

AMERICAN PILGRIMS ON THE CAMINO NEWSLETTER, July/Aug 2006

Dear Camino friends,

In our last newsletter, we announced that we were initiating a search for new board members. Over the past few months, we formed an independent Board Search Task Force that was responsible for assessing the applicants and assisting the Nominating Committee of the Board in the preparation of the slate. The Task Force consisted of Tom Gabriele-Chair, Lyn Talbot, and Mary Wallis. Their work was thorough and exemplary, interviewing the members interested in serving on the Board using objective criteria with due diligence and professionalism. The Board wishes to express here its acknowledgement of their gift of time and skill and its deep gratitude for their conscientious support of this organization.

As the result of that process, we are pleased to announce that the following individuals have been invited to join the Board and have agreed to serve, effective September 15:

Daniel DeKay	Occidental, CA
James Eychaner	Olympia, WA
Nicholas Hayes	Haverford, PA
Carlos Mentley	Donalds, SC
Mary Wallis	Holliston, MA

All five of these new members bring valuable experience to our work. Some have served as hospitaleros; some have assisted with our programs; some have years of service on other boards. All of them have been pilgrims on the Camino and come to us with a deep love for it and a desire to give back some of what was given to them there.

The following board members remain on the Board:

Lin Galea	San Francisco, CA
Zita Macy	Palo Alto, CA
Michael Wyatt	Washington, DC

As the new members join the Board, we look forward to a time of prioritizing and commitment, as this organization, with its foundations laid, can begin to determine where to focus its energies, how to work collaboratively and effectively with other Pilgrim Associations, and how best to support the Camino that has so deeply shaped our lives. We appreciate your continued support and welcome your ideas and suggestions.

Michael Wyatt, Chair

CAMINO SUPPORT

Each year we look for opportunities to make a donation to support the infrastructure of the camino. In years past, we have made contributions to the Camino Frances and the Camino del Norte. This year, we would like to make a contribution to a refugio on the *Via de la Plata*--preferably one that only accepts **donativos** from pilgrims. Please send your recommendations / nominations to Steve Pede, sbped55@yahoo.com.

There are many ways that we can support the Camino and we welcome your suggestions about how we can fulfill our mission to support the infrastructure of the Camino.

HOSPITALERO VOLUNTARIOS NEWS

American Pilgrims sponsored its third training course for *hospitaleros* the weekend of April 28th, in Sacramento, Ca. This year's training took place in a beautiful Victorian home that is now used as a hostel. Jan and Mariluz Melis, the resident *hospitaleros* at Eunata, facilitated the training. At their suggestion, the trainees were treated as pilgrim guests by veteran *hospitaleros*. It was a beautiful way of illustrating the tradition of Camino hospitality. Attendees came from all parts of the United States including Alaska, Texas, the East Coast and all parts between.

We wish to congratulate the new *hospitaleros* and wish them well in their work:

Marty Cashen

Joan D'Aoust

Daniel DeKay

Mary Enright

Rozan Gautier

Leslie Harrison

Sako Izumi

Katy Lambe

Marie lambe

David Christian Landes

Jessica Lopez

Julie Lopez

Zita Macy

Jean McCoy

Gene McCullough

Rosann McCullough

Crystal Munoz

Kinsey Olman

Astrid Rios

Joe Sternfeld

Susan Sternfeld

Karen Temple

I also wish to thank the following people who made this weekend so wonderful: Martha Lopez, Coordinator; and her crew of *hospitaleros*: Margaret Brasuel, Ben Lopez, Karla Lopez, and Patricia Norris. Also, a special thank you goes to Joan D'Aoust for her contribution of air mileage for the facilitators, Jan and Mariluz.



For those of you who will be walking the Camino from now until the end of October, you may have the good fortune to be served by one of our well trained *hospitaleros*.

