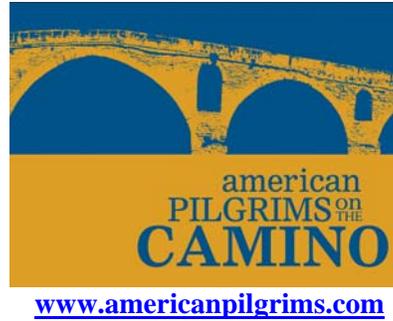


AMERICAN PILGRIMS ON THE CAMINO-NEWSLETTER, September 2009



Dear Fellow Pilgrims:

American Pilgrims is experiencing the same challenges as other nonprofits around the country in difficult financial times. While growth is probably not part of our story for this year, we have a good foundation and sound fundamentals.

The most valuable of these fundamentals are our incredible volunteers. Too many to name here, these volunteers give countless hours, treasure, and talent. Everything that we accomplish is thanks to them, from our newsletter, website, and sending credentials to the organizing of the Gatherings.

I am pleased to announce the election of two new Board members: Annette Argall and Marlena Lambert. They bring to the Board valuable and diverse experiences of benefit to us all.

I am pleased to report that I will be traveling to Santiago in September, at my own expense, to meet with officials in the Pilgrim Office and the Galician government's Xacobeo office. I have three reasons to have these meetings. First, American Pilgrims needs to thank them for their encouragement and support. Second, we need to remind them that we are a viable organization with much to offer to support the Camino. Third, I want to ask for guidance on how best to conduct that support "on the ground." The Board is constantly being approached with excellent ideas for service projects in Spain, and we need input from Spain, not only about what projects are most needed, but also about how best to work within Spanish law and customs. I will report on the outcome of these meetings in the next newsletter.

Finally, and most importantly, American Pilgrims mourns the loss of the Rev. Dr. Michael Wyatt, our Chair from 2005 through 2008. Michael died this July of liver cancer at the age of 57.

As Chair of American Pilgrims on the Camino during a key transitional time, Michael offered American Pilgrims a firm foundation and steady leadership. Those of us who served with him cherished his wisdom, humor and clear vision. He was a mentor and a friend.

Michael has completed his pilgrimage in this world. Those of us who continue our journey will keep him in our hearts for strength and encouragement when the next refuge seems too far away.

Buen camino.

Jim Eychaner

We Say Goodbye

The Rev. Dr. Michael Wyatt, past Chairman of the APOC Board, died of liver cancer in July. He was 57. Michael was the son of missionary parents, and grew up in Spain, Chile, and Colombia. After serving as director of a bilingual school in Cali, Colombia, he earned a Masters of Divinity with distinction in 1985 from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific. Following ordination to the priesthood, he served churches in the San Francisco area. In Seattle he served as the Dean of the Diocesan School of Ministry and Theology and the Assoc Rector of St. Stephen's church. In 2001, he moved to Washington DC, to be the Canon Theologian at Washington National Cathedral, focusing on interfaith theological work, Scriptural scholarship and current developments in Christian theology. In 2006 he moved to St. Cloud, MN to serve as priest to St. John's Episcopal Church and as adjunct professor at St. Cloud SU. American Pilgrims knew Michael as a highly committed, experienced, and energetic leader. He could lead us toward a shared vision while not overlooking the details. He helped the founders of American Pilgrims to take the organization to its next level. His earthly pilgrimage took him on the Camino de Santiago. He will walk with us in spirit always.

Approximately 8 years ago, newly returned from walking the Camino in the winter months, Michael was interviewed by Kathy Gower for her dissertation, *Reincorporation of Pilgrimage Experiences*. Once one identifies as a pilgrim, and identifies with the Camino itself, the journey takes on a new dimension in addition to the cultural, spiritual, historical, physical path that it is. Michael explained the pilgrimage route geographically as the landscape mirroring back an identity to the pilgrim:

"...the (landscape) also seems eerily to parallel what is going on inside. This seems to me no small part of the spiritual dimension of the walk.

