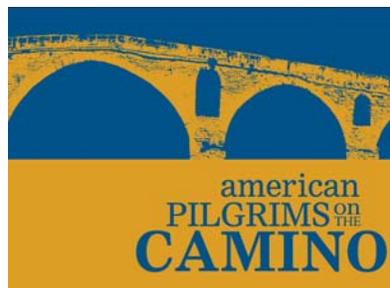


AMERICAN PILGRIMS ON THE CAMINO-NEWSLETTER, JUNE 2008



Dear Companions of the Camino:

This newsletter is a delicious occasion for all of us who attended the gathering in Santa Barbara to return to that warm event. For those of you who were unable to attend, the review of the gathering that makes up the bulk of this newsletter will give you an opportunity to taste some of what we enjoyed there. The volunteers who gave so much to make that gathering a joyous one have given even more in helping all of us to savor what was brought together at that time.

For many of us, gathering in Santa Barbara has a special dimension. Given that the Camino itself is so transformative for all of us, as it traces its way across the northern heart of Spain, Santa Barbara means finding ourselves once again in surroundings that arose out of Spanish culture. At least in my case, that naturally quickens my heart and takes me back to treasured moments of the pilgrimage. Not only that, the recollections of being in Spain that the old mission church brings home were enhanced by the tender attentions of those who had been trained as hospitaleros in the days before the gathering began, as they welcomed us and served us and passed on the attention that they had received.

I am delighted to thank through this venue our two Spanish guests, Ruben Camilo Lois Gonzalez and Jose Suarez Otero, for their heroic efforts to join us. Both work with the Galician Xunta to oversee tourism and especially the Camino de Santiago. They were only able to spend twenty-four hours at our gathering, snatching the time between scheduled activities in Europe. But it is a sign of their deep commitment to our partnership that they kept their promise to attend our gathering. I am deeply grateful to them for that effort and for their steady encouragement of our work.

Above all, I am so pleased to have the opportunity to thank Lin Galea for her “farewell performance” as chair of the gathering committee of our association. Lin has been on the Board since the founding of this organization and rotated off at the end of last year. With her unstoppable energy, with her meticulous attention to detail, with her heightened sense of what ought to be offered at a gathering, she has carried out those responsibilities in memorable and irreplaceable ways. The intensity of commitment of the founding members has steadied this association as it found its way through its early days. Lin was tireless and aspired to a selflessness that will be hard to follow. Thank you, Lin, for this and for so many gifts that you have given with the intention that we all flourish.

A final note: I have set up a task force to work on the revision of our credential. We have had a new logo for over a year, but have not yet had the funds allocated nor the commitment focused to concentrate on designing and producing a new credential. The one that many of you have received was created quickly and has been reprinted many times with minor changes. It is time now to produce a credential designed around our new logo, which will be practical and ample to collect the sellos of the albergues and parroquias along the way, but also representative of us as an association to the various entities through whose hands it will pass. Our intention is to have it ready for 2009.

Buen Camino! And for those of you walking this summer: abraza el santo por mi!

Michael Wyatt
Board Chair

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2008 Gathering of Pilgrims Santa Barbara, California

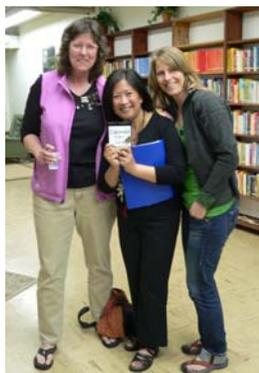
Hospitalero Training

“A sweet lady from the UK arrived late last night. She was very cold and wet. Since we were already full two other women had gotten a hotel room in town. We had no room for the latecomer so I asked the two if by any chance there was space for her... ‘yes, there’s an extra bed and she’s welcome to stay with us...’

And while cleaning up this morning I discovered that someone has left a bar of quality dark chocolate in the fridge. Must be the magic of the Camino!”

Sixteen members of American Pilgrims have recently joined our ever-growing number of trained volunteer *hospitaleros*, including Marlana Lambert who recently sent us the above vignette from her volunteer post as *hospitalera* in the town of Nájera. Along with Marlana were Rennie Archibald, Carmen Español, Patricia Dager, Christine Kile, JD Schafer, John and Janice Le Pouvoir, Gordon Lindsey, Kathleen Dempsey, Carolyn Oxsen, Joan Hess, Grant Spangler, Clint Walker, and two of our newest Board members, Jen Howard and Cherie Pagett.

