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# LA CONCHA

Newsletter of American Pilgrims on the Camino  
December 2015



*My wife Monica Armanino crossing Italy's Apennines Mountain on the Via di Francesco (Way of St. Francis) in fall 2015.*

## Angels - A Camino Lesson

*by David Jennings, Kings Beach CA*

We were hiking Italy's Via di Francesco (Way of St. Francis) and arrived late, muddy, and tired in Valfabrica. We had made no reservations, and of the two recommended accommodations for pilgrims one was closed and the other *completo* (full). We decided to take the bus to the next town, Assisi. We went into a shop and asked the clerk about the bus schedule – there was no bus or taxi. Without anything further from us the clerk told us to come with her. We followed, out of the shop and down the street, as she made several inquiries, all with negative results. Undeterred, she went back the other way again knocking on doors. Then with a big smile she motioned us to join

her; she had found us lodging. Asking for nothing but to share our joy, she returned to her shop. Incidentally, she never questioned who or what we were, and we do not speak Italian, and she didn't speak English.

She was a Camino Angel, one of the many we have encountered along 1500 Camino miles. Angels are not rare, not few and far between, nor are they only on the Camino. It is a natural reaction built into all of us. Unfortunately, we allow our fears and prejudices to over shadow our responses. The lesson of the Camino is that the successful journey that is life requires each of us to be a practicing Angel. ♦

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## Message From the Chair

As the year draws to a close, I cannot help but reflect upon its highs and lows. 2015 will perhaps most be remembered as the year of the tragedy of Denise Thiem, which changed the perception of the Camino for many. The joy of taking a walk through strikingly beautiful terrain and rich historical sites with others of like mind from all over the globe was marred by the reality of ugliness in the world.

Yet 2015 was also the year when pilgrims appeared on the Camino in record-breaking numbers, perhaps with more watchfulness over each other, and with even more attentiveness to the needs and safety of pilgrims on the part of those living in cities and villages and operating albergues along The

Way. This concern for pilgrims was also reflected in the collaboration between the Cathedral of Santiago and Galician government to renovate



*photo by Gene McCullough, Denver CO*

and open a new Pilgrim Center that will more comfortably and efficiently welcome pilgrims. Greater too were the numbers of volunteers from many countries who traveled to Spain at their own expense to support the Camino infrastructure and maintain a positive pilgrim experience.

So, in the midst of sadness, the love and care within the Camino community continues. Perhaps it was best expressed by one of our fellow pilgrim associations in France in response to condolences sent by the board of American Pilgrims on the Camino after the Paris tragedy in November:

*Dear friends, we reaffirm our commitment to peace and tolerance and the important role of the Camino to promote cultural diversity and dialogue beyond all our differences. Walking, traditions, pilgrim gatherings and hospitality are our instruments to build a world of peace instead of weapons of violence and hatred. Thank you again for your messages. Love to all your members. ♦*

*iUltreia in 2016!*

*Cheryl Grasmoe*  
Board Chair



*Monastery of St. Julian of Samos, founded in the sixth century, is in Galicia, Spain.*

*photo by Gene Cheltenham, Los Angeles CA*



## Xacobeo News

This fall, the Government of Galicia approved the *Master and Strategic Plan of the Way of St. James in Galicia 2015-2021*, which will serve as a roadmap to establish guidelines to promote restoration and protection of The Way in Galicia, while coordinating each public and private actor concerned. The plan anticipates the arrival of more than 460,000 pilgrims in Galicia by 2021,

the next Holy Year, and envisions what should be put in place by then to serve them. For comparison, 260,000 pilgrims arrived to Santiago in the first eleven months of 2015.

The plan was developed with input from 170 organizations, including public entities, associations of Friends of the Camino, the Church, hoteliers and tour operators, and researchers on the history and culture of the Camino, among others. It takes into account every aspect of the Camino, from increased collaboration to conservation and maintenance, environmental sustainability, higher quality services, and better communication about the history and culture of the Camino.

The plan's desired vision for the Camino in Galicia in 2021 includes: well-equipped hostels with efficient energy, water, and waste management systems; wifi in all public hostels; an app with necessary information (distances, services, cultural highlights, etc.) for every stage of the Camino; qualified professionals, with at least 80% of them speaking English, to care for pilgrims in the hostels; a rest area every 20 km., recycling containers every 15 km., be, and a source of drinking water every 20 km. Enhanced security and safety are also addressed in the plan.

### Other News from Santiago...

#### **The Pilgrims' Office has moved!**

The Pilgrims' Office, where arriving pilgrims receive their compostela, is now located at Rúa Carretas, 33, is just outside the Praça do Obradoiro. Signs in Santiago will help guide pilgrims to the new location. ♦

## Annette Argall



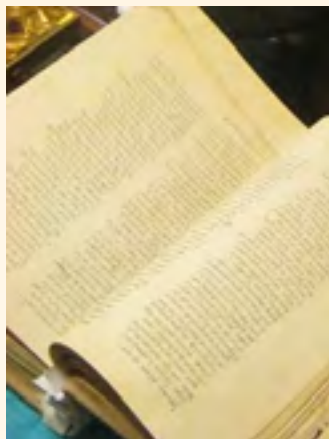
Special recognition and gratitude go to Annette Argall for her contributions to American Pilgrims on the Camino. Although Annie officially left the board of directors at the end of 2014 after 6 years during which time she served as secretary, chair of the grants committee, member of the nominations committee and international liaison, Annie continued her work on the La Concha team through this issue. Her contribution of time and talent have been extraordinary. Not one to rest on her laurels, Annie, a veteran hospitalera, is now serving as a trainer in the hospitalero program and is involved in coordination of the volunteer abroad projects for American Pilgrims on the Camino. Thank you, Annie, for your many contributions. ♦





# The Camino and Manuscripts

by Benjamin Smith, PhD, Richfield UT



The Camino offers so much! The pilgrimage gives generously in terms of fond friendships, breathtaking vistas, awe-inspiring architecture, and copious comestibles shared selflessly when we are worn out and travel weary.

For me, personally, one of the things I

love most about Spain is the treasure of books going all the way back to the Middle Ages. The history of the Spanish language parallels the growth of the Camino. Monks coming from France into Spain built monasteries along this ancient thoroughfare and cultivated a literary tradition. They recorded oral histories on vellum and immortalized miracle tales of the Virgin Mary. Some of the most famous legends were about Santiago and his intervention on behalf of the Christians.

While many manuscripts are housed in the special collections of university and national libraries, there are accessible samples of some of the most beautiful on display in monasteries as works of art. Many of these centers for learning and repositories of knowledge still stand today and are often overlooked by pilgrims who are too weary to stand any longer than necessary at the end of their 6-8 hour daily hikes. However, for those who still find reserves of energy for further enlightenment, the following sites stand out as unforgettable stops for a bibliophile along The Way:

1) The Monasteries of San Millán de la Cogolla, just south of the route between Azofra and Santo Domingo de la Calzada, is known as the birthplace of the Spanish language because it was here that the first evidences of Castilian Spanish are found. In the *Glosas Emilianenses*, monks scribbled notes in the margins and between the lines of an 11th Century Latin manuscript in a language they could understand.

2) La Biblioteca Jacobea in the Monastery of San Zoilo on the western edge of Carrión de los Condes. This little-known but ornately decorated library claims to house every book and pamphlet written or recorded about the Camino. This monastery is situated perfectly at the half-way point between St. Jean Pied de Port and Santiago de Compostela.

3) The TEMPLUM LIBRI exhibit in the Castillo de los Templarios in Ponferrada is a gem where a part of the castle is set aside as a museum devoted to some of the most beautiful manuscripts ever published.

