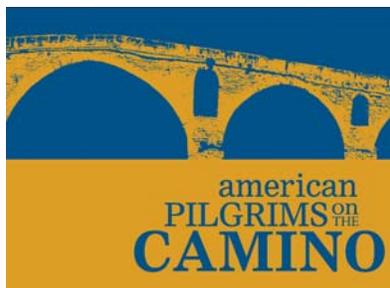


AMERICAN PILGRIMS ON THE CAMINO-NEWSLETTER, November 2007



Dear Companions of the Camino:

The Board of American Pilgrims on the Camino held its annual meeting a little earlier this year. One of the principal items of business was the election of new board members.

Some of you may know that Lin Galea and Zita Macy will be rotating off the board at the end of this year. It will be a particular loss to our deliberations—one I will feel acutely and personally. Lin and Zita have been with APOC since its earliest days; in fact, since its inception. They were part of the group that originally talked about the desirability of having such an association and who worked steadily and tirelessly to bring it into being. We owe them both great thanks. The good news is that neither one is disappearing, and in the immediate aftermath of their departure, will continue to provide the leadership and service that we have relied on for so many years in the areas that they care about the most. Lin will continue to help with gatherings, which has been her great love and commitment. Zita will continue to help with the concrete aspects of membership and credentials. But even so, they deserve our deepest gratitude for their dedication to this deeper level of service that they are now setting aside.

In our recent elections, the Board refilled the chairs that Zita and Lin will vacate, reelected me for another term, and expanded the Board by two new seats, so that we might have wider representation of our membership distributed across our country. So we have four new members on the Board of American Pilgrims on the Camino whom I am honored to introduce to you.

Jen Howard is a ferry-boat pilot from San Rafael, California. She walked the Camino in the late summer of 2006. She brings unflappable organizational skills, a love of problem-solving, and a willingness to “go with the flow,” which probably has a greater range of meanings for a ferry-boat pilot than for most of us. She says, “I am practical, steeped in reality, make decisions quickly, and understand and appreciate organizational structure.” That is what the Board members found to be true when we interviewed her, so we were eager to welcome that stance into our conversations.

Bill Matthews is from Alabama and walked the Camino in stages in 2006 & 2007. He retired from the University of North Alabama in 2001. Since that time, he has been developing the “Roots of American Music Trail,” which runs through the American South. His passion is the increase knowledge of the Camino in the United States as well as the membership of our association. His question: “why do so few Americans become pilgrims and what should be done about it?” He urges us to issue “a challenge to all members to go out and enlist others and encourage higher levels of pilgrimage.” He sees that the association also can cultivate relationships with institutions (such as colleges and churches) that are virtual holding tanks of potential members, through programs and press releases.

Herbert Medina is also an academic and teaches mathematics at Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles. He has walked the Camino twice, cycled it three times (once on the Via de la Plata), and served as an hospitalero in Ponferrada. He has served on the board of the Central American Resource Center in LA and directs academic projects in Berkeley and in Bonn, Germany. His expressed interest is in various forms of Camino support, recommending as one of our highest priorities in the coming years “developing a relationship with an existing albergue to establish a permanent American Pilgrims presence on the Camino” and offering his own skills to that end.

AMERICAN PILGRIMS ON THE CAMINO-NEWSLETTER, November 2007

Cherie Pagett is from Alexandria, Virginia, where she has directed her residential property management company for thirty years. Her knowledge of Spain goes back to her time there as an exchange student, beginning a long love affair with that people and with that country, where she has “known great joy, extreme frustration, and unbearable grief.” She has organized Camino walks in the past, starting in 1997 and most recently in the summer of 2007. The concerns she brings to the board are the changing nature of the Camino—increasing commercialism and a “growing touristic atmosphere”—and her own passion to preserve its heritage.

Please join me in welcoming these new members and in thanking our departing ones!

Michael Wyatt
Chair of the Board

COMMUNICATIONS

Anyone who has visited our web site www.americanpilgrims.com in recent months cannot help but notice dramatic, dynamic changes in the site’s design and function.

