



# American Pilgrims on the Camino

2022 Annual Gathering of Pilgrims

Useful Information



## Welcome to American Pilgrims on the Camino's 2022 Annual Gathering!

This is our 25th year of gathering pilgrims together and we're grateful that you joined us here at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, North Carolina. We have an exciting program planned for you this weekend that will help you Rekindle the Camino Spirit as we focus on fulfilling the following:

### Mission

Foster the enduring tradition of the Camino by supporting its infrastructure, by gathering pilgrims together, and by providing information and encouragement to past and future pilgrims.

### Vision

We inspire all who seek the Spirit of the Camino to connect with the global community of pilgrims.

### Values

Community   Gratitude   Simplicity   Service

### Spirit of the Camino

Live in the moment

Welcome each day - its pleasures and its challenges

Make others feel welcome

Share

Feel the Spirit of those who have gone before you

Imagine those that will follow you

Appreciate those who walk with you today

If this is your first Gathering, know that you will be among friends. If you've joined us before, we hope this weekend will reignite that excitement you felt at that first Gathering and lead you to forge an even deeper connection with our global community of pilgrims! Buen Camino from your 2022 Gathering Team!

## Useful Information

**Venue:** The YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly is located at 84 Blue Ridge Circle in Black Mountain, NC, just 16 miles from Asheville. Gathering activities will take place in three different buildings with nearby accommodations. Therefore, you should wear comfortable shoes and bring an umbrella.

**Accommodations:** The accommodations will be double occupancy rooms. Single occupancy of rooms will be made available to all who registered and paid for that option. Linens and towels are provided. You should bring your own hair dryers and toiletries.

**Airports:** The closest airport to the venue is Asheville Regional (AVL), 25 miles away. Charlotte International (CLT) is 111 miles away and offers more flights on a variety of airlines, including more affordable fares and greater flexibility. Greenville-Spartenburg (GSP) is also an option and is about 90 miles away from the venue.

**Ground Transportation:** We recommend you reserve your shuttle in advance. If using Uber or Lyft, you should schedule when you arrive.

GrandyCo. (828)691-0504 [www.grandyco.com](http://www.grandyco.com)

Contact: Joe & Holly

- Lone rider, cost is \$50 cash or \$55 credit card.
- Shuttle from AVL airport \$25 cash or \$28 credit card per person if sharing a ride. Can seat up to 10 people with luggage.
- \$140 from GSP airport (in South Carolina) and \$250 from CLT airport.
- Cash or Credit, with increase in price for credit card.

Pricing does not include customary tip.

Friends (828)767-2721

Contact: Jen & Cathy

- \$2 per mile. \$60 a ride, flat rate from AVL.
- 4 passenger max, depending upon amount and size of luggage.
- Cash only

Pricing does not include customary tip.

## Useful Information (continued)

### **Ground Transportation (continued):**

Harry's Car Service (828)774-8178

Contact: Harry

- Pick up from 8 AM to 8 PM
- Charge by vehicle. AVLairport: Car, \$75 (up to 4 people), Minivan \$85 (up to 6 people), 14 person van \$150 (up to 10 people). GSPairport: Car \$150. CLT airport: Car \$225. Number of riders depends on size and quantity of luggage.
- Prices may increase after first of year.
- No Credit cards. Cash or Venmo.

Pricing does not include customary tip.

Uber or Lyft:

From AVL airport roughly \$35 plus tip (usually around 20%) for one person – can split the fare between riders. Use the app on your phone to schedule pick up.

Share the Cost: Unless using Uber or Lyft, please arrange transportation in advance. Then, post on the Gathering Facebook page to let others know you are looking for people to share the ride! Will schedule for your time of arrival and others within around ½ hour.

Members of the Asheville, Charlotte and Atlanta chapters have graciously offered to help bring people to the venue. To connect with others willing to provide a ride, we have created a Gathering 2022 Facebook Group to facilitate those connections (link below).

**Facebook:** To help you connect before, during, and after the Gathering, we have created a Facebook group dedicated to the Gathering and exclusive for confirmed attendees. To join, please visit [www.facebook.com/groups/2022Gathering](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2022Gathering). You must be a registered attendee to be accepted into the group.

**Raffle/Silent Auction:** We will be conducting a raffle and silent auction to support our grants program. The raffle will be conducted on-Site. This year, the silent auction will be conducted online and will be open for bidding to our entire pilgrim community. Those wishing to donate items for either event, please start gathering your items and watch for an email with further instructions soon! Chapters are encouraged to assemble small boxes for the silent auction containing items from your local area that are able to shipped directly to silent auction winners.

**Daily Walks:** Daily walks will be offered, including a special walk to our own "Cruz de Fierro". Pilgrims walking to our Cruz de Fierro are invited to bring a stone from your hometown to leave there.