For additional information on these and other manuscript sites, see a more detailed essay by the author at [www.americanpilgrims.org/essays](http://www.americanpilgrims.org/essays), or contact him directly at [benjtsmithy@gmail.com](mailto:benjtsmithy@gmail.com). ♦



## Congratulations, Authors!

### Recent Camino-related publications include:

- *On the Primitive Way-Two Texan Brothers Journey to Santiago de Compostela*. by Landon Roussel  
We hope to include reviews of these books in future issues of *La Concha*.

## The Signs

by Jim Eychaner, Olympia WA

Cold January darkness was my oppressive companion as I sat alone on my bed in Logroño. Legs outstretched, I could not help but focus on the pain in my feet. Affirmations and mindfulness were elusive. Several blisters, two types of rash, and aching connectors demanded their dues.

I had walked only a week. I had left St. Jean in the cold and cloudless dark, stars whispering. Winter shadows had added to the beauty of the Valcarlos path as the short day lured me on. Somehow, even though I had trained to walk 12-14 miles a day, I knew this stage this day was too far.

I needed shorter walking days. The early January closures denied that need.

The first days of walking had been seductive: clear, ice blue sky, solitary paths. Then my feet started to rebel. I had been paying attention, I thought, but apparently not enough.

Then the signs appeared. In Pamplona, I went to the Cathedral to pay my respects. As I was about to step over the threshold, the caretaker blocked my way and shook a fistful of keys in my face. Closing time. No respects from you!

Leaving Estella, I found the famous wine fountain. I wondered if the pipes were turned off for

winter but I still hoped for a taste of that famous experience. Nothing from either spout. No wine for you!

Approaching Los Arcos, I walked with a retired gentleman. He communicated with a few shared words, many gestures, and smart phone apps. It seems he had been a doctor. In Los Arcos, we went to a bar for lunch. After eating, he gestured to say, "You have blisters. You walk out of alignment, and that will hurt your knees and other joints. Take a rest. Look, a bus schedule. A bus to Logroño will be here in 10 minutes. No walking for you!" Then he disappeared.

I finished my coffee, then went outside. After an inner argument, I boarded the bus. On board, I used my apps to find a place in Logroño.

The hostel manager in Logroño was helpful, treating my feet with an antifungal, aloe, and bandages. Thinking ahead, I knew I was in trouble. No short days, companionless paths, closed albergues, and snow forecast.

I knew the Camino was telling me to go home. As my train left for Madrid, I cried obedient tears. ♦

## Along the Journey

by Sara Kay Smith, Burlington WI

Walk with me my sisters,  
Share the silent rhythm of our movement along the road.

Your spirit is in stride with mine.

We share words not spoken but known.  
We hum melodies that spring from our soul.

I see you my sister, my niece; my friends.

I know you as you know me.

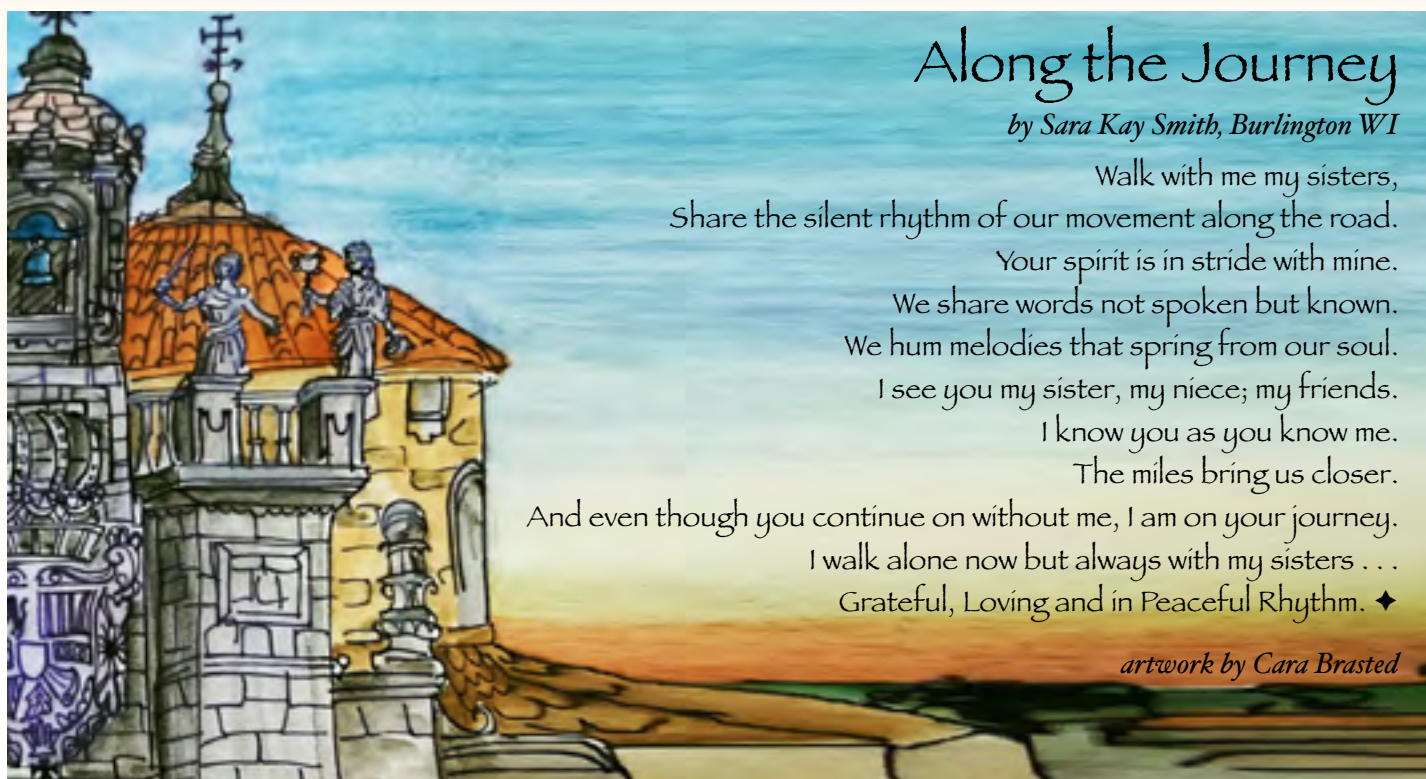
The miles bring us closer.

And even though you continue on without me, I am on your journey.

I walk alone now but always with my sisters . . .

Grateful, Loving and in Peaceful Rhythm. ♦

artwork by Cara Brasted



# Above the Clouds

*by Bill Arbaugh, Ft. Pierce FL*



Although not my first Camino, my 2015 Camino started in May as I began walking from Roncesvalles because the weather was too bad to cross the Pyrenees from St Jean. Many of my fellow pilgrims made sure to tell me about the American who had died of a heart attack the day before up on the mountain. Such concern...

I completed the walk without too many issues on July 4. The only real challenge was the Meseta, where it went from driving, cold, mud-sticking rain to burning heat of over 40C. I met many very nice international people, which I would reflect on later while walking the Chemin St Jacques in France.

The second phase of my 1000-mile Camino started in September at Le Puy-en-Velay. I had checked my backpack when I left from Washington DC because hiking poles are not allowed on aircraft cabins. It was lost in transit somewhere between London and Barcelona. After dithering a day without receiving my pack, I bought another backpack, poles and heavy shirt and started anyway. My 20-lb. pack caught up with me 4 days later, by which time I realized I did not need most of the stuff in it.

France is much different from Spain. I was asked many times, "What is the difference between the Le Puy Chemin and the Camino Francés?" My answers tended to upset the nice people in France so I learned to avoid the topic. Perhaps the short answer would be that most people I met walking in France were French and not going to Santiago, while most people I met walking in Spain are international and are going to Santiago.

The most beautiful part of the Le Puy Chemin for me was the first section from Le Puy to Conques, although some days I had a hard time seeing through the rain. The only challenge I had in France was with the need for reservations everywhere, which became a significant problem if plans had to be changed due to weather or for rest.

