We guessed that someone from the 6 a.m. departure group had unintentionally, in the darkness, taken my boots in error. I never did find my boots, but they probably arrived in Santiago a week before I did.

Luckily, my new boots were a half size larger than mine and fit me well. I continued on my pilgrimage in my fellow pilgrim's boots. In the beginning, I was not allowed to say anything bad about this person. Why? Because you can't complain about a person until you have walked a mile in his shoes. ♦



Pilgrim boots in the albergue

*Photo by Annette Argall
Baltimore MD*



They were not mine

Photos by Randy Bernard



I met a pilgrim in the Plaza de San Marcos in León who had his shoes off, but they were not mine.

Update on Walking East

As reported in previous issues of *La Concha*, Mike Metras and Petra Wolf reached Santiago de Compostela early in 2010 and continued walking east. At last report, Mike and Petra had reached the higher foothills and mountains of northern India in the city of Mcleodganj, Himachal Pradesh, which borders Tibet. From their hotel room, they could almost see the roof of the Dalai Lama's residence. Mike describes the mountains as "amazing" and the greatest they have ever seen and says he and Petra will traverse some of them as they make their way south.

¡Enhorabuena, Mike and Petra! You have made a great journey! ♦

¡Buen Provecho!

Pa Amb Tomaquet (Grilled Tomato Bread)

*By Kathy Kennerly
Fort Worth TX*

This is a very simple Catalan treat to eat as a tapa or to accompany soup and salad. It is a great way to use day-old bread.

- ◆ Bread – rustic style round loaf or crispy baguette, cut in ½ to ¾ inch slices
- ◆ Garlic – 2-3 cloves, peeled
- ◆ Tomato – fresh, ripe tomato, cut in half
- ◆ Olive oil – to drizzle
- ◆ Salt – Sea salt or coarse Kosher salt
- ◆ Toast the bread in a toaster or on a grill (preferred).
- ◆ Rub each piece of toast with the cut end of a garlic clove.
- ◆ Rub each piece of toast with the cut side of the fresh tomato, discarding the peel.
- ◆ Drizzle with olive oil. Sprinkle with coarse salt.

These tasty toasts are even better when topped with Manchego cheese, serrano ham, chorizo, tuna, sardines, or many other tasty morsels. ¡Buen provecho! ◆



*Pa Amb Tomaquet.
Photo courtesy of Kathy*

Saint James As American Pilgrim



*Statue of St. James found in the Cathedral
Basilica of St. James in
Brooklyn NY*

*Photo by Robert Holm
Alameda CA*

New Website for Confraternity of St. James of South Africa

Our pilgrim friends at the Confraternity of St. James of South Africa have just launched a new [website](#) and invite you to take a look. ◆

A Miserable Day

By John Barrett
Oak Park IL

It rained again all day yesterday. Everybody was miserable and had no respite as we all squelched, slopped, splashed, and splattered our way forward into Pamplona. For some reason we all stayed more or less together and gathered for coffee and tapas, a wet, sodden and cold group, in the first open bar we found.

I awoke next morning to the sound of a still persistent rainfall and set out to explore the city in the rain. It looked like it was going to be another miserable day.

I wandered into the church of San Lorenzo and was overwhelmed by the display of the saints, and of the Saint Himself in his special niche – his golden face dark, apparently not from age or smoke from the candles, but rather because he was dark skinned.

As I gazed, the little church began to fill up with people and Mass began. Although I could not

understand the Spanish, I was familiar enough with the ritual to follow along with what was happening and to make some of the responses in Latin. At the sign of peace, the point in the Mass where the congregation turns and greets each other, the little old lady next to me asked me if I was a pilgrim to Santiago and seemed very pleased when I said “yes.”

I felt strangely fulfilled at being identified as a pilgrim – sans backpack and shell.



A Miserable Day
Photo by John Barrett

Suddenly the rain did not matter anymore. I was a pilgrim on a pilgrimage. I was in the right place at the right time. I was at peace with my surroundings and myself.

I was struck by the sense of community once again. Everybody was singing, nicely and in good harmony. It seems to me that we all seek this kind of harmony of the spirit – not alone with our natural surrounding but with our human neighbors. It brings with it a great sense of peace. Disruption of the harmony causes us to feel uneasy and to look again for the peace that we seek. We can choose to go against the harmony, but to find it once again we need to try to correct what we have done to disturb the peace. We seek forgiveness.