If you further questions, please contact [gatherings@americanpilgrims.org](mailto:gatherings@americanpilgrims.org)

## Presenter Information and Bios

### **Daniel De Kay**

Pilgrim First Aid - In 2002 Daniel De Kay walked from St. Jean Pied-de-Port to Finisterre and back. He has since returned to the Camino Francés several times and has walked the Voie du Puy, Via de la Plata, and Camino Portugués. He has been a volunteer hospitalero multiple times, and he served on the American Pilgrims Board of Directors for five years. Since 2004 he has been the lead trainer for the Hospitalero Training Program of American Pilgrims on the Camino and is a liaison with the Spanish Federación de Asociaciones de Amigos del Camino. Professionally, he has taught wilderness medicine courses around the world.

### **Maryjane Dunn**

The Camino Before the Codex Calixintus: What Kindled the Camino Spirit? - The great early witness to the pilgrimage to Santiago is the mid-twelfth-century manuscript, the Codex Calixtinus. But what do we know about the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela before the mid-twelfth century? What is the backstory of this great document? When, why, and how did Saint James the Apostle first become associated with the Iberian Peninsula? We will look at the earliest records of Santiago's connection with Galicia, the name Compostela, and whether the "end of the world" really meant Finisterre.

Maryjane Dunn, professor of Spanish, has specialized in the early Camino since her initial pilgrimage in 1979. She is co-editor of the first English translations of Books I, II, & III of the Codex Calixtinus: The Sermons and Liturgy of Saint James and The Miracles and Translatio of Saint James (Italica Press 2021 & 2019). Her chapters in The Camino de Santiago in the 21st Century (Routledge 2016), Walking the Camino de Santiago (McFarland 2021), and Women and Pilgrimage (CABI 2022) focus on 19th-century pilgrims and commonalities between medieval and modern pilgrims.

### **Peggy Eppig**

The Pilgrimage Experience as Sketch and Story - This workshop explores creative ways to capture the essence and meaning of the pilgrimage experience. Participants will try their hand at field sketching using simple lightweight tools and materials perfect for backpacking. We'll create poetry for the moment and stories for reflection. Learn how to construct the sketchbook page as a way to capture meaning and inspiration.

Peggy Eppig is a professor of practice in environmental history and pilgrimage at Goucher College near Baltimore, Maryland. She uses the pilgrimage experience as embodied learning and environmental insight with students across the U.S. and the U.K. She received the George Greenia Research Fellowship in 2018 for studies on St. Cuthbert's Way.

## Presenter Information and Bios

### Miriam Gallet

Wines of the Camino Frances - The session will showcase vineyards, and bodegas along the Camino Frances. Participants will taste six wines and share their wine experiences while walking the vineyard laced road to Santiago.

Miriam Gallet is a decorated U.S. Navy veteran and former Public Affairs Officer and Director of Protocol at the third largest naval installation in the world. She retired after 37+ years and continues to be actively involved in nature and community committees. She is a cyclist, hiker and passionate about wine. After walking four caminos, she served as an hospitalero at the Miraz Albergue on the Camino del Norte and has been a co-coordinator of the Jacksonville Chapter for seven years.

### George Greenia

Love Among the Lawless: Misbehavior by Medieval Pilgrims - Today's pilgrims are the best behaved in history. In the Middle Ages the Camino was thick with mistreatment, mischief and even murder.

What You Didn't Know About the Spanish Language - Whether you're fluent or faltering, Spanish has a strong history as a lingua franca of European pilgrimage. But do you know how it works from the inside?

George Greenia is the Founder of the Institute for Pilgrimage Studies at William & Mary, winner of the 2019 Compostela Prize, and knighted by order of King Juan Carlos for his promotion of Spanish culture in the US. He taught Spanish language, literature and linguistics for over 40 years and authored a popular textbook, Generaciones.

### Kathy Kehe

Savoring and Sharing the Camino Spirit - Let's take one final look at Camino Spirit, what it really is, why it's so important to experience it and spread it when we return to our everyday lives, and what might stop us. Don't leave this special event without contemplating these important questions. "The Return" is one of the most important parts of the journey and one worth preparing for. Leave with concrete ideas of how you can deepen in and spread Camino Spirit in your communities at home.

Kathy Kehe is a Heart-Centered Life Coach and Speaker who loves helping people see life from a spiritual context and up level their lives on the "Goal-Line" and "Soul-Line." She has co-led several groups and events during the pandemic including "Camino at Home", "Camino Wisdom Stories" and "Hero's Camino." (M.A. Spiritual Psychology)

## Presenter Information and Bios (continued).

### **Roni Jackson-Kerr**

What Do You Do When the World Shuts Down: Technology and Pilgrimage in the Time of Covid - The relationship between pilgrimage and technology is a complicated one, for good reason. In many ways, modern technologies can interfere and distract from the pilgrim experience. But when the pandemic hit and the world shut down, many pilgrims found themselves turning to technology in an attempt to recapture the experience and connection that had been rendered suddenly and shockingly inaccessible.