My most memorable day was the walk from St. Jean over the Pyrenees. We had been told they would close the pass on November 1, and I did not want to miss completing my 1000-mile Camino. The day I left St Jean was overcast and threatening. I walked 5 hours up in heavy mist before breaking through above the clouds. That moment was worth the 3 months of walking. ♦



# I Know How to Walk

by Ann Loar Brooks, Baltimore MD

I learned when I was one  
no younger  
no older than most

My baby book carries  
no note  
no exclamation mark  
no date  
no place  
no mention  
of my hands  
reaching out  
as I waddled toward my mother

I'm a third child  
few moments are noted  
in my book

without that  
first step  
I could not walk  
500 miles  
along the Camino

without that  
first step  
I could not take  
1,000,000 steps  
from the Pyrenees to Galicia

My mother  
can no longer walk  
her home  
is a motorized wheel chair  
morning noon night

No one noted the day  
she gave up  
walking  
ceased sitting  
on a sofa  
stopped sleeping  
in a bed

No one had a ceremony  
marking her  
transition

In her guest book  
there is no mention  
of her hands  
reaching out  
as she moved  
from wheelchair  
to walker  
to portable commode  
and back again  
in the time I take  
to walk one mile

I know how to walk

My mother does too

I still can

And for 500 miles  
I will carry her  
with me

November 13, 2015

# A Taste of Home

by Bruno Bruelhart, Hobbs NM

Pascal, Robert, and I had been walking throughout France together for the past four weeks. We met on the road to Le Puy in a cozy gîte just a few days' march from the Swiss border. Intrigued by a lone American wandering the Chemin St. Jacques as much as I was enamored with the idea of a Frenchman and Austrian being walking companions, the three of us informally decided to continue our walk to Santiago – a full 1500 kms distance – together. Thus started the Lazy Pilgrims (but that's a story for another day).

France is a wonderful place, especially for pilgrims, and there are many days I wish I simply turned back in Santiago and returned to France. The people are beyond kind and were ever eager to welcome pilgrims into their homes and establishments. More than once I was greeted with a mixture of incredulity and wonder; apparently, Americans don't walk the Chemin St. Jacques. To many, I was a novelty. To me, France was an incredible experience impossible to replicate. The spirit of Camino – camaraderie, friendship, adversity – is emblazoned upon that entire, wonderful nation. The 44 days spent walking her countryside will never be enough.

Yet, despite how thrilling France was to me, I could not help but hunger for something of home. Reminders of America took many forms: the elderly



(Left to Right) Hans (Austria), Paul (Poland) and Natalia (France).

French gentleman sporting a 101st Airborne hat, local wine with Bernard to celebrate Independence Day, and being called Monsieur America at various gîtes. As much as I fell for France, I was soon becoming quite homesick; it would be another two months before returning to the States.

We stayed in a *gîte* about two weeks' walk from Spain, and, fortunately enough, the town was equipped with a supermarket. As I wandered about the store (I was the cook), I stumbled upon something of incredible significance: tortillas. I hail from New Mexico where Mexican cuisine is as ubiquitous as burgers. Tortillas? In France? Truly, I was blessed. Elated, I purchased several necessary ingredients to make fajitas to share with my walking comrades.

It was a meal of plenty, a meal of the Camino, where people from all over the world gathered around the same table to share not only their food but also their lives. That day in France when we all dined on fajitas is one of my favorite memories of the Camino because it truly was the Camino. ♦



(Left to Right) Hans (Austria), Robert (Austria), Pascal (France), Christian (Austria), Markus (Germany)



## Acoger Como Hermanos Program

by Dave Correa, Intervale NH

It was my honor and privilege to be selected to serve as a volunteer at the Pilgrims' Office in Santiago de Compostela under the Acoger Como Hermanos program. I was first alerted to the opportunity by an email sent from American Pilgrims on the Camino in May. I immediately applied and was accepted in June to volunteer in October. I must admit that at first I was a little intimidated by it, as I had no idea what my duties would be or what was expected of me.

I arrived in Santiago the day before I was scheduled to start, and I highly recommend that anyone who volunteers also do so. When I went to the Pilgrims' Office, I was introduced and welcomed by volunteers and staff. I was issued my t-shirts, which are used to identify volunteers, given a time to report to the office for duty, and shown to my accommodation.

The apartment was shared with two other volunteers and included a full kitchen and washer/dryer combination. I was fortunate to share my flat with a volunteer from France who worked in the welcome office for French-speaking pilgrims. He was a wealth of information and his story was inspiring (as are ALL pilgrim stories). We started

every morning with breakfast and a discussion of the previous day's encounter with pilgrims. Every evening found volunteers and staff enjoying wine and tapas at various local bars until the wee hours, bonding and discussing personal insights and observations that enlightened and inspired. Learning what the Camino means to other individuals, challenges us to ask questions about our own evaluation of our Camino experience.

Another facility, Pilgrim House, is a valuable resource, providing backpack storage, laundry, boarding pass printing as well as assistance with obtaining reservations and directions. The office, located on Rua Vilar, is staffed by a group of extremely helpful and accommodating multi-lingual volunteers who live in Santiago.

Perhaps the most important and the most rewarding part of the job is greeting pilgrims after their long, tedious, and often painful pilgrimage. The job description can include helping pilgrims find their albergue or other accommodations, helping them find a place to eat, providing them with a map or other directions, directing them to a quiet place for reflection, offering a kind word, a hug, or an attentive ear. ♦

## A Packing Essential

by Cheryl Grasmoen, North Oaks MN



There's an item on my Camino packing list that I won't leave behind. It's a heavy duty large black garbage bag for which I've found at least three important uses.

1. On my second Camino, I came to know *chinchés* (bedbugs). The little nocturnal creatures can be kept out of your pack where they love to hide if you put the pack in the garbage bag overnight when in an albergue or hostel where *chinchés* are suspected.

2. If you believe that they already have infested your pack, then you can bake them by putting

your pack in the bag and placing it in the hot sun, rotating it occasionally.

3. And this summer I discovered a third use. If you have stayed on the pilgrim floor in San Martin Pinario, you may have experienced the motion-activated hall lights, going on and off in the wee hours and illuminating your room through the glass transom window. I found that I could shut the black plastic bag in the top of the door and drape it over the transom, ensuring a night of uninterrupted sleep.

Why bring one from all the way from the U.S.? I have tried unsuccessfully to find large heavy duty black plastic bags in Spain. It's a lightweight and useful addition to my pack. ♦

# National Gathering, April 7–10, 2016 : Telling the Story Within

by Martha Crites, Seattle WA



The 19th Annual Gathering returns to the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Illinois.

Keynote speaker Brian Bouldrey proposes that the quick plane ride home leaves a modern pilgrim feeling something is unfinished. Braiding the strands of physical, spiritual and emotional experience into story can complete the journey. Bouldrey is the editor of several anthologies on pilgrimage and teaches writing at Northwestern University.

New this year is the choice of Thursday afternoon events for early arrivers:

- 1) A writing workshop by Brian Bouldrey with exercises to stir Camino memories.
- 2) A tour of nearby Cahokia Mounds, the largest, most complex archaeological site north of Mexico's pre-Columbian cities, by Dr. Margaret Kimball Brown, former site manager. <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/198/>

The main agenda begins Thursday evening with classical guitar by Rene Izquierdo, who offered the first free concert in Carrión de los Condes. Next, Lou Flessner leads the Pilgrim Ice Breaker that was so popular in Menlo Park.