For example, the walk in Navarra and La Rioja seemed to me saturated with the historical identity of pilgrimage: Roncesvalles, Puente La Reina, Estella, Najera, Santo Domingo de la Calzada, and San Juan de Oterga, to name a few. In all these places, I was very aware of the reinforcement of the pilgrimage historically (structures nearly 1000 years old, certainly 800). I was also aware of the strong sense the Associations of Friends and the Confraternities had that they were continuing an inherited tradition and that present pilgrims were being invited to recognize themselves in this historical current. Only in this section did I come across priests offering pilgrim blessings. Only in this section did I also come across the Opus Dei as a present influence in the pilgrim hostels.

That ended at Burgos. Stepping out onto the meseta, I, at least, had a strong sense that now "I" was becoming a pilgrim; I realized "I" was committed to walking this whole thing. Oddly, that stretch of the walk, with its emptiness, does reinforce that sense that I had of ownership; I no longer needed the training-wheels of Navarra and La Rioja. It also struck me that the sense of "reconquista" was overwhelmingly strong on the meseta: towns established by sheer will rather than by any sense of natural appeal or convenience, towns as boundary markers or benchmarks, whose names "bark" at you—Castrojeriz, Carrion. I found myself walking alone much more often here it seems.

Navarra had been very chatty and companionable: I joined up with a group deliberately. In La Rioja, I loosely met up with folks, but had no sense of our walking "together." In Castilla, I would spend entire days on my own, and often had no sense of where other pilgrims were; some dropped out of my trajectory and I never saw them again nor knew where they ended up.

Leon was the next big transition for me. I stayed with the Carbajal nuns and was grateful for the reminder of the "spiritual" or "religious" dimension of my walk. It felt like I was being tuned up for the final stage, somehow recommitting myself.

Nearly everyone talks of the Cruz de Ferro and O Cebreiro. The two big mountain passes of course had a sense of challenge, but also of risk. One of the men I had walked with died in the ascent to the Cruz de Ferro (heart attack), and I passed his roadside cross and stopped there to remember him and pray for him. Somehow, I had a sense of clear "project" in those ascents. Having owned pilgrim identity on the meseta, here I sensed that I was "proving" it on these heights. I think that is a natural reaction, but self-deceptive, because (as Coelho so clearly proves) one can think one has done what there is to do—very testosteronish. Again here, I formed partnerships (some welcome, some not), and had a strong sense of walking together, helping each other make it.

In Galicia—very estrogenish—I nearly lost my mind. Lush green, yes Celtic, yes magical, rolling hills, little paths, flooded streams, cowshit—all of it disorienting, because the historical and religious underpinnings of the Camino dissolved. No Confraternities looked after the hostels, no great castled reconquered cities marked the stages, no

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churches loomed, though the ambiguous witness of Samos was there. For the first time, I had no idea if I was walking west or north or.... But in all this, the gift was that pilgrimage was reduced to essence, simplified, boiled down—just me walking in the woods, keeping my vow. Pretty zany, when I reflect on it. The deepest joys I felt washed over me in Galicia; I stepped into the deepest peace there. The worst storm I walked through (killed folks) I walked through here. Companions were incidental, but welcome.

Monte de Gozo was like an inoculation, a sampling of plastic and chrome McCulture, a reminder that this dehumanizing is also a human achievement and also is the world. Zen without beauty? Probably not, since there is no evidence of mindfulness. But it was a good reminder that I live in THIS age, not in the Middle Ages nor in a fantasy."

Opportunity to Serve the Camino and Your Fellow Pilgrims

The Board of Directors of American Pilgrims on the Camino (APOC) will be looking for two new directors this fall. We are writing to make you aware of the opportunity to apply to serve on the all-volunteer APOC Board.

Board members are in a unique position to give back to the Camino and to be instrumental in fulfilling the mission of American Pilgrims on the Camino. You might find the following information useful as you consider your willingness to serve in this vital and challenging capacity.