August	Najera	Marty Cashen
September	Villamajor Salamanca	Norman & Sabine Starr Martha Lopez
October	Conques Granon Bercianos	Tom Gabriele Jim & Cece Simon Dick & Judy Opsahl

If anyone wishes to know more about serving as an *hospitalero*, please contact Lin Galea at: hospitaleros@americanpilgrims.com

Buen trabajo voluntarios

ANNUAL GATHERING OF PILGRIMS – WILLIAMSBURG, VA

The 2007 Gathering of Pilgrims will take place March 9-11 in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Our theme is “Pilgrimage to America” to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the founding of the 1607 Jamestown Colony. Featured guest speakers will include Alison Raju from England, and special events will include a performance of medieval music, new research on the health and physical conditioning of pilgrims, pilgrimage as a world phenomenon and as a motive for colonizing the New World, the spirituality of pilgrimage. This year we'll get to hear panel presentations by younger voices on the Camino de Santiago featuring reflections by pilgrims in their teens and twenties.

Registration and hotel information will be posted at www.americanpilgrims.com. Come join a pilgrimage along the Camino that leads to Colonial Williamsburg.

Pilgrims Gathering – Boulder, CO 2006



Out for a hike – Boulder, CO 2006



BOOK REVIEWS by Kathy Gower

“Camino Chronicle: Walking to Santiago
Shepherd Canyon Books
Susan Alcorn

Several new books have made their way to the library, including a few written in Spanish and beautifully illustrated.

For those of us who speak English better than Spanish, French or Portuguese along the Camino, here are some of the recent acquisitions:

Camino Chronicle: Walking to Santiago is the latest book by Susan Alcorn, and a real treat. Susan has something for all readers from personal stories from her own pilgrimage with her husband Ralph during the days of the 9/11 tragedy. One can feel her empathy and desire to make her journey meaningful and relevant as she grapples with not only the uncertainty of lodging and food and blisters along the way, but larger reflections of the unfolding events both in America and along the path. Her observations are interspersed with snippets of cultural history, delightful and informative tales about the food and wine of the regions of Spain and the very real rigors and joys of pilgrim life as they make their way along the Camino Frances. (Her backpacking tips are useful too.)

Susan has generously offered a 20% donation of the \$14.95 cover price to *American Pilgrims on the Camino*. Additionally when ordering from either the website, direct from publisher (by mail or phone), free shipping is offered (in the U.S.). Please be sure to note “American Pilgrims” when ordering so they will know to make a donation.

www.backpack45.com

866-219-8260

25 Southwood Ct, Oakland, CA 94611

“Peregrina”
String Town Press
Karin Temple

I next turned to a book of poetry by Karin Temple, “Peregrina” -
With her gracious permission:

El Frances de Redecilla del Camino

In spite of bunk-to-bunk
Intimacy and loquacity
we never exchanged names
so I secretly called him
Monsieur Aymeric because of
his fantastic eyes and rapid stride
because of his thrift
his shabby clothes
canvas satchel and worn shoes—
laughing, he told of being
taken for a bum back in France
where he slept outdoors.

When I meet him again
on his passage through Burgos
he sits by me briefly

in front of the cathedral
to absolve me.
He absolves me of gortex and
microfibers of two hundred dollar
boots and a thousand dollar
plane ticket of bus rides and
hotel beds of sightseeing
and of the credit card
worn as close to my heart
as the scallop shell—
with the authority of his wide
gap-tooth smile he says:
Madame, un pelerine ne triche pas.
A pilgrim does not cheat,
each pilgrim is authentic.

OUR LIBRARY

Thanks to the generosity and good will of some of our members and a growing group of Camino authors, a full-fledged Camino lending library has been formed and is enjoying usage by potential and present pilgrims. Any and all donations accepted. The full depth is still being catalogued, but the core of the English-language books available is outlined on our website www.americampilgrims.com under Library. It includes guidebooks, contemporary and medieval narratives, art and architecture of the pilgrimage road, fiction, guides to Spain, Portugal and France and other books.

We also have videos to lend. All are available upon request. All we ask is that the books be returned with enough postage to re-mail them out again.

For a fuller catalog of foreign language guides and books, Linda Davidson has donated her entire collection to the University of Rhode Island where they are available by inter-library loan. For more information, write to library@americampilgrims.com.