I wondered if we walk to maintain the peace that we have found or to find the harmony that we have lost? ♦

Tip Board

Suggestions from and for pilgrims. Please send us yours.

♦ I wrapped each of the straps of my backpack with a seatbelt pad to make it more comfortable for my shoulders. These handy cushions, with Velcro closures, are available in the automotive department of big box discounters or at automotive suppliers. I paid \$2.98 each. Really works! *Kathy Kennerly, Fort Worth TX*



Camino Signs

There is no end to the variety of yellow arrows on the Camino. Whether their maker is well-known or unknown, they have the same purpose: to guide pilgrims.



*In Cologne Germany
Photo by Robert Holm
Alameda CA*



*Seen on the Camino
Photo by Lynn Talbot
Blacksburg VA*



*Going to Eunatē
Photo by Roy Draggoo
Seattle WA*

The Blessing of Gratitude

From the [Blogspot](#) of Teresa O'Kane
San Jose CA

It seems almost everyone has a reason for hiking The Camino. Scott and I want to walk the Camino because, like the Annapurna in Nepal, or The Shokoku in Japan, it is one of the great long distance hikes in the world. The Camino de Santiago is another journey long enough in distance and time for us to immerse ourselves in a different culture. That alone makes it a worthy enough pursuit for us.

But, as corny as it sounds, two weeks into the hike I realized that, for me, it is also a walk of gratitude. It seems I wake up everyday feeling grateful - for Scott, for my family, and for good friends. Also, I think about my parents almost everyday. Someone once said that the greatest gift one can give another person is a happy childhood and I'm really grateful for mine. Mom and Dad are with me everyday.

While it may not be for entirely "spiritual" reasons that we are hiking the Way of St. James, though, if feeling grateful is not somehow spiritual, I don't know what is. ♦

Association News

Meet Your Board

Over the next few issues, we will be featuring brief bios of various Board members. Enjoy getting to know a bit more about them.

Jim Eychaner

Jim Eychaner, who serves as Board Chair, works as a policy and planning specialist for the State of Washington, focusing on recreation and conservation. He is planning to retire this September. When not doting on his two grandchildren (ages 5 and almost 2 years), Jim can be found bicycle touring, performing character roles in Ballet Northwest, and supporting the Seattle Sounders pro soccer team.

One of his favorite Camino moments was when he and his wife Maureen (Mo) were huddled together on a cold evening in the citadel of St. Jean



Pied de Port as holiday fireworks explode directly overhead. Another favorite memory is walking out of Grado on the Camino Primitivo into the country side on a morning so

quiet that when he stopped, he could hear the mist dripping from leaf to leaf on the trees overhead. ♦

Daniel De Kay

Daniel De Kay has been a Board member for the past five years and serves as American Pilgrims' coordinator for hospitalero training. He has been an emergency room and helicopter flight nurse and for the past 20 years and has taught wilderness medicine for the Wilderness Medicine Institute.

Daniel is a surfer and maintains a



small home in southern Mexico in order to pursue his surfing passion in warm waters. He has travelled, surfed, and taught throughout the world. One of his fondest Camino memories is of placing his hand in the handprint etched into the pillar just inside the cathedral of Santiago. "It was like touching hands with the millions of pilgrims who have come before me, there was such an energy there." ♦

Contributors

A special thank you to all the writers, photographers, and artists who contributed to this edition of La Concha. Your talents are much appreciated.

- ♦ Annette Argall
- ♦ John Barrett
- ♦ Randy Bernard
- ♦ Andrew Brown
- ♦ Daniel De Kay
- ♦ Roy Draggoo
- ♦ Jim Eychaner
- ♦ Tom Friesen

- ♦ Robert Holm
- ♦ Kathy Kennerly
- ♦ Marlena Lambert
- ♦ Sandy Lenthall
- ♦ Mike Metras
- ♦ Teresa O'Kane
- ♦ Grant Spangler
- ♦ Scott Tiffin
- ♦ Lynn Talbot