The training took place just prior to the Annual Gathering of Pilgrims which was held at the historic and beautiful Santa Barbara Mission. We held our meetings in the inner cloister of the mission where a large wooden statue of Saint Francis of Assisi brought a benevolent peace to the setting. Three days of sharing music, food and conversation helped create an experience that was, in the words of one participant, “just like the Camino only without the blisters”. During the training we discussed the history and philosophy of hospitality and learned about the logistics of running an *albergue*. We received training in first aid for those on the Way, we practiced cooking for large groups (using recipes from our own *Hospitalero Cookbook*), and we explored ways to provide spiritual support to pilgrims of diverse cultural and religious backgrounds.



On completion of the training our volunteers received a handsome American Pilgrims lapel pin with the special designation “*Hospitaleros Voluntarios*” embossed under the APOC logo.

And then they went to work. Our new volunteers provided many a warm welcome to attendees of the Annual Gathering while they helping with luggage and orienting participants to the Mission and its environs. They also helped with setup and management of various presentations during the Gathering and provided much needed help at mealtimes. Many attendees told me that they felt this year’s Gathering had a particularly special feel to it and that it was due in large part to the spirit the *hospitaleros* infused into each day’s activities.

As mentioned above, one recent trainee is already working in Nájera, and several others are set to volunteer during the coming months. Some of our past trainees are also returning to a second or even third posting as *hospitalero voluntario*. We are very proud of our volunteers. They truly embody the mission of APOC: to provide support and encouragement to pilgrims on the many branches of the Camino de Santiago.

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Camino Writing Workshop

I signed up without really knowing what I was getting into. My travel schedule put me into Santa Barbara Thursday night so I thought I might as well take the workshop. I like writing. There was no way to prepare the participants with the powerful human dimension about which we were about to participate.

Amy Racina, author of *Angels in the Wilderness* is larger than life in many ways. She is tall, looks strong and very capable. As her story unfolds, we are all mesmerized with the miracle of her life which she is sharing with us. It is powerful. It is grabbing. She has got us in her hands. Then the "class" begins.

During the next few hours, we go through exercises of writing assignments with attention to texture, color, taste, smell, touch, and using random words to stimulate ideas. Some of us probably have had these writing experiences but in our small groups, we are glad to be doing the exercise again.

The power of her presentation was to move us to get our experiences into words. The sooner the better and sharpen your senses as well as your pencils. Do it! With all the techniques woven into the mix, her motivation was her own self, her own experience. It was great!

I came away from the morning wanting to go off somewhere and write!

Sandy Lenthall

Friday Afternoon Activities

During the afternoon, several of the trainee graduates practiced their newly acquired skills by helping to register arriving guests. Some of the writing workshop folks went off to their rooms to practice their newly acquired writing skills; others explored the beautiful Mission Gardens and grounds abounding in blossoms, sweet smells and hummingbirds; others just relaxed in the sunshine on the terrace rekindling old friendships or nurturing new ones.



For those who wanted, there were several presentations to attend: Daniel DeKay repeated his very popular "First Aid for Pilgrims"; Lynne Gilberg guided first time pilgrims through the ups and downs of pilgrimage in Spain; Mike Metras and Petra Wolf shared a photo presentation of their experience walking from Germany to Rome along the via Francigena in Italy

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The Gathering

By late Friday afternoon most of the attendees were registered and getting settled in. At 3:30 we started gathering outside the Friar's Lounge for a community walk downtown to *la Casa de la Guerra*, an historic adobe home dating to colonial California, for the Santa Barbara opening of *Sacred Steps, Pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago* (funded by the *Xunta de Galicia* through its *Sociedad de Xestión do Plan Xacobeo*) an exhibit of Camino paintings and photographs. The weather was just right and off we went, two by two. What we discovered as we walked and talked was the extraordinary architectural and horticultural beauty of Santa Barbara. *La Casa* was a perfect place for a reception with a large open courtyard where we enjoyed Spanish tapas and wines; costumed interpreters were there to enlighten us about the historic house and the period. We had the opportunity to meet and greet Ruben Camilo Lois Gonzalez, Director General of Tourism of the *Xunta* of Galicia, and Jose Suarez Otero, Tourist Office of Spain. The old, thick-walled adobe rooms provided a beautiful backdrop to the exhibit; two of the artists, Katie Lopez and Carolyn Affleck, were present. This exhibit will continue to travel throughout the US and Canada.