Roni Jackson-Kerr completed her PhD in 2017 from the University of Oklahoma. Her dissertation focused on the intersection of modern technology and the ancient practice of pilgrimage, focusing primarily on the Camino de Santiago.

### **David Larwa**

Saint James as Seen from the Brush of an Artist - Santiago belongs to the world with stories told, words written, and churches built. Join me and explore the world of Santiago through the eyes and brushstrokes of an artist. From the Sea of Galilee to the shores of Iria Flavia, artists paint the story and we find ourselves on a pilgrim's journey to Santiago de Compostela.

David has walked the Camino de Santiago nine times. He served as a Hospitalero in Salamanca where he hopes to return. Four years ago David started the Southeast Michigan Chapter of the American Pilgrims Association. Widely read he loves presenting to groups throughout Michigan.

### **Yosmar Martinez**

Savoring Galicia - Yosmar Martinez has walked the Camino many times. In 2015, she also walked the Kumano Kodo, an ancient pilgrimage route in Japan. In addition, she has volunteered twice at the Pilgrim's Office in Santiago and founded the South Florida chapter of American Pilgrims on the Camino. She has served American Pilgrims on the Camino in numerous capacities, including service as a member of the Board of Directors. She has also published an outstanding cookbook, *Tastes of the Camino*, featuring recipes for foods found along the Way of St. James.

## Presenter Information and Bios (continued).

### **Carlos Mentley**

Camino Mozarabe - The Camino Mozárabe de Santiago comprises a series of itineraries which depart from the main cities in eastern Andalucía, converge in Córdoba, join the Vía de la Plata in Mérida, and then diverge again after Zamora. These multiple itineraries offer UNESCO World Heritage cities and well-traveled pilgrim routes, but also more sparsely populated segments where pilgrims are still a novelty, and where you may still need to ask where you can sleep that night. Join me for a meander across southern and western Iberia on the Mozárabic roads to Compostela.

Carlos Mentley made his first pilgrimage to Santiago in 2003 at the age of 46, and has been making up for lost time ever since. Since then he has walked pilgrimage routes in Portugal, Germany, France, and Spain. He has served as a volunteer hospitalero at Grañón and as Chair of the Board of APOC. When he is not actually on pilgrimage, Carlos makes money to finance his pilgrimages by teaching Spanish and directing the Study Abroad program at Lander University in Greenwood, South Carolina.

### **Meg Muthupandiyan**

Meg Muthupandiyan is a poet, artist, and educator. A 2019 Fellow at the Poetry Foundation's Teacher's Institute, she is passionate about creating space for people to contemplate art, poetry, and the natural world, both in and beyond the classroom. She is the founder of the Poetry in the Parks project ([poetryintheparks.org](http://poetryintheparks.org)), which explores the sacred beauty of our land communities through collaboratively created poetry films. Her poems and illustrations have appeared in various print and online journals, including Chitro Magazine, Great Lakes Review, Bent Paddle Press, Innisfree Poetry Journal, Stone Highway Review, Chicago Literati, and Wisconsin Poetry Journal. Her work has been included in a number of public poetry projects, including the Tupelo Press 30/30 Project, Verse Wisconsin's Poetry Jumps off the Shelf Verse-o-Matic Poetry Project, and Seattle Poetry Lab's annual Postcard Poetry Exchange.

### **Martin Peña**

Walking the Inward Road - Rekindling the Camino Spirit through Image, Word, and Song - After returning from the road to Santiago, pilgrims may choose to walk the Inward Road – an inner journey where they seek spiritual insight and self-reflection. When walking my own Inward Road, I found myself challenged by conventional language to express myself. I discovered that I could use creative images, word and song as powerful tools to reveal the personal meaning and spiritual purpose of my pilgrimage. In this session, I'll share images from my Inward Road with the hope that they may they provoke, evoke and inspire continuation of your own inner Camino journey.

Martin Peña walked the Camino Francés in 2018 from St. Jean Pied de Port to Santiago. He is active in the local Northern California Chapter and volunteers editing videos, organizing the chapter newsletter, and hosting communal meals after hikes in the beautiful Sonoma Valley. Traveling in Spain the last 30+ years, he's developed a love and passion for Spanish culture. Among his favorite pastimes are growing (and eating) Pimientos de Padrón and hosting paella parties for friends and fellow pilgrims.