Responsible for the change is American Pilgrim’s volunteer web master Gene McCullough. Gene has given extraordinary time and effort to the redevelopment of the web site.

When complimented on his outstanding effort, Gene replied, “Who is responsible for and behind American Pilgrims newly launched website? First of all, the Board generally. I have in my archives messages from Mary, Carlos, Nick, Daniel and Michael with useful commentary on the draft designs that were offered. Obviously settling on the final design was a huge commitment and this was all very useful in making that decision. Specifically I would mention Zita and Lin for apparently having spent a considerable amount of time poking into the various corners of the site, finding content and editorial errors and for calling my attention to numerous external websites to add to the Internet Resources page.”

Gene continued, “Outside the organization I must give credit to my talented daughter, Margaret McCullough, graphic designer extraordinaire, for her early consultations about general site design and for later help with some thorny technical issues. A thank you to Deirdre Magner for contributing some of the random images that appear on the site's pages. To Eldor Pederson for again making his most interesting essays on various Camino-related topics available. Actually for making the original texts available which allowed me to edit them a bit to make them fit better into the site.”

Gene volunteered in the Fall of 2006, with the goal of rebuilding the site then in use. His experience in helping to build and maintain other nonprofit web sites proved invaluable.

“Every one of the four sites that I've now done has had its unique issues,” he explained. “Certainly that of American Pilgrims, I knew, would be the most public and the most involved among them all, but also that it would have most potential for using a wide variety of internet capabilities and external resources. A challenge and a great deal of work, yes. A rewarding and educational experience indeed! And it's of course not complete! Still it has been a joy to see this arrive at its present state.”

The new site is indeed a joy. APOC extends a huge thank-you to Gene.

Jim Eychaner
Chair, Communications Committee

HOSPITALEROS VOLUNTARIOS NEWS

Fifty-Two Of My Closest Friends

Grañon is a small village on the Camino Francés with one pilgrim hostel that is run on donations. The hospitaleros there provide meals free of charge to any and all pilgrims who spend the night within its stone walls. The kitchen and dining room of the albergue at Grañon are located on the third floor of what used to be the priests' quarters of the village's 700 year-old church. Pilgrims sleep in a large room on the second floor, or in a loft located at the base of the belltower.

Two days earlier I had taken over the duties of hospitalero from three Germans. I didn't have an assistant and felt very alone. I was scared that I wouldn't make it through the next two weeks. How could I clean the albergue, shop for food, cook for pilgrims, help the priest with evening prayers, and find any time to sleep? I needn't have worried though, for soon enough the spirit of the Camino stepped forward to provide me with all the help I would need.

My first night in charge there were fifty-two pilgrims in the albergue. I'd shopped earlier in the day for potatoes, cheese, local chorizo, lettuce, tomatoes, delicious white asparagus, olives, melon. I'd bought a bottle of "cooking wine", by which I mean something to drink as I cook. I hoped that if I shared some of it as I went about chopping, grating, boiling and shredding, others would pitch in to help prepare the evening meal.

I began my preparations around five o'clock. In between chopping potatoes and grating cheese I greeted the arriving pilgrims, showed them where to shower, hang out their laundry, roll out their sleeping bags, and of course answered their many questions. It was with growing apprehension that I told them their evening meal would be at eight p.m. and that I was cooking it for them.

By six p.m. most pilgrims had arrived and gone through their afternoon routines. Some napped or sat quietly writing in their journals; others sat in the sun outside the albergue door. A few were looking for something to do and asked, "can I provide anything? What can I do to help?" Ah, salvation! Soon I was directing a small group of freshly scrubbed pilgrims who, chatting happily, made salad, grated cheese, mashed the potatoes, set out tables and plates, cups and cutlery. Someone had gone around the corner to purchase a few more bottles of cooking wine. We opened two for the kitchen volunteers and saved the rest to share at dinner. This brought in more offers to volunteer. "There's really nothing more that needs to be done right now", I heard myself saying. "Well then, I'll clean up after dinner" came several quick replies.