After a sprint back to the Mission, we were treated to a wonderful dinner graced with Galician wine and cheese generously provided by our Spanish guests. The beautiful wood-paneled dining room was enhanced with table settings arranged by volunteer member Martha Lopez with help from the graduates of the *Hospitalero* Training. Throughout the evening trainee graduates also served as table stewards: pouring wine, serving various courses and clearing the tables. Following dinner, Michael Wyatt, Chair of the board of directors for American Pilgrims, introduced and welcomed guests. Following the introductions, George Dagenais, Professor of Medieval Iberian Literature and Chair, Dept of Spanish and Portuguese, UCLA, introduced more guests and the various routes that they had walked. Jack Robinson, OFM, a Franciscan friar and priest, and a resident of the Mission community, gave a lively historical presentation of the History of the Franciscans in the United States. Sandy Lenthall closed the program with a reading of her poem, "You Were There." Many commented that it felt like a beautiful benediction for the evening. So ended the first day of the 2008 Gathering in Santa Barbara --except for those who stayed up until the wee hours sharing stories.

For some folks, Saturday got off to an early start with a 6:00 a.m. walk through the hills around the Mission, others attended mass in the Mission chapel, everyone enjoyed a hardy breakfast in the dining hall. The presentations that followed could be compared to a tasting of pilgrimage treats from many different traditions. Alison Raju, hailing from the British Confraternity of St. James, was our prize import this year. You may know Alison from one of the many guides she has authored. She is currently working on a guide to the *via Francigena*. Or, you may have encountered her at Rabanal or Miraz where she has served as *hospitalera* many times. Her presentation took us along the *via de la Plata* -- a great alternative route for those who prefer the road less travelled. Alison's presence touched many of us with her informative, yet humble, sharing of her many years of personal camino experience and service.



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For the next two “courses of the ‘menu del dia”, two presentations took us on routes leading East. First, to a Tibetan Buddhist Pilgrimage, the Mount Kailash Kora, beautifully illustrated by our guide Joan D’Aoust. Later, Derek Walker Youngs and Carolyn Affleck shared their experience of the 88 - Temple Buddhist pilgrimage around the island of Shikoku, Japan. Following their presentation, Derek and Carolyn presented each of us with a hand made origami peace crane, a tradition of the Buddhist pilgrimage.

The morning session concluded on a delicious note with travel back in time to Medieval Spain. Martha Schaffer, University of San Francisco, guided this tour through the *Cantigas de Santa Maria* with great detail and laced with good humor.



Following lunch we were treated to glimpses of the esoteric and the practical. Ferran Blasco has studied and leads tours of the earthly and cosmic energetics that are found in megalithic, Romanesque and Gothic sites along the Camino. In one short hour, he could touch only the icing on the cake of this very provocative and challenging subject. Moving on to the more pragmatic, Glen Van Peski, of Gossamer Gear, gave us a

menu of the basic “light” diet in equipment, plus samples of high energy nutrition bars: definitely yummy, but not so “lite” calorie wise.

Dinner started with a spectacular course of tapas on the terrace, brilliantly orchestrated again by sister and brother team, Martha and Ben Lopez with the help of our new trainees. For the dessert course, we were treated to a Torta de Santiago, accompanied by Amy Racina’s spell binding account (*Angels in the Wilderness*) of her life threatening solo journey through rugged Kings Canyon wilderness area.



A raffle of grand proportions capped off the evening. There was something for everybody: Spanish food delicacies, books, art work, memorabilia, kamino kitch, packing and travel equipment, all artistically and enticingly arranged by Martha Lopez. In addition, this year we had something new to add to the event: two generous members, Patricia Hather and Cherie Pagett, offered a one week stay in apartments to be auctioned off – one in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and another in Fuengirola, Spain. It seemed like almost everyone came away with a treat of some sort. To add to the fun, this year’s ticket sellers were sporting stylish denim aprons with camino motifs designed by Jean McCoy. We thank all of you who made donations to the raffle and our special thanks to Martha, Jean and Zita Macy for organizing this very successful event. Proceeds go to Camino Support.