Sessions continue with Maggie Finefrock on the Camino as a hero's journey, George Greenia

on How St. James Got a Blessing from the Pope and Heather Warfield on transformation through narrative. James Green gives an anthropologist's take on pilgrimage, and Lisa Calvin talks about Camino graffiti. Maryjane Dunn leads Lynn Talbot and Annie Hesp in a panel discussion of Personal Narrative. We learn about Secret Caminos from Cheryl Grasmoe and Yosmar Martinez. Did we mention the Orujo Tasting with Jeff Stys? The Quemada Ceremony?

Breakout Sessions contain the usual favorites. Others feature Lesley Harman on Women's Issues, Ann Sieben on Pilgrimage to Quebec, and Kris Ashton on Camino Presentations. New pilgrims will be interested in Packing Tips, New Pilgrim Q & A, the Shell Ceremony and Tom Alyea on journaling.

In the spirit of storytelling, we have two late-night movie offerings this year: *Camino de Santiago* by Swiss filmmaker Jonas Frei and *Phil's Camino* by Annie O'Neil. Don't forget you have a chance to tell your own tales at the Camino 5 x 5.

Sunday morning gives a space for reflection with William Schmidt, author of *Walking with Stones* and Annie O'Neil, author of *Everyday Camino*.

The 2016 Gathering promises to have something for everyone. Please join us! Online registration at [www.americanpilgrims.org](http://www.americanpilgrims.org). ♦.

# “Indiana, Our Indiana, Indiana We’re all for You”

by Linda Dilling with Jonathan Gurney, Warsaw IN



*Jonathan and Carol  
photo by David Cook*

On April 12, 2014, I scaled the Pyrenees at age 66 with my 30 pound backpack. Before the albergue at Orisson, I met Kevin and Robin from Alaska who begged me to stay overnight, but I was determined to continue.

About 5 p.m. a hospitalero on his return from Roncesvalles determined I wouldn’t arrive at Roncesvalles until 11 p.m. He advised me to stay overnight in the Mountain Hut.

I arrived at the Mountain Hut just before dark, grateful that the Camino was well monitored by caring hospitaleros. In Roncesvalles, Kevin and Robin were happy I had made it safely.

Two days later, I was advised by another hospitalero, who commented that he could see I had brought all of America with me, to pack up half in Pamplona and mail it to Santiago.

The following day, I met Jonathan from Virginia at the Post Office in Pamplona doing the same thing. He had heard from Kevin and Robin about a lady from Indiana who stayed in the Mountain Hut overnight. When I told him it

was me, he asked to take my picture.

A few days later I met Jonathan again. The only bunk left in Puente la Reina was above Jonathan’s. Grateful we could communicate in English, we lay wearily in our bunks spilling our respective stories. Interestingly, he had lived in Indiana and was an IU alumnus.

Not until Galicia did I meet up with Jonathan again. When he saw me approaching, he started singing IU’s Hoosier fight song: “Indiana, our Indiana, Indiana we’re all for you.”

In Santiago, I saw Kevin and Robin and mentioned Jonathan to whom they had related my mountain hut story. They had kept in contact with him and assured me he would arrive the next day.

Fast forward to July 25, 2015. Invited by David Cook who heads up the HOTC (Hoosiers on the Camino), I joined the group at his house to celebrate the Feast of Saint James. One gentleman there looked vaguely familiar. I heard someone ask his name. “Jonathan” was his reply.

I wheeled around astonished. “Jonathan!” I called. “Linda!” was his response. He still had the picture he took of me at the Post Office in Pamplona on his iPhone. Jonathan had moved back to Indiana to be closer to family, especially his two grandchildren. ♦

*My mountain hut shelter.*



## Chapter News

American Pilgrims membership continues to grow throughout our 31 chapters around the country. The [interactive map](#) on the American Pilgrims website shows where Chapters are located, and you can find a listing of activities in local chapters. If there isn't a chapter near you and you would like to explore the possibility of forming one, contact our Chapter Liaison at [chapters@americanpilgrims.org](mailto:chapters@americanpilgrims.org) ♦

### Orlando Chapter



*Orlando Chapter members are all smiles at the Endless Summer gathering in New Smyrna Beach Aug. 29.*

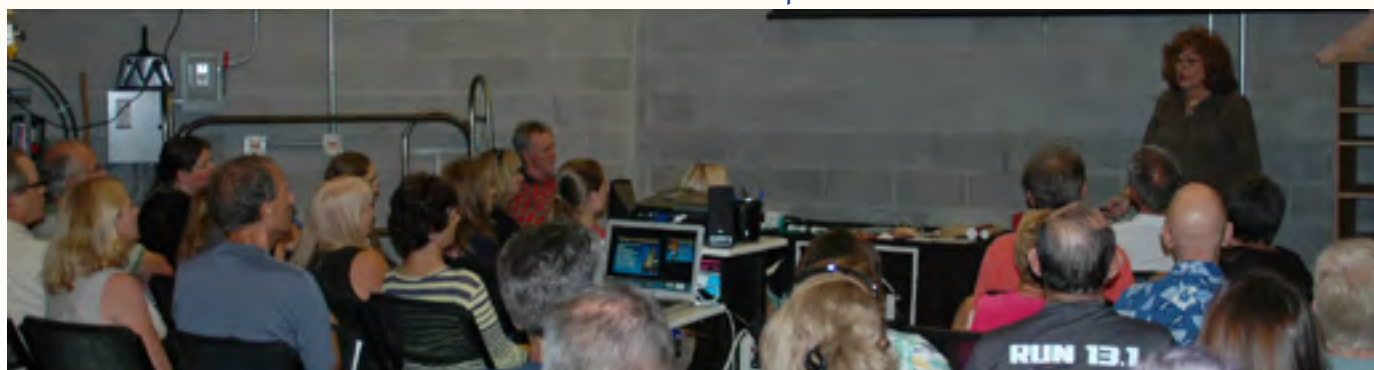
The Orlando Chapter is growing. On a blustery Saturday in late August, with a tropical storm threatening, 27 chapter members gathered at the Baldwin Beach House, just a few steps from a grey Atlantic Ocean in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. Co-chair Rick Baldwin, generously provided the meeting space, the Spanish wine, and the paella for the evening.

Seventeen of those members were not only new to the Orlando chapter, but new to the Camino. In deference to the needs of the would-be pilgrims, co-chair Casey Blanton, designed a series of small group discussion sessions geared to bringing veterans and newbies together for fellowship and information. Each group met in one of five Camino 'towns' and their discussions followed a guided set of questions inspired by Lou Flessner's "Camino Ice Breaker" from the 2015 Gathering.

In a jam-packed evening of smiles and hugs and tapas, there was also time for a short beach walk and the opportunity to watch the documentary, *Walking the Camino: Six Ways to Santiago*. As a bonus, we even had a Sunday morning screening of a rare and lesser known documentary, *Within the Way Without*, released in 2004 by the Confraternity of St. James and provided by the Orlando Chapter's spiritual leader, Miriam Gallet. The evening was over when the last of the Tarta de Santiago was gone along with the Tempranillo. But the group's camaraderie and heartfelt commitment to the Camino remain strong. ♦

*Co-coordinators: Richard Baldwin & Casey Blanton*

### Jacksonville Chapter



*Jacksonville Chapter co-coordinator Miriam Gallet gives a *Walking the Camino de Santiago* talk to 47 participants at the Jacksonville REI Store July 31. The talk assisted future pilgrims plan their trip and generated new APOC members. ♦*  
*Co-coordinators: Miriam Gallet and David Dufresne*

## Chapter News

### Valley of the Sun Chapter

We send our condolences to the Texas Gulf Coast on the passing of Mary Jane Miller.

After a long, hot summer of mentoring fifteen pilgrims for their journey and welcoming the cool weather here in Phoenix once again, we are ready for our next season. Aleida and Carol, the chapter coordinators, spent two months in Spain. The first two weeks were spent as hospitaleras in Ribadiso on the Camino Francés for the pilot program through the Xacobeo, and it was a much-appreciated experience. Aleida walked the Camino Portugués afterwards, while Carol walked the Camino Inglés. Aleida also volunteered at the Pilgrims' Office in Santiago.