Thank You, Martha López

Team La Concha reluctantly bids farewell to team member Martha López, as she leaves La Concha to savor other challenges and tackle other goals. Martha's artistic eye, ability to create visually stunning formats, and her talent for making everything fit on each page will be missed. She will still apply her talents to *Hospitalero News*, American Pilgrims' newsletter for hospitaleros, which is published twice a year. This summer, Martha is somewhere between Canterbury and Rome as she travels the Vía Francígena with several American Pilgrims companions. ¡Buen Camino, Martha! and many thanks for all your excellent work. ♦

Team La Concha Needs Another Team Member..Or Two

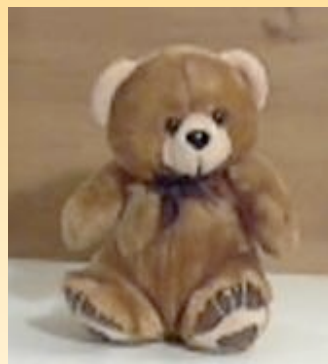
Are you a wizard at Mac Pages? Can you do newsletter layout in your sleep? Team La Concha needs YOU! With the departure of layout expert extraordinaire Martha López, we are looking for someone who is knowledgeable in desktop publishing, especially Mac Pages, has a good eye for design, and is willing to volunteer to help us produce our quarterly American Pilgrims newsletter. The rest of the team provides edited copy and suggested photos and other images. If you are interested or would like to ask us questions about what is involved, please email newsletter@americanpilgrims.com. ♦

Interactive Hospitalero Registry Planned

You've asked for it – and, we're going to make it happen! At Gathering 2011, participants in the Hospitalero Roundtable led by Kathy Kennerly asked for an interactive database specific to hospitalero service in albergues on all of the various Camino paths throughout Spain. We are currently developing just such a database that will be hosted on the American Pilgrims website. The new site will allow our members to exchange information at any time about various postings. To get the database started, we want to know where you have served and when, and if you have plans to serve this year. Please send your info, as well as any questions or suggestions about the new database to hospitaleros@americanpilgrims.com. Your full participation is welcome! ♦

Calling All Special Friends

Do you travel the Camino with a special friend? No, not your college roommate or your favorite brother-in-law. We were thinking more along the lines of the little fellow pictured to the right. We know some of you do, and we'd like to hear from you...and feature your special companion in an upcoming issue of La Concha. Tell us: newsletter@americanpilgrims.com ♦





Welcome, New Members!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members who joined American Pilgrims on the Camino February through June 2011. We look forward to meeting you at future Gatherings and events.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ◆ Warren Alberts | ◆ Janet Ferguson | ◆ Tim Prince |
| ◆ Aida Anderson | ◆ Veronica Fleming | ◆ Oni Regil |
| ◆ Roger Anderson | ◆ Robert Foley | ◆ Dawn Ringsmuth |
| ◆ Dana Baggett | ◆ Nancy Foley | ◆ Maureen Small |
| ◆ Peggy Beaman | ◆ Jessie Formica | ◆ Charlotte Smith |
| ◆ Chris Beck | ◆ Joseph Formica | ◆ Lydia Smith |
| ◆ Jimikaye Beck | ◆ Marcia Fulham | ◆ Michael Smith |
| ◆ Ashley Boverkamp | ◆ Patrick Daniel Gaffney | ◆ Ted Smith |
| ◆ Carly Boverkamp | ◆ MaryEllen Gallagher | ◆ Ava Soifer |
| ◆ Frederick Bovenkamp | ◆ Pantaleon Guilbaud | ◆ Scott Soper |
| ◆ Sharon Boverkamp | ◆ Maureen Hagan | ◆ Diane Sova |
| ◆ Stacey Brazell | ◆ John Harrison | ◆ David Speir |
| ◆ Russell Briscoe | ◆ Donald Harty | ◆ Neusa Speir |
| ◆ Jane Bruner | ◆ Linnea Hendrickson | ◆ Laurie Stamell |
| ◆ Rob Bunnell | ◆ Jeanne Herrick | ◆ Molly Stamell |
| ◆ Al Buyco | ◆ Kimball Hobbs | ◆ Jose Suarez |
| ◆ Chelsea Buyco | ◆ Doug Holloway | ◆ Linda Sutter |
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*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 August 31, 2011. We welcome your questions, comments, and submissions at

newsletter@americanpilgrims.com. You can also submit to the street address provided below.
¡Buen Camino!

Your Newsletter Team -

*Cherie Pagett, Annette Argall,
Zita Macy*

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