Sunday morning many attended the 7:30 mass at the Old Mission Santa Barbara with a special prayer and blessing for the pilgrims. Those who were staying on were treated to an eight mile walk led by Joe Banales. Joe has researched the route of the original *el Camino Real* and gave us a chance to follow in the footsteps of the early Spanish Missionaries.

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Our appetites had been whetted, tempted and satisfied by the exciting presentations and lovely setting but most of all, by the *communitas* of the pilgrims attending this Gathering. Until we meet again, Ultreya!



Post Gathering Spiritual Retreat

Walking the Interior Road

Leading this retreat was Michael Wyatt and the opening session Sunday evening set the tone for the next two days. In his calm, gentle way and through his extraordinary use of language we began the journey of “walking the interior road” with ourselves and each other. The opening session put each of us squarely in the position of going back to inventory the “ripples”, those movements of the Spirit as we were making the decision to take the first step. We learned about the differences in the pilgrim of the medieval period and the present in terms of the cultural context in which pilgrimage happens. In smaller groups we examined motivations, fears, crises, affirmations, “aha” moments, gratitudes, and in the last sessions we examined what behaviors we have kept from the Camino experience and have integrated into our “normal,” post-camino lives.

Michael’s introductions to each session with personal experience and his ability to put intangibles into words were the invitations and motivations for us to continue the process of examination and revelation both in private contemplation and in sharing with others in small groups.

Being able to wander off into a beautiful corner of a cloistered garden, nestled into this space with the sun shining and water gently splashing in the fountain, away from our everyday lives and “the world” in which we live, is a rare and special privilege. It happened for 24 of us who attended the Spiritual Retreat at Santa Barbara and we were grateful.

Sandy Lenthall

Final Note

We are deeply grateful for everyone who made this gathering such a beautiful and meaningful event – organizers, presenters, participants, trainees, donors -- everyone of you who came with your hearts open and your willingness to share, to give and to receive the experience of the camino, we thank you. You made it happen. Lin Galea



And now looking forward to the Gathering 2009 in New Mexico

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2009

WALK IN SPIRIT

**American Pilgrims on the Camino
Albuquerque Gathering**

March 13 – 15, 2009
Rio Grand Hotel
Old Town Albuquerque
New Mexico

Retreat

March 15 – 17
Spiritual Renewal Center
Near Albuquerque
(Transportation provided)

Hospitalero Training

March 11-13
South Valley Economic Development Center
Albuquerque

Join past and future pilgrims in exploring the deeper and higher meanings that lie within the road to Santiago. Our Gathering will engage your body, mind and spirit as we share stories, thought-provoking presentations, and festivities to celebrate the pilgrim in all of us.

Early registration in November 2008

For more information about our Gatherings, past and future, watch the website for details - www.americanpilgrims.com/events

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ALONG THE CAMINO - Fuenterrobles

Following is an account that Mary V. Wallis, a Board member, wrote in her book, *Among the Pilgrims: Journeys to Santiago de Compostella*, of one of the refugios that we are supporting through our Camino Support fund, in fulfillment of our mission statement and of the intentions of our members. It was excerpted from Chapter Six: Churches.

I arrived in Fuenterrobles in a light rain late one afternoon and, just as my guide book had indicated, it had a *refugio*. The building had once been the summer house of the local bishop. It was of whitewashed stone, had a roof of red tiles and a large line drawing of a pilgrim on the wall beside the front porch. Inside was a dark, wood-paneled hallway with coat racks and benches. I knocked on a partially open door off the hall through which I could see a fireplace and two tables littered with papers. No one answered, and thinking the room was probably the *refugio* office, I entered intending to sign the registration book.