We now begin our season again with our get-togethers, information sharing, mentoring, walks and presentations, not only of the Caminos but of other walks around the world. We continue to expand our traveling library for our pilgrims. We invite any members visiting our area to please contact us and we can personally welcome them. Have a wonderful holiday season and we wish all a safe and healthy upcoming year! Buen Camino! ♦

Co-coordinators: Aleida Howard & Carol McCulloch



*Carol and Aleida, Ribadiso, Spain*



*Tokens made by Aleida for pilgrims, Ribadiso, Spain*





## Meditations on a Bench

*by Mike Gurski, Richmond Hill ON Canada*

Mais Oui, il est un cochon de banc,” Louis lowered his end of the concrete slab that would make up the back of the bench, onto the extruded bolts. A good eight feet in length shaped to give the most comfort. Their socket set made quick work of the recessed nuts.

Jacques sat for a moment on the new bench, gazed across the valley of the Vézère River back towards Le Bugue. “Une excellente vue, n’est-ce pas.” With that final blessing, the two workmen scanned their work order, trundled off in their Peugeot pick-up, and headed to their next installation.

I confess. I zoomed by my first concrete bench without even a how do you do. Passed it in a blur of greens. My defense was that its camouflage was almost complete. But the second brought me to a standstill. The second bench, the one that invited a spontaneous picnic, started me wondering. One or two benches, perched to overlook a river bank village like Les Eyzies de Tayac could have been the local council giving in to the demands of the hiking club’s secretary: the unchallenged town matriarch who also owned the patisserie boulangerie. In other words, someone not to be trifled with.

That could explain one or two local benches,

mere happenstance, but across the Departments: Non!

By the first week of purposely cycling forgotten Departmental roads, the mystery heightened, n’est pas? Who chose their placements? Back where I come from benches seem to have an unhealthy attraction to security lighting and commanding views of parking lots. But these French stone benches shunned any vestiges of town or village life and traded it for a sunset washed in reds and oranges on verdant slopes across a hazy valley. Sometimes the canvas held a blue roan, neck bent to grab and grind some grass.

In the quiet of every sylvan scene, each bench called out as I now went by. “Sit down, spread out your bread, cheese and pate. Wear away the lichens, scrape off the moss. Enjoy my cool stone on this brutal scorcher of a day. You climbed so far. Rest a moment. Look, there, a hawk, rising on the afternoon’s thermals.”

“We were here, when the teams of horses snorting in the shade, rested, while the drovers dropped from their wagons to have a late lunch. Nous sommes en France, restez un peu. Regalez-vous dans la joie de vivre.” ♦

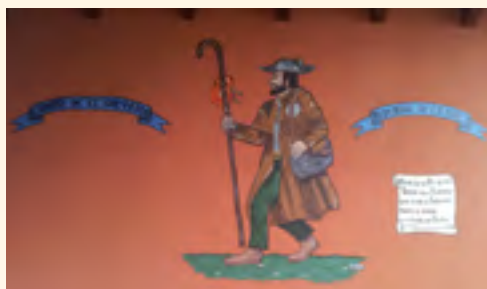


# The Camino del Salvador-Staggering out of León

by Chris Slater, Asheville NC

This route begins, appropriately, at the imposing plateresque pile of San Marcos in León. Today a luxurious parador on the site of a modest medieval pilgrims' hospital, the grandeur of its façade reflects the hubris of sixteenth century Spain flush with gold from the Americas. There is no hint of the horrors of the Spanish Civil War when 7,000 were imprisoned there; many of these individuals would perish in its dungeons.

I set out well before dawn tiptoeing past the slumbering masses at the Benedictinas and plodding through the urban drizzle. Past San Marcos the landscape slowly degenerated into faceless modern suburbs—a treeless concrete hell of straight streets, uniform houses, and sodium lamps emitting their ethereal glow at regular intervals. Lewis Mumford would have sympathized. No waymarkers, but none were needed as there were no choices. I looked longingly to my left where there was a river, trees and possibly wildlife all protected by a wire fence - lest civilization might intrude?



*Graffiti along the Camino del Salvador*

After what seemed like an eternity, a hint of dawn appeared, lights came on, and cars nosed out of driveways. Finally, there was also another human being, a man walking his dog through the mist. At this point, the houses also abruptly stopped though there were signs that the road was planned to continue so that more houses could creep, fungus-like,

into the countryside. I asked the man if the path was the Camino, but I might as well have asked if it were the moon. Therefore, I asked if there was a way, but no, that was 'mala tierra.' I needed to turn sharp right and pick up the next road.

After he trudged off into the gloom, I took his 'mala tierra' and found myself stumbling along a muddy track. Release! One man's mala tierra is another's buena tierra. No more modern development, just fields and old barns as the reluctant October daylight prevailed. I could breathe again and look forward to the mountains ahead on the way to Oviedo. ♦



*Parador San Marcos*

# In the End is Our Beginning

*by Christine Swint, Marietta GA*

In Saint Jean-Pied-de-Port I leave behind  
The Secret Gospel of Saint Thomas,  
too heavy to carry over the Pyrenees.

Then leaving the town, I get turned around,  
climbing a slope that leads to a campsite.

In halting French I ask a man with his dog,  
“Where is the Way of St. James?”

He says, “Return to the village, pass through  
the Spanish Gate, then up, toward  
Pic d’ Orisson.”

Along the road a slug, swollen with rain,  
seems to move slightly faster than I do.

Raindrops fall from the mouths of foxglove.  
Cowbells clank in the distance.  
Birds, hidden in beech leaves and grass,  
sing as if from everywhere and nowhere.

Leaving the road for the mountain pass  
I enter a cloud, another ghost  
among the fog-blanchéd trees.

I remember the last words I read in Thomas,  
when the disciples asked their teacher  
to tell them how they would end their days.

Jesus gave them a riddle: the end  
will be where the beginning is.

At the start of my journey, in a dance  
of mist and beech trees, I lose myself. ♦



# Healing on the Primitivo

by Landon Roussel, Cambridge MA



*Cory at the albergue in Dodena*

In Spring of 2013, my brother, Cory and I walked the Camino Primitivo. This was the first opportunity we had to spend time together in over a decade. After my brother began using drugs in his early teens, we had become estranged from each other as he fell deeper into addiction and eventually landed in Federal prison. The Camino was our chance to reconcile just after his release.

Still, given our tumultuous past, we faced challenges during our walk. When on a rainy day in Tineo we got separated, I was reminded of the many times he would leave our house to go do drugs during which I would worry whether he would come home safely. And when we were blindsided by a blizzard en route to Berducedo, I was reminded of when the news of his arrest caught me blindsided.

Though this was a new etapa for us, I could not avoid reminders of our tumultuous past together.

Going through the pilgrim rhythms each day, I began to learn the importance of viewing each day's etapa as unique—filled with its own set of pains and pleasures. When the sun finally came up near Lugo and I decided to pin my wet clothes onto my backpack to dry, I realized that just like the sun was evaporating the water in the clothes and lightening my load, I needed to let the burden of our past evaporate and lighten my load. Our past was behind us, and the best recovery was to enjoy the time we had on the Camino. Who knew when we would have such an opportunity to be together again?

My brother was killed shortly after we walked El Camino. The first thought that came to my mind after I learned of his death was: "Thank God we could walk the Camino together."

As I sat down to write his eulogy, I quickly realized that the story of our Camino was too deep to express in a few pages. Over the year following his death, I wrote our story in my book, *On the Primitive Way*. The book chronicles the story not only of our Camino but of our process of reconnection...to our past, to each other and to ourselves. This is in a way a Camino all of us take. ♦



*Brothers!*



## Peregrinas & Peregrinos

*by Jim McCaffrey, Lauderdale MN*

We, who have walked before you,  
welcome you.