◆ Active APOC Board service would begin January 1, 2010. Board terms are usually for three years (thus, in this case ending on Dec. 31, 2012), but, because we need to stagger terms in order to ensure continuity of experience on the Board, it is possible that one person selected would have a term that ends in 2011. (The APOC Bylaws allow for a Board member to serve for two consecutive three-year terms, so the two selected this fall would be eligible to run for a second term.)

◆ During this round of Board recruitment, we are looking especially for individuals with experience and/or interest in the following areas:

- ◇ Finance
- ◇ Volunteer management and organization/coordination of service projects
- ◇ Development of communication/publication/web materials

◆ A committee made up of current Board members and members-at-large will review each application (which consists of a questionnaire and a résumé/CV). A phone interview will be part of the selection process.

◆ The Board of Directors meets quarterly; two meetings are scheduled as conference calls, two are planned as face-to-face meetings. In addition, the Board meets at the annual Gathering. The next Gathering is March 19-21, 2010 in Orlando, FL. Additional conference calls, to address a specific question or need, can occur between regularly scheduled Board meetings. APOC covers some of the costs associated with attending Board meetings.

◆ Board members serve as Chairs and/or members of committees of the Board and are expected to support the goals of the organization with their time, treasure and talent. Please visit the APOC website (www.americampilgrims.com) to get a sense of the scope of work of the organization.

If you can envision yourself playing an important role in the future of American Pilgrims on the Camino and would be willing to serve on its Board, we would like to hear from you. Likewise, if you know of anyone who shares our enthusiasm for the Camino and might be well-suited to assume tasks in any of the areas referenced above, please contact Herbert Medina, Nominations Committee Chair, by September 30. He can be reached at 310-437-0158 or hmedina@lmu.edu, and will be pleased to provide a Board application and further information regarding the selection process and service on the Board.

We look forward to walking with you.

2010 Annual Gathering – The Camino Today - March 19-21 in Orlando!

From the high, dry climate of Albuquerque in March 2009, we move across the continent to subtropical Orlando for our Gathering in March 2010, the theme for which is “The Camino Today.” Our venue is the serene and peaceful lakeside San Pedro Retreat Center in Winter Park, 15 minutes from the Orlando International Airport.

Hospitalero Training takes place March 16, 17, and 18, just before the Gathering, which begins on March 19th, a Friday. An early arrivals reception on Thursday evening will offer a time to meet and greet before the activities start on Friday. Sunday afternoon, March 21, our spiritual retreat begins and continues until Tuesday morning, March 23.

Our program for “The Camino Today” is a work in progress. Before it is set in stone, we want to hear from you so that the Gathering reflects your needs and interests. What about the Camino today strikes a chord with you or is something you want to hear more about? Perhaps the Caminos less traveled -- the Via de la Plata, Portuguese Way, Camino del Norte, Camino Primitivo? The social and economic impact we pilgrims have on the people who live along the Camino...and our impact on the Camino itself? And the plants (aren't gorse and heather from the British Isles?) and birds we see -- ever wondered what they are and why we see them along the Camino? What about the Camino -- other pilgrims, refuge accommodations, landscape -- did/did not meet your expectations? What would you like future pilgrims to know? What would make your Camino an even more soul-inspiring experience than it already is?

If these or other topics or speakers inspire you, please e-mail me, Bill Matthews at, BillinFlorence@aol.com. All ideas are welcome!

The San Pedro Center (www.sanpedrocenter.org) is one of those rare ideal facilities for our events in 2010. The center offers modern motel-style sleeping accommodations at very reasonable rates and has first-rate conferencing facilities. For our Hospitalero Training, we have the use of a recently constructed bunkhouse and a modern commercial kitchen. We'll use the retreat center's chapel for part of our spiritual retreat. The center is self-contained, operated as a non-profit by the Diocese of Orlando, and is removed from the hubbub of the major tourist area. The center's 480 acres are set within protected wetlands and forests. A remarkably serene path leads from the conferencing facilities for several hundred yards through a subtropical forest of palmettos and hanging Spanish moss to a seating area and deck overlooking a beautiful clear water lake. What a place to relax and contemplate the Camino!