With its low ceiling, off-white walls and dark trim, the room had a medieval air. On the table was a row of homemade candles lopsidedly stuck in a wooden holder. I saw among the books and scribbled notepads a well-used, copiously underlined copy of Prieto's *Tu Solus Peregrinus*. Someone had been working here recently, the fire was still smoking and the room had a warm, human scent. Off to one side was a small kitchen - a single man's kitchen, as evidenced by a head of garlic carelessly tossed into a big open box of cookies, and rockhard bread and old chorizo sausage strewn around the counter. The sink overflowed with dishes. I tidied the counter a little, then went to find the sleeping quarters. At the top of a flight of stairs, I found three rooms with sloped ceilings and skylights. In one, mattresses had been filed on their sides against the wall. In a corner were blankets, folded and piled like crepes. I threw a mattress on the floor, made up a bed, had a shower and went to find something to eat in town.

I returned in the rain an hour later and found the priest in his kitchen. Don Blas - his name according to my guidebook - was tall, heavy-set, and extremely handsome. He wore a Nike wind breaker and a pair of jeans. He told me to call him by his family name, Boyero. He lived in this *refugio*, he said, but his parish included several villages in the area. He grabbed a small fish from a plate in the refrigerator and began washing it under the tap. I commented on the books and papers on the table and told him I had liked Prieto's book. He said he had been preparing a talk to give this weekend at a conference in Sevilla on the spirituality of the Via de la Plata. He tossed his fish into a warm frying pan and we returned to the office.

Boyero spoke in quick, crisp Spanish. He told me about the Via de la Plata and the *refugio* here at Fuenterrobles. More and more pilgrims arrive every year, he said. In the month of April alone there had been over a hundred. He himself had organized group pilgrimages along local portions of the *Via*, one of which had included prisoners from the Central Penitentiary. As he spoke, rummaging around on the table for things to show me, Boyero struck me as a kind of country version of Diego Gelmirez, without, perhaps, the archbishop's self-inflating ambitions, but with the same drive and commitment to making a spiritual vision real for everyday people.

After he had eaten his fish, Boyero showed me through the *refugio*. On the wall behind a long table in the refectory was the same line drawing of a pilgrim I had seen on the front of the building. Across from it, a cross made of driftwood hung under an antique bell. We went outside to see an oratory that had just been completed, a tiny cave of a room intended for meditation and private Eucharist services. Ducking back out into fresh raindrops, we surveyed a small unfinished garden. Through the windows of a shed, I could see a pile of old furniture and a very old, decoratively painted cart. Boyero paused and, holding a toothpick to his mouth, nodded as he looked things over. The place was coming along.

When the rain cleared, he took me to see the church. It had been rebuilt recently from a ruin and had a vacant smell, like a new house. It also had the gentle light and tall, welcoming hollowness that I had come to love in the churches of the Romanesque along the *Camino francés*. I was struck by several modern wood statues in the apse, simple figures of the apostles. One was being added each year, Boyero told me, carved by someone local. The most surprising part of the church was behind the

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altar. Here, instead of a crucifix, a wood statue of the Risen Christ was suspended, a demanding, exultant figure with flat feet and outstretched arms. As we walked back to the *refugio*, I commented on the lack of traditional gore in the new church. "Si, si" said Boyero. "I've tried to get away from that. People here are too pessimistic. I want a more joyful spirituality. That's what I am working for." We passed an old man coming out of his house. Boyero stopped to chat, asked about something, told an in-joke that made the man smile.

A new spirituality. Listening to Boyero, I wondered if I was hearing voices from eight centuries ago. Had the people of the Church then not been working for the same thing? Would they not have gone about it in the same way, working pragmatically in the everyday world of the Camino to bring a refreshed faith into people's lives?

In the morning, I made another attempt at cleaning Boyero's kitchen. While I cut some fresh, sweet oranges for us to eat, the mayor of Fuenteserobles dropped in about some business. The two men invited me to sit at the table with them when I brought out a big plate of orange slices. As they talked together over the fruit, I observed the process of Camino building unfold. After listening a while, I asked them how this all began.

The two men looked at each other. "Was it 94? 93?" asked Boyero. "93," put in the mayor. "What you see now," Boyero said, raising his voice a little, "was the result of a dream that came up one day in a conversation with Manolo here." He gestured toward the mayor. "And without thinking twice, we got the manpower together and started in on all this rubble. Because it had all fallen down, you see, it was all destroyed. The first thing we wanted to do was make a parish house for the community, but since there were more and more pilgrims coming through, we thought it would be a good idea to share it as a *refugio* too. And so now, since we had such a positive response from the town people, and above all, with the help of Manolo here, we have worked in stages little by little until..." he opened his arms to the room, "we have what we have."