The meal went off without a hitch. Everyone ate their fill and there was even enough for three pilgrims who arrived tired and hungry as we all sat down to eat. I hadn't had to do much but pour wine and direct the willing volunteers. There was animated conversation in six languages that night; everyone had a splendid time.

I was up early the next morning heating milk, making coffee, setting out bread, cheese, butter, jam, fruit. One by one, sleepy pilgrims arrived in the kitchen. As I handed them a hot cup of coffee or tea they greeted me as if we'd known each other for years. And when they left for another day's walk toward Santiago, they hugged and thanked me. I wanted nothing more than to shoulder my own pack and join them. With hardly any effort I'd made fifty-two new friends, and tonight there would be more!

Our next training will be held March 4-6, 2008, in conjunction with the Annual Gathering at Mission Santa Barbara, in Santa Barbara, California. We look forward to an exciting and enjoyable few days of getting to know each other, gaining new skills, and furthering our volunteer support of the Camino de Santiago. - Daniel DeKay

For further information regarding the next training contact Daniel De Kay at hospitalero@americanpilgrims.com

AMERICAN PILGRIMS ON THE CAMINO-NEWSLETTER, November 2007

ANNUAL GATHERING OF PILGRIMS – Santa Barbara, California

11th Annual Gathering of Pilgrims
Santa Barbara, California 2008

Hospitalero Training	March 4-6
Gathering of Pilgrims	March 7-9
Spiritual Retreat	March 9-11



Next year's Gathering will celebrate the spirit of Spain in the Spanish Colonial ambiance of Old Mission Santa Barbara. Set between the dramatic Santa Ynez Mountains and the dazzling Pacific Ocean, the seminary grounds will be our refugio for the event. Soak up the silence and tranquility of beautiful cloistered gardens, reminisce your camino experience with other pilgrims, enjoy Spanish cuisine, music, culture, explore beautiful historic Santa Barbara.

Other Roads is the theme for the 2008 Gathering. You will meet pilgrims who have experienced various routes to Santiago de Compostela as well as to other pilgrimage destinations. Our special guest will be Alison Raju, author of many guide books to the Camino as well as the upcoming guide to the ancient Via Francigena from Canterbury to Rome. We are also fortunate to have Sacred Steps www.SacredStepsinSpain.com exhibiting at the Casa de la Guerra Historic House Museum (www.sbthp.org), an easy walk from the Mission grounds.

This year, in addition to our regular Gathering, we are offering several additional events for veteran pilgrims: *Tending Those Who Walk the Road* – cursillo for hospitaleros. This course will prepare you to work as a volunteer host at refugios in Spain. Friday morning Amy Racina, author of *Angels in the Wilderness*, will present a writing workshop for those wanting to further explore their Camino experience through journaling and other forms of writing. Following the Gathering there will be a spiritual retreat, *Walking the Interior Road*, led by Michael Wyatt, offering pilgrims the opportunity to examine more deeply the spiritual aspects of pilgrimage.

All meetings and meals will be held at the Mission Renewal Center, which offers overnight accommodations in dormitory style rooms. You may choose to stay at the Center, or make your own accommodations. For information on Santa Barbara visit: www.santabarbara.com; for transportation information, visit: www.santabarbara.com/community/transportation/. Registration packets will be available in mid December. Go to www.americampilgrims.com/events to download the registration packets or contact American Pilgrims on the Camino, Attn: Gathering, 1514 Channing Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94303 to have a packet mailed to you.

Help needed:

Sponsors: we are looking for sponsors for our event. Every year, generous members, businesses and organizations help underwrite the Gathering, making it possible for American Pilgrims to keep the cost of the Gathering reasonable and to make contributions to the Camino. If you, or someone you know, would like to sponsor a part of this wonderful event, please contact gatherings@americanpilgrims.com.