Mark your calendars for March 19-21, 2010 in Orlando. The weather is usually mild -- bring shorts, sandals and sunscreen. See you there!

Watch our website www.americampilgrims.com for more details and registration information later this fall.

[Empowered and Dedicated: Women and the Camino de Santiago](#)

Celia Dollmeyer, Professor of Spanish, Hanover College (Hanover, Indiana)

Women are making their mark on the Camino in ever growing numbers. As pilgrims they are making important discoveries about themselves. As hospitaleras, as members of Camino organizations and as researchers they are reaching out to others and sharing the riches the Camino has to offer. What an inspiration to all of us!

My interest in women's participation in the Camino was initially sparked by a study published by Marta González Vázquez on women and the Camino in the Middle Ages (*Las mujeres de la Edad Media y el Camino de Santiago*). Although back then women were involved in the Camino in a variety of ways, only the names and deeds of queens, saints and noblewomen were considered worthy of mention by the mostly male recorders of history. I realized that contemporary women's involvement in the Camino needs to be studied, recognized and documented for posterity's sake. And so began my own special pilgrimage, interviewing in person 30 women spread across northern Spain and interviewing by e-mail and phone 10 women throughout the U.S. What follows is a vignette on women from the U.S. who have made significant contributions to the Camino. Some of them may indeed be individuals that you know.

The number of women pilgrims has increased substantially during the recent resurgence of the Camino. In 1991, fewer than one-third of pilgrims arriving in Santiago were women; this jumped to about 40% by 2008. During the two most recent holy years, 1999 and 2004, the figure was even higher—close to half each year. Statistics merging sex and nationality, only available since 2004, reveal that female pilgrims from the U.S. surpass male pilgrims from the U.S. (females average more than half of U.S. pilgrims to Santiago during the past 5 years!). Women today are freer geographically and culturally than in the past. They are physically capable and often find the challenge to be empowering. Also important is their perception that the Camino is a safe environment. Word-of-mouth is another factor, as returning pilgrims share their experiences and encourage other women.

Before delving into specifics about the ten women interviewed, some general comments will highlight both their diversity and some common threads in their Camino experiences. Some of them began their involvement in the Camino when they were in their 20s, others not until their 50s. Being a pilgrim was the first significant, active involvement for each of these women, 9 on foot, 1 on bicycle. This led to each returning to the Camino again as a pilgrim (some multiple times, some even going beyond Spain) and to involvement in a wide range of other areas. Several commented on their surprise at what they got out of the pilgrim experience and where it has led them. Three of them, in fact, were so affected by the experience that they relocated to Spain, and are now living along the Camino francés. Many have served as hospitaleras multiple times, some have been instrumental in training others for this task. All who currently live in the U.S. were involved in the Friends of the Road to Santiago organization and/or have been involved in American Pilgrims on the Camino. Several have given public talks about the Camino and two maintained libraries of pilgrim materials in the U.S. Several have contributed to the body of written material on the Camino (books, articles, guide books), including four who wrote doctoral dissertations on topics related to the Camino or pilgrimage more generally. One woman became an artist along the Camino, inspired to create watercolors during her pilgrimages.

There are two principle motivational forces behind these women's involvement in the Camino: one that centers on individual, personal enrichment and one that extends beyond the individual to involvement with others. Actually walking the Camino was gratifying for what the experience offered them on a personal level: the opportunity to learn about oneself; a sense of accomplishment and of fitness/wellbeing that is psychologically empowering; a sense of both freedom and confidence in one's physical and emotional capabilities; the ability to connect with the divine within oneself (and within others); a vehicle for meditation and problem solving; an opportunity for self-development and transformation; an educational experience (art, history, culture). Women cited a variety of roles

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(hospitalera, researcher, educator, artist, member/organizer of Friends/APOC) as means of connecting with others and sharing the Camino. The term “debt” was used by one woman and others specifically mentioned the desire to “give back” to the Camino.