I asked Boyero about his vision for the *refugio*. "Our idea is to keep on building so that this place can be an oasis for pilgrims. They can come here after a day on the road and find what they need. Nothing luxurious, only the essentials, like the good room you slept in last night."

I wanted to know how the community felt about this *refugio* and all the pilgrims coming through the town. The mayor answered. "The people worked hard here. Support is growing all the time. We have space - the whole lot is about 2000 square meters. We even want to put in a theme park and a fountain..."

Boyero broke in. "The most interesting thing is that the whole community worked on this because we have no official support or subsidies. The funds come from the people themselves."

"But it must have cost a fortune," I said.

"The people volunteered their manpower," said Boyero. "And it was the mayor here - he's a stonemason - who did the initial work and donated most of his time. And all the materials are recycled. That's the secret: voluntary manpower and materials that could be recuperated from elsewhere."

Boyero told me that the *Via* is promoted almost solely by word of mouth, though there are a few good guidebooks. "What most interests pilgrims who come here," he emphasized, "is the purity, the difficulty and the natural beauty of the *Via*. Above all, its spirituality. The *Via* must not become like the *Camino francés*, where there are so many people there for so many different reasons. It detracts from the pilgrim spirit. People come to the *Via* with a much clearer, more intense spirituality. There are hardly any facilities, and there are sections that are forty kilometers of nothing, real desert. This purifies the pilgrim spirit and this is what we are supporting here. That's what this conference on the weekend is about: raising the spiritual dimension of the *Via*."

Boyero would be leaving in a couple of days to give his talk at the conference in Sevilla. I think that if Gelmirez had been one of the participants, or the great master builder Estabon, or the 12th-century monks and priests of Eunete, San Martín, Sahagún, or San Isidore, they would have understood everything he was going to say.

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PILGRIM NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sacred Steps Camino art exhibit, seen at both the 2007 Gathering in Williamsburg and the 2008 Gathering in Santa Barbara is a traveling exhibit. <http://www.sacredstepsinspain.com/?id=1&lang=en>

Now through July 27th it is on exhibit at the Cathedral of St. James, Seattle Washington.

August 2nd - 30th it will be at the Winters Center for the Arts, Participation Gallery, Winters, California. Opening Reception will be Saturday, August 2nd, 4:30 – 6:30.

Wanda Sawicki, a Canadian artist and art therapist who has walked the Camino four times since 1996, is looking for interview subjects for her Masters of Arts in Pastoral Psychology and Counseling thesis. She would like to speak with counselors and therapists who feel that their approach to working with clients has been affected by their own experiences on the Camino. She may be reached at wsawicki@sympatico.ca

American Association of Pastoral Counselors, Northwest Region
2008 Annual Fall Conference – Oct 3-4, 2008, Portland State Univ, Portland Oregon
PILGRIMAGE – A Jungian Perspective on Contemporary Clinical and Cultural Understandings of an Ancient, Therapeutic Archetype
Contact: Anthony Terndrup (541) 753-9217

BOOK REVIEW – Kathy Gower

Along the Templar Trail: Seven Million Steps for Peace

By Brandon Wilson

When I first walked the Camino Frances in 1999, a friend sent his good wishes for the journey with a note translating 800 kilometers into approximately 1.5 million steps. Brandon Wilson, a companion at times during that pilgrimage, has taken that a great deal farther...

Along the Templar Trail: Seven Million Steps for Peace is his story of turning an ancient warpath into a trek for peace. Brandon and a French friend I met with him in Spain (saluting St. Jacques each evening with “Jacques” Daniels) left from Dijon, France and traveled along the old Templar Trail to Jerusalem, the approximate route followed by Godfrey de Boullion and his troops during the First Crusades to liberate the Holy City from the infidels.

It was not an easy trek; multiply the blisters and speeding trucks and loss of the road and uncertainty of places to bed down that we’ve all felt, through eleven countries and two continents—minus the yellow arrows and more often than not without real maps and practically non-existent language skills. What these two did have was a keen sense of improvisation and a will to make this trek for the sake of peace.