We know you are tired and need rest.

That you are thirsty and need water.

That the long line in front of you  
causes anger.

That you are hungry and need food.

That you might be sick.

That you are dirty, sweaty and smell bad be-  
cause you carry the road dust from traveling  
many kilometers.

That you are lost and need directions.

That all you need might be a smile or an  
enthusiastic welcome.

That one kilometer was your limit today.

That you might be lonely and would  
appreciate a listening ear.

That you might not understand Spanish or  
English and want to be invited  
into the conversation anyway.

That you have talked with people since early  
morning and need solitude and quiet.

That you want to quickly and  
easily clean your clothes.

That you might feel alone and  
need to feel accepted and special.

Tell us what you need. Shout it if need be,  
but share your need with us.

We know you.

We understand you

We care about you! ♦



*Jim McCaffrey (right) with fellow hospitalero Domenico Laffè, El Burgo Ranero, July 2, 2015*

## Hospitalero Happenings

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

## Hospitalero Trainings

If you wish to be an hospitalero, the following hospitalero trainings are planned over the next several months:

- Feb 5-7, 2016 – Presentation Center, Los Gatos CA
- April 5-7, 2016 - Belleville IL (St. Louis MO Metro area), immediately preceding the Annual Gathering of Pilgrims at Our Lady of the Snows
- August 19-21, 2016 – Portland OR

Please check the American Pilgrims website for registration details. If your chapter would like to arrange for a possible hospitalero training to take place in your area, please contact: [hospitalerotraining@americanpilgrims.org](mailto:hospitalerotraining@americanpilgrims.org) ♦

## Contributors

- ♦ William Arbaugh
- ♦ Ann Loar Brooks
- ♦ Bruno Bruelhart
- ♦ Jim Carpenter
- ♦ Gene Cheltenham
- ♦ David Cook
- ♦ Dave Correa
- ♦ Martha Crites
- ♦ Linda Dilling
- ♦ Mary Anne Duggan
- ♦ Mike Dunican
- ♦ Jim Eychaner

- ♦ Carol Frey
- ♦ Miriam Gallet
- ♦ Cheryl Grasmoe
- ♦ Jonathan Gurney
- ♦ Mike Gurski
- ♦ Aleida Howard

- ♦ David Jennings
- ♦ Kathy Kennerly
- ♦ Jim McCaffrey
- ♦ Gene McCullough
- ♦ Landon Roussel
- ♦ Jenn Seva
- ♦ Chris Slater
- ♦ Benjamin Smith
- ♦ Sarah Kay Smith
- ♦ Christine Swint
- ♦ Diana Valle



*photo by Mike Dunican, Lake Stevens WA*

# The Camino de Santiago Reverberates

by Jenn Seva, Seattle WA

Originally written on Oct 24 and posted to my blog:  
<http://wotevatravel.tumblr.com>

I have been back home in Seattle for about a week. The Camino de Santiago reverberates, showing up many times a day in very interesting, welcome ways. And:

1. My heart is full. It feels right and good to be back home and it also feels a bit - um - strange to be back. My emotions are very close to the surface. I am surrounded by and reuniting with wonderful people who are important to me. And I feel the pull of wonderful people far away who are also important to me.

2. My brain is still processing all that happened. It is challenging to answer succinctly the question "How was your trip?" Be careful if you ask me this question in person; I may talk your ear off for the next three hours.

3. My body has changed and keeps transitioning. My feet are still swollen and most of my shoes don't fit. All of my clothes fit differently (yay!). I want to take a walk \*all\* the time. This jet lag is tenacious.

4. My heart, my brain and my body are connected in a way that I like very much. I cried at

yoga yesterday – this is good! So good.

5. I frequently sing that James Brown song in my head; sometimes out loud. "Wo! I feel good. I knew that I would now. I feeeeeeel good, I knew that I would now. So good. So good. I got you!" Those who walked the Camino with me may smile. Those who attended our wedding may recall. Some of you may not realize the additional pun here. Santiago is the Spanish translation for Saint James. Saint James Brown ...

6. I keep watching 1 Second a Day of My Camino ([youtu.be/CRppguDvocE](http://youtu.be/CRppguDvocE))



7. And so much more...

Does my Camino need to end? Can I keep the Camino vibrant inside of me? ♦

Telling the  
Way Within

## SAVE THE DATE!

## Gathering 2016

## 19th Annual Gathering of Pilgrims

April 7-10, 2016  
Belleville, IL



# Our Wonderful 'Calamity Camino'

by Carol Frey, Raleigh NC

Our long-awaited return journey to Santiago began with an FAA computer problem that left my husband Ed Miller and me marooned at the airport in North Carolina for five hours. Two missed flights and another full day later, we arrived in Lisbon, Portugal, only to find my passport pouch missing before we could even unpack our toothbrushes.

The U.S. Embassy staff was helpful in replacing it, though, and within a few days, we were following yellow arrows north from Porto. A week later, we were having another jolly Camino experience, gathering new friends from Germany to walk with, but in Valença, something told me to skip the municipal hostel with 30 beds to a room where they were going and seek a quiet night's sleep next door at the Hotel Val Flores. At check-in time, I discovered my passport missing – AGAIN!

My panic only thinly disguised, I went to ask the hotel desk clerk to call the last café stop and ask the owner for me if he had found my new passport. Don't worry, said the clerk, looking down at a photocopy of my old passport. "Your passport isn't at the café," he said. "Your passport is at the place where you slept last night." How did he know that? Sweet, wonderful Marlena of albergue Ninho, just past Rubiães, had found it on the dormitory floor and called around Valenca looking for me. She told



photo by Ed Miller;  
Carol and Sonja, her new friend from Germany,  
Celebrating in Santiago's Obradoiro Square.



Ed at the beach in Muxia (9-11-2015)

the desk clerk she would get in her car and be at the hotel in 30 minutes. She was there in 25.

That hour of terror and redemption came to symbolize the magic of the Camino for us. It's sometimes a walk in the park, sometimes a trek up a mountain. It's sometimes pure solitude, sometimes pure pain. On entering that grand plaza in Santiago, though, all that matters is the joy, made all the purer by the obstacles conquered. ♦

# My Brother, My Camino Partner

by Mary Anne Duggan, Chandler AZ

My older brother Mike stood outside the delivery room door when I gave birth to my daughter. We held hands around the hospital bed when my father died, and together we received word of our mother's passing. He also picked on me mercilessly as a child and became my closest confidant in adulthood. My brother has been with me through birth and death and everything in-between, which made him the perfect Camino partner.

It is said the sibling relationship is the longest in one's life, and for me at 51 and my brother, 54, it is certainly shaping up that way. It was in March of this year that Mike announced he would be walking a portion of the Camino Francés in the summer. Something deep inside caused me to blurt, "Can I come with you?" What followed was a flurry of ticket-booking, multiple trips to REI, and excited dreaming sessions.

Mike and I are both married with families of our own. So, the opportunity to spend a month together was a rare blessing. Still, all that one-on-one time with a sibling can prove challenging at times. Here are 5 tips for anyone considering walking the Camino with a sibling:

- When your brother cuts his lip on a bocadillo, try not to laugh.
- As the younger sibling, it is your duty to sprint back to the San Javier albergue to make curfew after enjoying a couple 3€ bottles of wine.
- Sometime on the journey, your brother will hear you pass gas. And laughing about it only makes for more rapid-fire emissions.
- When your brother gets all excited about seeing yet another *hórreo* in Galicia, let him have his moment.
- Every day, wonder in the fact that you get to spend this precious time with your lifelong traveling partner.