So as the Camino has clearly left its mark on these women, they too have left their mark on the Camino. Linda Davidson, pioneer of women’s participation in the recent resurgence, reaps satisfaction from helping people discover things about themselves and about the world. She led numerous university study groups along the Camino between the 1970s and 1990s. She has conducted extensive research, co-authoring four books dealing with the Camino, one dealing with medieval pilgrimage, and a two-volume work on pilgrimage in general. She has written several articles and given numerous talks. She also took over the Friends organization for a number of years prior to the formation of APOC. Maryjane Dunn, a student on Linda’s 1979 study trip, founded the Friends group in 1989 and oversaw its operation for nearly ten years. Her initial desire to be part of a historical event grew into a desire to further historical knowledge of the Camino. Maryjane conducted extensive research, co-authoring with Linda three books on the Camino. For Nancy Frey circumstances just seemed to fall into place time and time again, linking her life inextricably to the Camino. Although she entered her first pilgrimage as a strictly academic pursuit when she too was a student on one of Linda’s trips, Nancy acknowledges that its impact on her went well beyond the scholarly realm. After completing her doctoral dissertation and publishing a book on her findings regarding the pilgrim experience, she ended up settling in Spain and now conducts tours of the Camino. Never tiring of her many treks along the same path, Nancy claims that her “inner landscape” is enriched each time she repeats the Camino.

After Elyn Aviva wrote her dissertation, the first dissertation dealing with the modern day pilgrimage to Santiago, and published a book on her findings in the 1980s, she thought she was done with the Camino. Since then, however, she has written several other Camino-related books and is currently residing in Spain. The polymorphic nature of the Camino is the magnet that draws her back. Rebekah Scott settled in Spain to open her home as an albergue a few steps off the Camino francés in a tiny town that has no other services available to pilgrims. When she needs a break from the routine in her home/albergue, she volunteers at other albergues, collects trash along the Camino, edits trail guides for the British Confraternity and offers hospitalero training in English. Rebekah describes her life now as being in keeping with the Buddhist idea of “right livelihood”—she is where she needs to be, doing what she needs to do. A journalist by training, Rebekah provides the world a window on daily life in Moratinos through her regularly updated blogspot.



Along the Camino francés, former site of the monastery of Villaoreja. Rebekah Scott and the labyrinth that she and her husband built for pilgrims; pilgrims have added two more circuits.

Zita Macy, Lin Galea and Kathy Gower were among the founders and first Board members of American Pilgrims on the Camino. There isn’t an area of APOC’s organization that Zita hasn’t touched in some way, considered by many to be the “unsung workhorse” of APOC and its annual gatherings of pilgrims. When life sends her curveballs, she finds strength in remembering her ability to overcome obstacles during her first pilgrimage, walking alone to Santiago. One of the most valuable but difficult lessons she learned on the Camino was to ask others for help. Lin was responsible for the creation of hospitalero training in the U.S., a need she perceived after her first stint as an hospitalera. She was chair of the Gatherings for several years, organizes biannual gatherings of pilgrims in her local area and values the many contacts she has made through the Camino. Kathy, who served as Chair of the APOC Board its first years, notes that her involvement has moved from assisting pilgrims returning from Santiago to a desire to conduct research and add to the canon of

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pilgrim studies. Since the completion of her doctoral dissertation on the pilgrimage as a transformative experience, she has published several articles and is currently interested in the energetics along the Camino.

Sandy Lenthall was the driving force behind the creation of the annual gatherings of pilgrims in the U.S., organizing the first one held in Williamsburg in 1998. Her Camino experiences make up the fabric of who she is today, as she puts into practice in everyday life what she has gained. Sandy credits the Camino for enabling her to become a thoughtful listener, a talent that she has been able to apply in recording oral histories of women in her local area.



A View of Castrojeriz by Kate Lopez

Kate López, never a painter before her first walking pilgrimage, now exhibits her watercolors as a way to share the Camino with others. Her exhibit in several sites between Burgos and Sahagún a few years ago enabled Spaniards previously not involved in the Camino to consider its potential for their local economies and personal lives. Kate has worked as an hospitalera and been involved in the annual pilgrim gatherings, hosting one of them in Santa Fe.