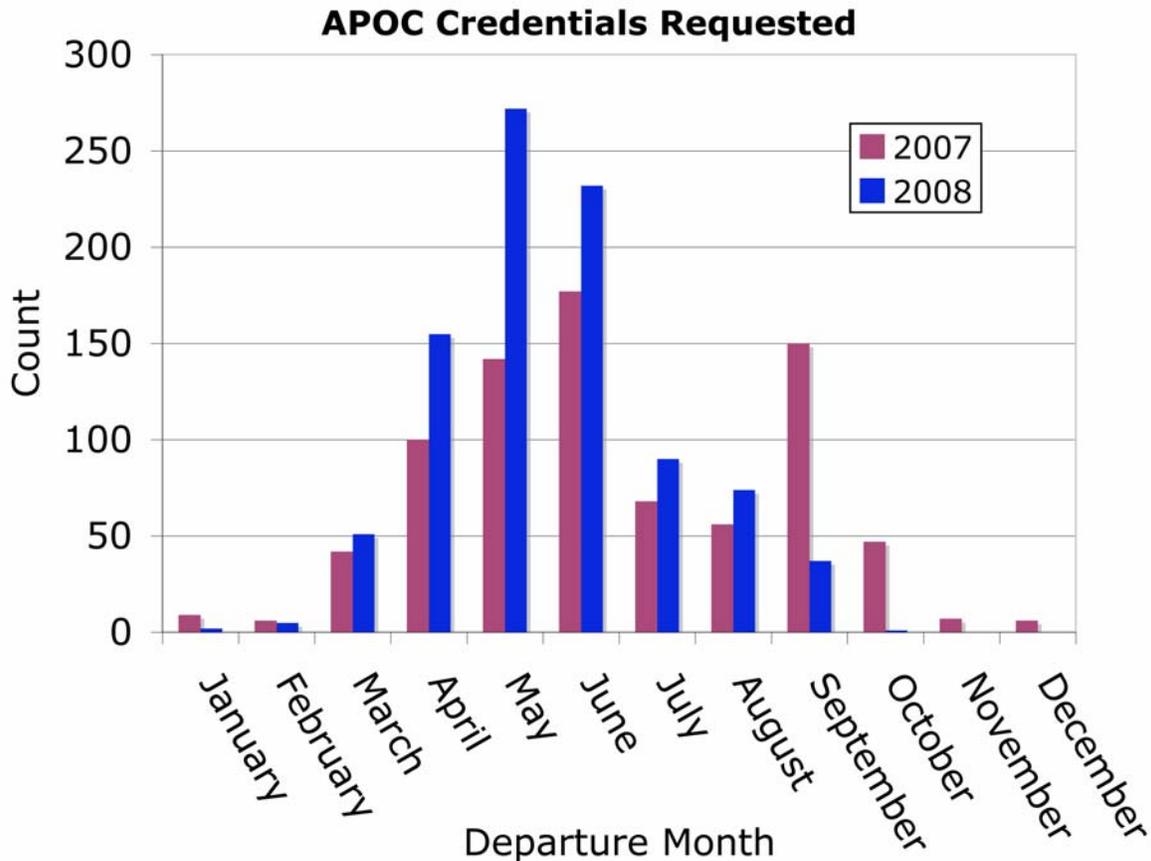
During their journey, they traveled blazing a new trail for over 2600 miles in 160 days. Along the way, the Middle East erupted in war, the Beirut Airport was bombed and tourists were gunned down in Jordan, not to mention an outbreak of an Ebola-like virus
And more. Still, they persevered and had some pretty harrowing as well as incredibly warm-warming adventures along the way.

Brandon makes a very convincing argument “that one person can still make a difference in today’s world and that the time is now.” As he stated for international media when interviewed along the way in the Middle East, “he’s establishing the trail as an international path of peace for people of all cultures, faiths and nationalities. Let’s set aside our differences and let’s walk as one.”

I feel empowered and moved by his tale and thoroughly enjoyed the resolve and intent of these two brave individuals as they spread the peace that we pilgrims know begins within.

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PILGRIMS ON THE CAMINO



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 an 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 & Gathering Committees
Cherie Pagett
Carlos Mentley, Secretary
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