I thought I knew my brother, but walking the Camino taught me so much more. I learned that he is strong and yet vulnerable at the same time. Strong

when he held the bedbug in his palm in Cacabelos and announced, "We've got to get out of here." Vulnerable when he was knocked to his knees by the beauty of the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral.

And there is great freedom in traveling with a sibling: Freedom in being completely me. Freedom in knowing that there is deep love that padded each step on our path. ♦



Mary Anne and Mike



# Pot and the Camino - More Alike than You Thought

by Diana Valle, Pinole CA

Some 80 or so Northern California pilgrims got together at a welcome home potluck recently, and as we shared food and wine, we talked all things Camino. Future pilgrims asked questions, experienced pilgrims gave their opinions, and the new returnees took turns sharing their Camino stories.

It was after hearing these stories that I realized the Camino really is a lot like marijuana. Only legal.

This realization first started to dawn on me when a friend and I agreed that after listening to the pilgrims who answered the call of the Way after the death of a loved one, every other story sounded, well, recreational. The immediate follow-up was an epiphany: there are only two types of pilgrimages – recreational and medicinal.

Just like with the legal uses of the aforementioned herb in some states and DC; both are valid, and each fulfills a different need.

By my definition, medicinal pilgrimages are those journeys taken in the hope of healing emotional and/or physical maladies. Walking for the cure takes a very literal meaning. The pilgrimage becomes a way of finding acceptance after a debilitating loss – typically, the loss of a loved one, or to find one's footing after life has inflicted one too many blows. Pilgrims on a medicinal pilgrimage will cry at times. Their journey can be mostly inward. They will struggle and overcome every obstacle, sometimes reaching dangerous levels of singlemindedness. Their goal is not to explore Spain or France or Portugal on foot, but to find a way of moving forward with their lives. Reaching Santiago or Finisterre may become the end-all, be-all goal – a

promise of sorts that everything will be fine. At best, a celebration of the lives of those they've lost.

Recreational pilgrims endure no less physical hardships than their medicinal brethren, but their approach towards the Camino is one of discovery, wonder, joy. It is the outward view of the traveler who rejoices in the new vistas, smells, and flavors. They are also looking for answers, but their emotional toll will be less. They are open to new experiences and are willing to adjust as needed, after all, it's still an adventure; their consciousness will more than likely be enhanced. Recreational pilgrims can take several trips to reach Santiago and that's part of the plan. For some, Santiago itself is optional; the journey itself is the destination.

Because they really are experiencing very different things, it can be hard for the two types of pilgrims to relate to one another at times: someone on a recreational pilgrimage may struggle to understand why a fellow pilgrim doesn't seem to be willing to stop and enjoy the view, the coffee, the wine, but instead presses on, even with injuries. A pilgrim on a medicinal pilgrimage will probably have difficulty relating to pilgrims who follow Brierly's suggestions of side trips.

Someone about to embark on a medicinal pilgrimage may ask questions about gear, training and all the practical details, but won't concentrate as much on the "must see/must do" suggestions. A recreational pilgrim will want to know all there is, and see and do everything. ♦

For the rest of the authors story [click here](#)



*On a rainy, foggy morning between Belorado and San Juan de Ortega I ran into a sheep traffic jam. I'm used to the morning traffic jams in Los Angeles, but this is ridiculous. Nothing left to do but wait until the traffic clears.*

*photo by Gene Cheltenham  
Los Angeles CA*



# El Camino del Norte a Chimayó-An American Pilgrimage

by Jim Carpenter, Littleton CO

The Santuario de Chimayó is one of the most-visited pilgrimage sites in North America, perhaps second only to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Located in the small village of Chimayó, at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in northern New Mexico, this small adobe church attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year from across the region. While some come as tourists, many come as pilgrims, either on foot or, like so many modern pilgrims, by automobile or bus. While the healing powers attributed to the site are steeped in the centuries-old Catholic traditions of this unique area, not all pilgrims are Roman Catholic, nor do they necessarily consider themselves “religious.” Just as at Santiago de Compostela in Spain, many come to Chimayó for reasons they consider “spiritual,” for the sake of a physical challenge, or perhaps simply out of curiosity. Occasionally, veterans of the Camino de Santiago come seeking a close-to-home experience similar to that found on their pilgrimage journey in Spain.

The most recent example of such a pilgrimage took place during the week of September 21-27, 2015, when a group of eleven hardy pilgrims, accompanied by a car-shuttling photographer/videographer, walked the route known as the Camino del Norte a Chimayó, or the Northern Way to Chimayó. This 115-mile route starts in San Luis, Colorado and continues southward, ending at the Santuario de Chimayó. These pilgrims ranged in age from 35 to 77 years old, most of whom were veterans of the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

Unlike the Camino de Santiago with its well-developed infrastructure of albergues, cafés, water



*San Francisco de Asis - Ranchos de Taos*

fountains, and other support facilities spaced every few kilometers, the Camino del Norte a Chimayó wanders along roadsides and forest trails through the sparsely-populated and desert-like sagebrush flats, rolling hills, and mountains of southern Colorado and northern New Mexico. One walks for as long as 20 miles without a place to refill water bottles, purchase lunch or a snack, or even find a shady spot to rest for a few moments. Many of the villages and hamlets along the route have no commercial lodging or food markets, much less a café or restaurant. The only large town along the way is Taos, New Mexico. Pilgrims along this route must therefore either camp out, carrying tents, food, and portable stoves, or if specifically planned in advance, stay overnight in church halls, sleeping on mats or air mattresses on hard floors. ♦

For the full article and pictures [click here](#).



*Santuario de Chimayó*

## iBuen Provecho!

Pera Conferencia (Conference Pear)

Recipe by Kathy Kennerly, Ponferrada Spain

So named when this pear won its first prize in London at the National British Pear Conference in 1885. Enjoyed year round in the Bierzo region of northwestern Spain. ♦

From the kitchen of: Kathy Kennerly - Conferencia Pear Conserve

8 cups pear, peeled, cored and large diced (2 kilos or 10-12 medium pears)  
 ¼ cup sugar  
 1 lemon, zest and juice  
 1-1/2 Tablespoons rosemary leaves (whole or minced as you wish)

Place all ingredients in a large non-metallic or stainless soup pot and bring to a slow boil. The fruit will make its own juice—do not add water or other liquid. Boil gently until pears are al dente. When done to taste, place in sterilized jars. The hot water bath process will provide a longer shelf life. Or, refrigerate and enjoy right away on toast or with chicken or pork.



**Note:** After Kathy submitted this recipe she heard a review on National Public Radio (December 15, 2015) for *The Book Of Pears: A Love Letter To A Once Pre-Eminent Fruit* by Eliza Barclay. A British fruit historian convincingly argues in a new book that the pear is “the most exciting of the tree fruits.” And she says it’s time to revive pear culture and explore the fruit’s diversity.



“Santiago Market” taken at the Mercado de Abastos in June 2015.  
 photo by Mike Dunican, Lake Stevens WA





## Welcome, New Members!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members who joined American Pilgrims on the Camino from August through November of this year. We look forward to meeting all of you at future Gatherings and events.