This impressive array of talented individuals and their diverse contributions must not be overlooked when a history of the Camino is recreated in centuries to come. They are truly the queens, saints and noblewomen of our age. I suspect that each of us reading this today is indebted in some way to these women for enabling us, in turn, to be part of the Camino. ¡Ultreia!

[The American Pilgrims Board Welcomes Two New Board Members](#)

Annette Argall, Baltimore, MD, first joined American Pilgrims on the Camino to become an hospitalera. She has been on the Camino in 2005 and 2007, in 2007 walking and serving as an hospitalera in Villamayor de Monjardín. She returned to the Camino this year.

Marlena Lambert, Salt Lake City, UT, discovered American Pilgrims on the Camino during her search for a credencial. She has walked from Le Puy to Santiago and has served as an hospitalera in Nájera.

BOOK REVIEW by Gene McCullough

I'm Off Then: Losing and Finding Myself on the Camino de Santiago

By Hape Kerkeling, Free Press 2009, translated by Shelley Frisch

ISBN-13: 978-1416553878

For those of you who have walked the Camino during the past three years and have found yourself immersed in a river of German peregrinos—sorry, make that pilgern—you undoubtedly heard about the book by one Hape Kerkeling, the book behind this flood. Well, now it is possible for you non-German reading Anglophones to find out what all the fuss is about. Ich bin dann mal weg has been released in English as *I'm Off Then*.

First off I think it is safe to say that most readers on this side of the Atlantic will find themselves perhaps almost all of us will have the reaction “Hape who?” Europeans, or at least Germans know him as one of the Continent’s best-known and most popular entertainers. So to us this starts off as just another book in a steady stream of Camino reflections and it will have to stand or fall on its merits.

The story behind this is fairly well known to those who have talked with any Germans on the Camino. Kerkeling was undergoing an assortment of mid-life crises and after reading Bert Teklenborg’s *Jakobsweg der Freude* (The Joy of the Camino de Santiago) he decided more or less on the spur of the moment that a pilgrimage was what he needed. So he found himself in Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port one June day in 2001 about to set out with no preparation whatsoever—not mental, not physical, not anything.

Kerkeling’s personal evolution throughout the journey is the thrust of the book. Kerkeling is primarily a comedian and the book indeed is humorous, at least in part due to his self-deprecating style and his eye for the ridiculous. As seems to be required of any Camino reflection, central to the narrative are the characters he encounters on the Road, the nutty, the offensive, the insightful, the few who would remain friends after parting. Kerkeling’s closest encounter with an epiphany comes about two-thirds of the distance along his journey, where he has his “...very own encounter with God.” The details of the encounter he doesn’t reveal—it was between God and himself—but he beautifully describes what he considers necessary to set oneself up for such an encounter. It is also there that Kerkeling delineates the gifts, the lessons given him by each of his significant human encounters. He even gives some backhanded credit to Beaky, his shadow, his nemesis.

He arrives on the Camino bursting with doubts, questions and paradoxes. One paragraph early on begins “Still, I have no desire whatsoever to join up with other pilgrims. Most of them appear to be ultra-Catholic, and so sure of themselves that I wonder why they’re on a pilgrimage in the first place.” And then the next starts “I would like to steer clear of any preconceived notions and see what new experiences each new day begins.” So which is it? Avoiding other pilgrims because they “appear to be ultra -Catholic” or steering “clear of any preconceived notions”? To his credit he eventually evolves toward the latter.

Kerkeling does ask penetrating questions of himself, although these questions have been asked numerous time before: “Is there a God?” simplifies to “There is a God but who is He?” to “Who am I?” The last question he manages by the end to at least partially answer.

Each chapter ends with a little lesson or insight gleaned from the day. A few of these rise to the memorable. “Open your heart and canoodle with the day.” “Lighten up, sweetie!” “It was good to hike alone, but enough’s enough.” “Nothingness is the key to absolute happiness.” How Buddhist!