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Kate Lopez generously donated the use of her charming Camino watercolors for this year's gathering program and for note cards of the Camino. Proceeds from the sale of the cards will benefit the volunteer *refugio* system on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. If you are interested in receiving note cards (4 cards/\$10.), please send your requests to info@americampilgrims.com.

LOCAL EVENTS

Pilgrims and Friends of the Camino

You are warmly invited to attend a free event -

-Tuesday September 5th 7:30 pm

Black Oak Books hosts Susan Alcorn to celebrate the publication of:
"CAMINO CHRONICLE: Walking to Santiago"

In September 2001, Susan and her husband set out to walk the thousand year-old pilgrims' route across northern Spain. Her memoir tells of a journey both geographical and spiritual. Following in the footsteps of millions of pilgrims who made their way to Santiago de Compostela throughout the past ten centuries, their 21st century pilgrimage was an adventure into the culture and history of Spain. Both a travelogue filled with practical advice and cultural history, and a journal of their own experiences, CAMINO CHRONICLE is a wonderful addition to the literature of El Camino de Santiago de Compostela that will rekindle memories for past pilgrims and tantalize anyone contemplating their own camino. Buen viaje!

Black Oak Books
1491 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94709
510-486-0698

-Wednesday, September 6, 2006. 7:00 p.m.

REI Sacramento. 1790 Expo Pky., Sacramento, CA (916) 924-8900.

A slide program on the Camino, from our 2001 walk. The slide show is the same as our bookstore show, but the presentation is part of the REI clinic series and we tend to concentrate more on the how to and what it's like aspects of walking the Camino. Free.

-Thursday, September 7, 2006. 7:00 p.m.

REI Folsom. 2425 Iron Pt. Rd, Folsom, CA 95630 (916) 817-8944. (See details of Sacramento program above.) Free.

-Tuesday, October 24, 2006. 2:30 p.m.

Delta College, Stockton, CA "Armchair Travelers,"
More details TBA. (see www.backpack45.com/calendar2.html).

-Thursday, October 26, 2006. 7:00 p.m.

REI Santa Rosa, 2715 Santa Rosa Ave., Santa Rosa, CA.(707) 540-9025
(See details of Sacramento program above.) Free.

-Friday, October 27, 2006. (for time see www.backpack45.com/calendar2.html)

Laurel Bookstore, 4100 MacArthur (at 38th Ave.), Oakland, 510-531-2073.
Book reading and discussion of Camino Chronicle: Walking to Santiago. This is a very welcoming independent book store.

-Tuesday, October 31, 2006. 7:00 p.m.

REI Fremont, 43962 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, CA. (510) 651-0305
(See details of Sacramento program above.) Free.

-Tuesday, November 7, 2006. 7:00 p.m.

Concord REI, 1975 Diamond Blvd. Concord, CA. (925) 825-9400.
(See details of Sacramento program above.) Free.

San Francisco Bay Area Pilgrims

The San Francisco pilgrims are planning an **October event/walk**. If you are interested in participating in this or future events in the Bay Area, contact Lin Galea for particulars: lin@lingalea.com 415-441-5951.

DO YOU HAVE LOCAL EVENTS TO SHARE?

Please tell us about your local planned gatherings or Camino information; we'd love to hear your news and announcements of events. The deadline for the next newsletter submissions will be October 11th, for transmittal on October 25, 2006.

And, in addition to announcements and news, we would love to hear of moments on the Camino - a memory, an experience, an exchange, a discovery, a word, a food – a piece of the Camino to share with your fellow pilgrims. Perhaps a photo or a poem to share or perhaps a new found understanding of a commonly understood idea, a pilgrim's perspective. Please send all ideas to newsletter@americanpilgrims.com.

Safe travels to everyone along your caminos.

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Steve Pede sbped55@yahoo.com
Zita Macy zitamacy1999@yahoo.com
Kathy Gower kathygower@hotmail.com
Lin Galea lin@lingalea.com