Raffle: Our raffles have become one of the highlights of the weekend. We are looking for fun, interesting, unique, items relating to the Camino to include in the raffle or for individuals to sponsor a raffle basket. Items can be books, art work, memorabilia, equipment, food, services, air miles (domestic and foreign). Put on your thinking caps – you may have something hiding in your closet that would make a hot raffle item. All proceeds from the raffle go to support the Camino. For information about making a tax deductible donation, contact gatherings@americanpilgrims.com.

AMERICAN PILGRIMS ON THE CAMINO-NEWSLETTER, November 2007

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Santiago de Compostela, Chapter XIII (pp 712-795). Iberia, Spanish Travels and Reflections, by James A. Michener. Photographs by Robert Vavra. Random House, 1968: 818 pp.

Spain and El Camino de Santiago seem to evoke passion in those who experience them. My own love of Spain and awareness of the Camino took root in 1965-66, when, as a student, I traveled the width and breadth of the country, unaware that a famous American, James Michener was doing the same, albeit in more glamorous and credentialed company and surely spending more than \$5 a day! On the evening of 25 July 1966 (El Día de Santiago/the Day of St. James), Michener and I both sat in the Plaza del Obradoiro, each of us thrilled by the dazzling and never-ending fireworks bursting above and around the plaza and cathedral. My first year in Spain would result in life-long friendships and the insatiable desire to return again and again. Michener's experiences and scrupulous research during that period would produce Iberia, his best-known non-fiction work and the definitive travel guide about Spain, in which he would vividly bring to bear the story-telling prowess of his historically accurate fiction.

Michener repeatedly traveled to Spain during four decades preceding the 1968 publication of Iberia and had long regarded the country as his second home. As he researched and wrote, he consciously chose to emphasize the country's enduring qualities rather than its then-current preoccupations. Thus each chapter, such as Santiago de Compostela, Toledo, Salamanca, Cordoba, Sevilla, and other place names, still stands alone, timeless, yet evocative of the era in which he wrote.

The reader is captivated by Michener's articulated passion. His style is eloquent, yet accessible, erudite, but not esoteric, as he seamlessly weaves his command of fact and tradition, borne of years of meticulous investigation as well as information gathered from Spanish historical scholars, clerics, and those he met along his Caminos. All that Michener gives us is enhanced by the sharing of it, for as a storyteller, he is able to extract the marrow from these encounters, chance or arranged, and from the serendipity of roads less traveled.

Those of us who share his inexplicable, almost hypnotizing and mystical love of Spain, who know *duende* (the essence that makes something Spanish) when we are fortunate enough to happen upon it, will often, as we read, nod in acquiescence or think "Yes! That's it!" Those of you who have yet to experience and fall in love with Spain, or the Camino, or Santiago, who might be wondering what all the fuss is about, will surely find yourselves, through Iberia, inexorably drawn to this land, its people, its history, culture, art and architecture, drawn to make the Camino de Santiago your Camino.

Like thousands before him, Michener reacted to a personal crisis with the determination to return once more to Santiago; and in 1966 he retraced his Camino for the third time. It is fitting that Santiago de Compostela is the final (and longest) chapter in Iberia. As introduction, we find (in lieu of 1,000 words) Vavra's close-up photo of cobblestones worn smooth – we understand that it represents 1,000 years of pilgrims' passage. Next is the now-familiar, Camino-marked map of Western Europe, but bear in mind that in the 1960's, few Americans were even aware of the Camino.

We are made privy to fascinating historical tidbits pertaining to many of the Camino towns, such as the Miracle of Cebreiro or, apropos of the Ponferrada Castle, the "poignant historical tragedy" of the Knights Templar – he wants us to feel what they felt. To enhance our understanding of the power of Santiago, the Patron Saint of Spain, Michener tells us that the Moors occupying Spain had a relic in Cordoba, the arm of the Prophet Muhammad, which led them into battle. The Christian soldiers in Spain, having no similar New Testament relic, likely conjured Santiago Matamoros to serve the same purpose, ultimately successful in driving out the Moors. Michener could not have predicted (but likely

AMERICAN PILGRIMS ON THE CAMINO-NEWSLETTER, November 2007

would not have been surprised) that 21st century Spanish soldiers fighting in Iraq would wear the red cross of Santiago on their uniforms.