- |                             |                            |  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| ◆ Theresa Acosta            | ◆ Teresa & Paul Fonseca    | ◆ Tom Long                             |
| ◆ Marco & Elizabeth Ahumada | ◆ Shelby Fredrickson       | ◆ Italis Loperena                      |
| ◆ Jenn & Steven Anderson    | ◆ Gerald Fritz             | ◆ Wiley Loughran                       |
| ◆ Chelsea Anderson          | ◆ George & Beverly Garmany | ◆ Camille & Owen Madden                |
| ◆ Cindy Arledge             | ◆ Sandy Garza              | ◆ Gian Marmolejo                       |
| ◆ Terry Arnn                | ◆ Jim Gentry               | ◆ Carrie Martin                        |
| ◆ Jere & Nancy Barr         | ◆ Susana Gonzalez          | ◆ Sigfredo Martinez                    |
| ◆ Kathy Beno                | ◆ Peter H. Goodwin         | ◆ Mario Martinez                       |
| ◆ Lois Bond                 | ◆ Amanda & Eoghan Gormley  | ◆ Rick Martinson                       |
| ◆ Francis Bonney            | ◆ Michelle Grant           | ◆ Neeltje Mascal                       |
| ◆ Catherine Boon            | ◆ Anne Green               | ◆ Lynette Matyi                        |
| ◆ Catherine Bradshaw        | ◆ Guinevere Grier          | ◆ Ruth McCully                         |
| ◆ Jessica Brand             | ◆ Alison Hadley            | ◆ Lynne McDougal                       |
| ◆ Kathryn Brue              | ◆ Thomas Haeussner         | ◆ Kathy McLeskey                       |
| ◆ Larry Burton              | ◆ Thomas & Sally Haines    | ◆ Patty Miller                         |
| ◆ Torin Bussey              | ◆ David Harris             | ◆ Sharron Lue Miller                   |
| ◆ Kim Callow                | ◆ Patricia Hatch           | ◆ Kathleen Mills                       |
| ◆ Cynthia Carss             | ◆ Franklin C Hazard        | ◆ Leigh Mires                          |
| ◆ Richard Cavallaro         | ◆ Tom Heiting              | ◆ Rick Montieth                        |
| ◆ Barbara Clark             | ◆ Stephen Hellrung         | ◆ Angela Moore                         |
| ◆ John Cobis                | ◆ Richard & Starr Helms    | ◆ Stephen Morrison                     |
| ◆ Donna Collins             | ◆ James Hibbs              | ◆ Donna Moss                           |
| ◆ Michael Compton           | ◆ Thomas Hourihan          | ◆ Susan Mundy                          |
| ◆ Julie Gianelloni Connor   | ◆ Jose Hurtado             | ◆ Wanda Nichols                        |
| ◆ Tucker & Joyce Cox        | ◆ Terri James              | ◆ Gail Nirva Heiting                   |
| ◆ Ruth Cunningham           | ◆ Marc Janis               | ◆ Jessica Noeldner                     |
| ◆ Kenneth Curry             | ◆ Anne Jennette            | ◆ Joyce & Eric Norman                  |
| ◆ Laurie D'Audney           | ◆ Elizabeth Jimenez-Scaggs | ◆ Beth Nowlin                          |
| ◆ Sarah Daley               | ◆ Lauren Joffe             | ◆ Kate OMalley                         |
| ◆ Laura Damas               | ◆ Eric Johansen            | ◆ James Omans                          |
| ◆ Ken Dauth                 | ◆ Rebekah Jones            | ◆ Karen, Alejandro & Gabriela Orellana |
| ◆ John Dempsey              | ◆ Werner Jurinka           | ◆ Francisco Javier Orjales-Mourente    |
| ◆ Carrie DeSalvo            | ◆ Mark & Karen Kipling     | ◆ Lilia Peraza                         |
| ◆ Joyce DeToni-Hill         | ◆ Dawn Kirkwood            | ◆ Maria Elena & Edna Perez Vega        |
| ◆ Mary Duggan               | ◆ Julia Kleutsch           | ◆ Laura Perkins                        |
| ◆ Randall & Marilyn Durrum  | ◆ Gary & Kathleen Koran    | ◆ David Pettee                         |
| ◆ Laurinda Lori Elgin       | ◆ Deborah Kostisin         | ◆ Chris & Greg Petty                   |
| ◆ Vincent Engel             | ◆ Meliea & Stephen Lane    | ◆ Denton Phillips                      |
| ◆ Robert Engelhart          | ◆ Nancy Lankston           | ◆ Bryce Pittenger                      |
| ◆ Erin & Mallory Engstrom   | ◆ David Larwa              | ◆ Lee & Maidie Podles                  |
| ◆ Pamela Eutsler            | ◆ Glenda Leader            | ◆ Jan Powell                           |
| ◆ Greg & Penny Fedders      | ◆ David & Theresa Lewis    | ◆ Roy Racer                            |
| ◆ Maureen Feters            | ◆ Thomas & Marlene Lewis   |  |
| ◆ Heidi Floren              | ◆ S Linde                  |  |

## New Members continued

- |                                  |                             |                                |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ◆ Joyce & Jim Randle             | ◆ John & Elisabeth Silliman | ◆ Christine & Randy Tompkins   |
| ◆ James & Meredith Randle        | ◆ Patricia Silva            | ◆ Laura Tormey                 |
| ◆ Michael & Lisa Reagan          | ◆ Clay Simon                | ◆ Luis Torres                  |
| ◆ Carita Ribich                  | ◆ Cheryl Smart              | ◆ Ana Triana                   |
| ◆ Rick Richer                    | ◆ Rusty Snelson             | ◆ Mark & Carrie Tucker         |
| ◆ Patricia & John Riskosky       | ◆ Beatrice Solis            | ◆ Nicole Turri                 |
| ◆ David Robinson                 | ◆ Dave Stalls               | ◆ Jose L Valderrama            |
| ◆ Kenneth & Krista Rogman        | ◆ Ken Stephens              | ◆ Melanie & Stephen Van Houten |
| ◆ Debi Runkle                    | ◆ Carol Stewart             | ◆ Donna Vogt                   |
| ◆ Rusty & Carol Ryan             | ◆ Andrew Stimpson           | ◆ Vikki Watanabe               |
| ◆ Ken & Dorothy Sack             | ◆ Ann Sutlive               | ◆ Karen Whelan                 |
| ◆ Caroline, David & Irene Savini | ◆ James & Elizabeth Swanson | ◆ Georgian Whitenight          |
| ◆ Curtis Savoie                  | ◆ Christine Swint           | ◆ Jeanette Wilkin              |
| ◆ Inger Seiffert                 | ◆ James Talerico            | ◆ Janet Willhaus               |
| ◆ Ramsey Sessions                | ◆ Lauren Taranto            | ◆ Richard & Nancy Williamsen   |
| ◆ Jenn Seva                      | ◆ Bruce & Diane Tarbet      | ◆ Gil Wolfe                    |
| ◆ William, Pamela & Eliza Shank  | ◆ Mary Ellen Taylor         | ◆ Judy Wood                    |
| ◆ Denise Sharpe                  | ◆ Diane Thomas              | ◆ Phillip Woodford             |
| ◆ Ronald & Kelly Shields         | ◆ Gayle Thomas              | ◆ Jim & Debbie Wooster         |
| ◆ Carol Shunnarah                | ◆ Kathleen Tielemans-Hein   | ◆ June Wynne                   |
| ◆ Mary Shusta                    | ◆ Christoph & Betsy Tietze  | ◆ Chad & Amy Zoretic           |



*Summer - Camino style. photo by Mike Dunican, Lake Stevens WA*



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

### Do You Have Camino Impressions to Share?

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

So, please keep telling us, in 400 words or fewer, about your Camino. Consider a photo, a poem, or a new found understanding of an idea – a pilgrim's perspective. We have refined our guidelines, so please visit

Newsletter on our website for suggestions and our new guidelines.

The submission deadline for the next issue is, February 22, 2016. We welcome your questions, comments, and submissions at [newsletter@americanpilgrims.org](mailto:newsletter@americanpilgrims.org).

¡Buen Camino!

Annette Argall, Peg Hall, Zita Macy Mona Spargo & Jessica Swan, Team La Concha

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Zita & Peg  
Mona, Zita & Peg  
Michael & Martha  
Zita & Peg  
Martha, Jeff, Yosmar & Cindy  
Zita  
Martha, Carlos & Zita

### Key Volunteer – Webmaster

Gene McCullough

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