I loved his gift to his companions and to himself on arrival in Santiago—small silver bells. “Every time one of us rings the bell, the others will sense it.”

Every pilgrim’s Camino is his or her own, and by and large criticism of personal reactions and judgments should be held, but I have a few problems with Kerkeling’s attitude. His snide remarks and

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extended diatribes about pilgrim refuges that he tosses in every 10 or 20 pages get to be tiresome. For many if not most peregrinos, the refuges are an integral part of the Camino. Worse yet he refers to them numerous times as being “free” or “for people who have no money” or “costing nothing”. The refuges being referred to accept donations; they are not “free” thank you.

Then early on there is the 15-page synopsis of Kerkeling’s rise to stardom. Although this was probably not needed by the German readers of the original book, here it does at least serve to give us on the western shores of the Atlantic some idea of his fame. But it does run on and on and on and it does seem quite self-aggrandizing. Personally I could have done without it. It has little to do with what follows and nothing to do with the Camino.

Finally, I have one particular grumble having to do with the advertising hype: The back cover, among other places, trumpets “The number of pilgrims along the Camino has increased by 20 percent since the book was published.” Well, the number of specifically German peregrinos did increase dramatically after publication, but this cited 20% (overall) increase is nothing more than a continuation of the overall increases that have been going on for a decade and a half. If the publisher had held out for the year before a Holy Year they could have claimed a doubling of pilgrims the year after publication. I hope they fix this bit of marketing hyperbole.

All in all a good, entertaining read and it might even join the list of the better Camino reflections, but will it cause an explosion of English-speaking pilgrims? We’ll have to wait and see about that.

PILGRIM NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAVE YOU WALKED THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO IN YOUR TEENS OR EARLY TWENTIES?

Lynn Talbot, Professor of Spanish at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia, who first walked the Camino in 1974, is editing a new anthology of personal narratives and reflections on the Camino de Santiago by those who undertook this pilgrimage in their youth. Lynn and her son, Andrew Squires, a junior at the College of William and Mary and also a veteran pilgrim of multiple caminos, will assemble the volume for publication. They are seeking essays on your experiences as a pilgrim that describes the Camino from a young person’s point of view.

Most published books on the Camino do not offer a young person’s perspective and yet such a perspective is one way to reinvent the Camino for the next generation. This promises to be a unique and valuable contribution to Camino writing.

Essays up to 3,000 words are encouraged; longer essays may be accepted. A range of opinions and approaches – honest, humorous, reflective, spiritual, descriptive, and introspective – are invited. Submissions by January 1, 2010 preferred.

Ideas:

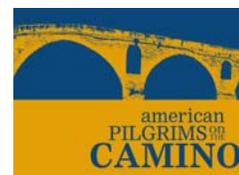
- Why you walked the Camino
- A specific experience that was meaningful
- Memorable interactions with other pilgrims
- A spiritual awakening that you discovered on the Camino
- Your reaction/response to a specific site along the Camino
- How the Camino experience changed for you from beginning to end
- The physical and/or emotional effects of hiking a long-distance trail
- Reflections upon your arrival in Santiago
- How the Camino has changed you (your character, values, relations to others)
- Post-Camino reflections

If you are interested, would like more information, or want to discuss a possible topic, please contact Lynn and Andrew at peregrina1974@gmail.com.

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One-day Pilgrim Event in the SF Bay Area *American Pilgrims on the Camino*

Saturday, November 7th
9:30 AM – 6:00 PM



Hola Peregrinos:

The 2009 walking season is coming to a close. Returning pilgrims are basking in the afterglow of their experience; next year's pilgrims are devouring maps, testing new shoes and weighing backpacks. This year's program will interest both those pilgrims who want to relive their experience as well as those who wish to prepare for their future pilgrimage. Here in the San Francisco Bay Area, we are fortunate to have two local pilgrims who will be repeating for us the very popular presentations they made at this year's Annual Gathering in Albuquerque.