Michener takes us on spell-binding, exquisitely detailed tours of the Romanesque (little to do with Rome, we are advised) churches, those jewels dotting the Camino, among them: Eunate; San Miguel in Estella; San Martín in Frómista; León's San Isidoro; and, finally, behind the baroque façade of the cathedral in Santiago, Maestro Mateo's masterpiece: El Pórtico de la Gloria, "one of the major glories of world art." According to Michener, "Psychologically it is profound; humanistically it is one of the most delightful works ever composed; artistically it is of the first order; and religiously it recapitulates the faith of an epoch. But ... I have missed the essential quality of this masterpiece. It is fun... a kind of jollity suffuses the figures." In that hallowed space, I have stood until my neck gave out, smiling as I read aloud to my pilgrim husband the six pages dedicated to the enjoyment of the tenderly carved figures, their gestures, benevolent expressions, significance; and I have been re-infected with Michener's passion (that word again, none other will do) for this solid architecture, these figures "as modern as tomorrow." Twenty such pages are dedicated to the cathedral itself.

If Iberia, and therefore Chapter XIII, has any drawbacks, they might be found in its very strengths. Erudition and passion notwithstanding, twenty pages on the Santiago cathedral might be a bit much for those not on-site. Your pre-visit/Camino read might skim those pages. Traveling light, you could make copies of those pages relevant to your destinations. I implore you not to visit Santiago, Toledo, Salamanca, etc. without first reading then taking with you the corresponding chapters. If you'll be walking the Camino, at a minimum the Santiago de Compostela and Pamplona chapters apply.

For the most part, despite the dramatic changes there over the past 39 years, Michener achieved his goal of describing Spain's enduring qualities; the history, traditions, art, and architecture of centuries past remain unchanged. Those of us who have trod or will tread those same paths or the worn steps and floors of the churches and monasteries, feeling one with those who've gone before, will be enriched and inspired by the reading, sharing, and re-reading of Santiago de Compostela, and will, I hope, subsequently be eager to read the book in its considerable entirety.

In 1969, a year after publication, Michener wrote his "final report on Iberia" to Robert Vavra, whose black and white photographs wove their own uniquely stark story through the pages of Iberia. The letter was a lengthy self-assessment in which he praised Vavra's photographs and, obviously well-pleased, deemed the book a "minor masterpiece." He closed with the following:

I believe that at the end of forty years everyone in the world who reasonably ought to have read our book on Spain will have done so. And then someone better will come along and give us a new interpretation. ... But to do this he will have to have worked as hard as we worked, and he will have to have loved Spain as much as we did, for there is no other way to achieve a minor masterpiece. As for those who will not have read the book, or not liked it, or not understood it, to hell with them for we never had them as targets in the first place.

Thirty-nine years have passed; and anyone reading this newsletter "reasonably ought to have read", if not the entire 818 pages, at least the chapter, Santiago de Compostela. If you've not, you'd best get with it!

Cherie Altman Pagett
cpagett@pagetts.com

AMERICAN PILGRIMS ON THE CAMINO-NEWSLETTER, November 2007

Review of:

Confessions of a Pilgrim, Sue Kenney (2007), iuniverse, Lincoln, NE

Reflections on Spain's St. James and his way, Robert Hodum (2005), Seaburn Books, Long Island City, NY

There are many "other ways" to write about the Camino, just as there are "other routes" besides the Camino Frances. These two books are about some of the "other ways" people share their Caminos.

Robert Hodum's book "Reflections on Spain's St. James and his Way" is neither a guidebook nor a personal diary. Instead Hodum, a student of Archeology and Romance Languages chose to gather together everything of interest to those wanting to know more about St. James and what made the pilgrimage route what it is today. His series of small articles, while sorely in need of a strong editor, are for the most part, well researched. Want to know about textual support for the travels of St. James, or perhaps narratives in the Jacobian (sic) tradition? It's here. Hodum's work is catalogued and thoroughly documented, with reliable sources. He does slip a bit on the more new age approach, relying on hearsay. His bibliography is much appreciated.

Sue Kenney, on the other hand, does things "her way" and her second book, "Confessions of a Pilgrim" refers not to any transgressions but rather an old definition of "confessio" originally meaning both a declaration of faith and to designate the burial place of a Saint's remains. Sue is walking the Camino Portuguese this time, to Santiago and back, in winter, no less. Her further "penance" involves being pick-pocketed in the Frankfurt airport, having her pack stuck in lost baggage and becoming a true pilgrim, relying on the kind goodness of others for survival. She encounters quite a motley crew as she travels, carrying a special eagle feather, whose destination and recipient will find her. In many ways I was reminded of the trials in Paolo Coelho's Pilgrimage, sans the heavy mysticism.

Kathy Gower

Books of interest that may add to the appreciation and enjoyment of the Camino suggested by Carlos Mentley:

Barron, Robert. Heaven in Stone and Glass. Experiencing the Spirituality of the Gothic Cathedrals. New York: Crossroad, 2000.

An interpretation of the Gothic cathedral in its intersection with spirituality.

Currie, Jim. The Mindful Traveler. A Guide to Journaling and Transformative Travel. Chicago: Open Court, 2000.

The author makes the case for the practice of being alert to your own inner life while on the road, so that you can "enjoy each step you take."

Lash, Jennifer. On Pilgrimage. New York: Bloomsbury, 1991.

The author's insightful reflections on her solitary travels through France to places of contemporary Christian pilgrimage.

For those who enjoy reading in Spanish, I can recommend two historical novels about the Camino:

Torbado, Jesús. El peregrino. Barcelona: Planeta, 2002. (Paperback edition)

The story of a young French pilgrim who travels to Santiago in the days of Santo Domingo de la Calzada and San Juan de Ortega.

Asensi, Matilde. Iacobus. Barcelona: Random House Mondadori, 2000.

In the aftermath of the dissolution of the Templar Order, a knight searches for the source of the Templars' former wealth and power.

AMERICAN PILGRIMS ON THE CAMINO-NEWSLETTER, November 2007

NEED YOUR HELP - LOOKING FOR GUIDEBOOK SUGGESTIONS

The theme of the upcoming gathering at Santa Barbara is *Other Roads*. One of our goals is to provide a thorough list of guide books for as many routes as possible. We are looking for suggestions and reviews of guidebooks for routes to Santiago, as well as for other pilgrimage destinations. We would like your help in compiling this list. In addition to being available to those attending the Gathering, we will also be certain your suggestions are added to our website booklist and resources. Please help us help other pilgrims select a guide that will work best for them. To participate in this project, you can go to www.americanpilgrims.com to download a review form or contact info@americanpilgrims.com to request a form be mailed to you.

PILGRIM NEWS & EVENTS

Congratulations!

Our own George Green, Professor at William and Mary College and well known in the North American pilgrim community for his many contributions to the Camino de Santiago, received Spain's highest cultural achievement for foreign nationals, The Cross of Isabel the Catholic. For a full account, go to <http://www.wm.edu/news/index.php?id=8329>



Living on the Camino

Walk, bicycle or ride the Camino? Why not live right on it and see what the pilgrimage is about in yet another way? Rebekah Scott and her spouse, Paddy, along with their dog Una and a flock of hens named Gladys provide almost daily blogs from their "home", a collapsing and hopefully resurrecting finca along the meseta in Moratinos, Spain. Both of them have been hospitaleros for many years in many places and have walked several Camino routes. They have now settled along one of the more isolated stretches, between Carrion de los Condes and Sahagun, a few feet from the actual Camino route. Rebekah's on the ground blogs are alternately funny, sad, frustrating and amusing. They are living a life many of us only dream of...to live along the Camino and to "give back". Sometimes for them, it's more like a nightmare, but check it out for yourself at <http://www.moratinoslife.blogspot.com/>

Midwest Gathering

A social gathering of Midwest Pilgrims is being planned for Saturday, January 26, in the Twin Cities at a time and place to be determined. Interested parties may contact Cheryl Grasmoe at grasmoe@gmail.com for details.