Kathy Gower ***El Camino de las Estrellas: Sacred Sites Along the Camino de Santiago in Northern Spain***

There are many sacred sites along the Camino that pilgrims often have to miss as they head to Santiago. Kathy Gower's slide presentation will take us to these lesser known places on the Camino de las Estrellas, as she follows the footsteps of the ancient Master Builders to dolmens, megaliths, and early medieval monasteries, as well as to some familiar camino monuments for a closer look. A founding president of APOC and an editor of Brill's upcoming *Encyclopedia of Medieval Pilgrimage*, Kathy has explored many pilgrimage sites and routes since 1998. Her PhD dissertation was entitled *Reincorporation of Pilgrimage Experiences*.

Phil Cousineau ***Transforming Travel into Pilgrimage***

Phil Cousineau is a documentary filmmaker, photographer, international travel leader, and author of over 25 books, among them the bestselling *The Art of Pilgrimage*. Phil will present a workshop on the *Great Round of Pilgrimage*, a seven-stage model that offers an opportunity to infuse a greater sense of meaning and purpose into any kind of journey. With story-telling, sketching, and active imagination exercises, Phil will help you transform your Camino adventure into a pilgrimage, a journey of spiritual transformation.

In addition to our two presentations, there will be ample time to meet fellow pilgrims, share stories, unpack Camino memories or spark the fire of future pilgrimages.

Lunch will be soup provided by our hosts Rozan and Brad Gautier, with extras provided by all of us, recreating the unique and loving experience of pilgrim shared meals inspired by Fr. Jose Maria at San Juan de Ortega

Location - Walnut Creek, California

Our November get-together will be in Walnut Creek at the home of Rozan and Brad Gautier, a ten minutes easy walk from the Walnut Creek Bart Station. Parking is also available. Exact location will be provided upon receipt of registration fees.

Registration Fees

APOC members: \$25
Non-members: \$35

For more information and registration packet contact Lin@LinGalea.com
Lin Galea 1070 Green Street San Francisco CA 94133 tel: 415-441-5951

AMERICAN PILGRIMS ON THE CAMINO-NEWSLETTER, September 2009

The Sacred Steps Camino art exhibit,

August-September, 2009

UAB Visual Arts Gallery
John K. Moore Jr.
Dept. of Foreign Languages
407B 1530 3rd Ave.
University of Birmingham
South Birmingham, AL 35294-1260
tel. 205-934-8901 / 205-934-4652 / 205 934
1944

Aug. 18-Sept. 25 in the UAB Visual Arts
Gallery, 900 13th St. South

Free, public lecture on pilgrimage to Santiago
de Compostela

5:30 pm Thursday, Sept. 24
UAB Mary Culp Hulse Recital Hall
950 13th St. South.

Reception featuring Spanish wine and food
in the UAB Visual Arts Gallery at 7 pm

jkmoore@uab.edu

[Univ of Alabama-Birmingham Exhibitions](#)

October 22-23, 2009

Texas Medieval Association Conference,
Austin, Texas

L.J. Andrew Villalon
Department of History
University of Texas-Austin GAR 1.104
1 University Station B7000
Austin, TX 78712-0220
tel 512-608-9579

avillalon@austin.rr.com

April Jehan Morris

Associate Director of the TEMA conference

ajejanmorris@mail.utexas.edu

November-December, 2009

Ana Adams

Dept. of Spanish
Gustavus Adolphus College
800 West College Avenue
Saint Peter, MN 56082
tel 952-334-6094

aadams@gustavus.edu

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

Jim Eychaner, Chair

Cherie Pagett, Membership

Carlos Mentley, Secretary

Herbert Medina, Camino Support

Bill Matthews, Gathering 2010

Nicholas Hayes, Treasurer

Daniel DeKay, Hospitalero Training

Annette Argall

Marlena Lambert

jim623mo@comcast.net

cherie@pagetts.com

cmentley@lander.edu

hmedina64@yahoo.com

BillinFlorence@aol.com

clubnick@mac.com

dandekay@sbcglobal.net

argall@earthlink.net

kokolucia@earthlink.net

American Pilgrims on the Camino, 1514 Channing Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94303

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