Sacred Steps on the Camino

This exhibit of work on film and canvas by modern pilgrims will be touring the United States. From now through Jan 31, 2008, it will be housed at the Covell Learning Center, UCLA. The exhibit is open from 10 AM and 6 PM Mon to Fri, and Noon to 6 PM on Sunday. For further information, contact the Dept of Spanish and Portuguese at spoffice@humnet.ucla.edu, www.spanport.ucla.edu/ or call 310-825-1036. For a map of the campus, www.ucla.edu/map/map.html In March the exhibit will travel to Santa Barbara for the Gathering of Pilgrims. For information on other US venues, go to: www.sacredstepsinspain.com.

PILGRIM SHARING

Pilgrim Senses

St. James Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, is one half mile from my en plein air view. Rain is falling in fine droplets, and it feels more like a thick layer of fog—lifting, then settling in for a wet Galician afternoon. St. James Cathedral lies below, blanketed in mist, surrounded by red-roofed buildings forming an enduring cityscape welcome to pilgrims.

Watercolor, my medium, has an affinity for this ambient moisture, bringing together a record of this moment with my experience in ways that layer this day of light rain, repelled by my thin and reliable hooded rain jacket. Santiago de Compostela seen this way evokes in me a larger sense of time. Mist and mystery go well together here. It is easier, then, to imagine pilgrims walking toward the bones of St. James, sanctified by falling water, enfolded in this city made hospitable to them. To find dry shelter, to cleanse bodies and souls, become hopes that are more reliable when Compostela is at hand.

Painting blurs and sharpens by turns this changing scene of wet and internal wandering. Does it describe this journey through times and places, travels and sanctity? I might never know; I'm stretching to meditate on what can be touched, remembered. Experiencing this search satisfies an urge to tell it in this way. As I pack up my tools and plein air study, I muse about other pilgrims' descriptions and insights found by coming here.

Nita Garland



RECIPES TO SHARE

Caldo Gallego

6 generous servings

½ lb salt pork/ham hock
1 large bunch turnip greens or kale
1 scant tsp sugar
dash nutmeg
1 c. canned white beans (Lubias)
1 small onion, chopped
1 small green pepper, chopped
1 garlic clove, minced
3 Tablespoon bacon drippings
3 med. Potatoes, peeled and cubed
2 chorizo

In a soup kettle (4 qt), place ham hock. Cover with water and bring to a rapid boil. Skim, and cook over moderate heat until meat is tender, about 1 hour.

Wash and chop greens and add to kettle with sugar, nutmeg, beans and cook, partly covered for ½ hour.

Sauté onion, green pepper and garlic with bacon drippings. Add to soup. Check stock and add more water and salt if necessary. Add cubed potatoes and chorizos. Stir once and cook for 45 min, longer at low heat or until potatoes are done. Remove meat and cut into serving pieces. Return meat, heat thoroughly and serve.

From www.santiago.ca

DO YOU HAVE LOCAL EVENTS, RECIPES OR STORIES TO SHARE?

We would love to report on Camino related activities in your part of the country. Are you planning a hike, a book reading, a movie? Let us hear from you so we can connect you with others who share your Camino interests and live or are visiting where you are.

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.

American Pilgrims on the Camino

Michael Wyatt, Chair
Mary Wallis, Nominations Committee
Carlos Mentley, Secretary
Zita Macy, Membership and Credentials
Nicholas Hayes, Treasurer & Camino Support
Lin Galea, Gatherings
Jim Eychaner, Communications (website, newsletter)
Daniel DeKay, Hospitalero Training

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