## Presenter Information and Bios (continued).

### **Dawn Bratsch-Prince**

Camino Competent - Spanish for Pilgrims - Dawn Bratsch-Prince is Associate Provost for Faculty and professor of Spanish at Iowa State University. A member of the Iowa State faculty since 1990, Bratsch-Prince served as chair of the Department of World Languages and Cultures from 2002-2008. She served as a member of the Executive Committee of the MLA's Association of Departments of Foreign Languages (ADFL), and served as ADFL president in 2010. Bratsch-Prince's research interests in medieval Iberian studies are broad. She has published two books as well as numerous articles on historical linguistics, medieval translation, women's writings, the politics of marriage and motherhood, and canon formation. Bratsch-Prince is a native of Brooklyn, New York, and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in Spanish from New York University. She holds a doctoral degree in Romance Philology from the University of California at Berkeley.

### **Fr. Steve Rindahl**

“The Camino Provides”: A Pilgrim's Spirituality of Minimalism - “The Camino provides” is repeated by pilgrims to the point of bordering on becoming trite. At the same time, almost every pilgrim overpacks before heading out on the Camino. What do we believe about what we need in life and do we honestly trust the Camino to provide?

Fr Steven G Rindahl, DMin is a retired US Army Chaplain, avid pilgrim, and founder of Warriors on the Way. Fr Steve discerned a call to this unique ministry of leading combat veterans on PTSD/Moral Injury healing pilgrimages while making his own pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago “The Way” in 2016. For more information check out [WarriorsOnTheWay.org](http://WarriorsOnTheWay.org)

### **Lisa Signori**

Dr. Lisa Signori is an Associate Professor of French at the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina, and has served as Chair of the Department of French, Francophone, and Italian Studies since 2016. She has written, published, and presented on diverse aspects of the pilgrimage to Santiago, and taught numerous courses on pilgrimage. She has walked pilgrimage routes in Portugal, Germany, France, and Spain, and led student groups on pilgrimage in Spain.

Steps Out of Time on the Voie de Vézelay - One of the four principal French routes mentioned in the Codex Calixtinus, the Via Lemovicensis begins in the Burgundian town of Vézelay and traces a path across the center of France to St.-Jean Pied-de-Port. Although this 900-km path traverses cities like Nevers, Limoges, and Perigueux, its principal attractions may be the sweeping expanses of rural landscape and the utter lack of crowds. UNESCO World Heritage status attests to the route's cultural significance. Join me on a virtual walk through the heart of France on this exceptionally beautiful road to Santiago.

A Southwest USA Pilgrimage Itinerary (Signori & Mentley) - Even in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, there are still opportunities to make pilgrimage. Early last summer, rather than wait for Europe to reopen, we explored several of the many pilgrimage opportunities available here in the United States. Our road pilgrimage throughout central and northern Arizona and New Mexico involved visits to three Native American sacred sites, two New Age centers, several traditional and contemporary Catholic sites, and a selection of classical and modern labyrinths.

## Presenter Information and Bios (continued).

### Alison Smith

Women on the Camino: Past, Present, Future (a round table conversation) - In the forthcoming volume Women and Pilgrimage (CABI Press 2022), several scholars (who are also APOC members) examine the multifaceted experiences of the women who have traveled the Camino from the Middle Ages to today. Exploring the playful Medieval picaresque tradition, the trickster Sainte Foy of Conques, and a pious widow who abandons the pilgrimage to take up the veil, this session will investigate an array of experiences and challenges encountered by female travelers. Moving into modern times, we will discuss how changes in modes of transportation and the ever-increasing numbers of pilgrims have affected women on pilgrimage. Contemporary issues include a look at inclusivity, with particular consideration of issues surrounding the safety and well-being of female and LGBTQ pilgrims. The authors will all offer summaries of their contributions to this book with the goal of inspiring discussion and reflection.

Alison T Smith is Associate Professor of French in the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures at The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina. Smith is also the former Associate Director of Women's and Gender Studies at the College of Charleston. She has published chapters in the volumes Pilgrim Paths: Journeys of Transformation (Inter-Disciplinary Press 2015), Pilgrimage in Practice: Narration, Reclamation and Healing (CABI 2018), and Peace Journeys: A New Direction in Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Research (Cambridge Scholars 2020). In 2019, Alison served as a volunteer at the Ribadiso Pilgrim Welcome Center in Spain and walked the Kerry Camino with fellow pilgrimage scholars in Ireland. Participants in the roundtable include: Lisa Signori, Sharenda Barlar, Susan Dunn Hensley, Maryjane Dunn, Alison Smith, and Sarah Owens.

### Lynn Talbot

Secrets of Santiago - What's left to do in Santiago after getting your Compostela and seeing the Botafumeiro swing? Lots! Come learn about some of the unusual, surprising, and unexpected corners of Santiago that will enhance your enjoyment and understanding of this wonderful city.

Lynn Talbot walked her first Camino in 1974. Since then, she has returned many times, with her son, friends, students, and alone on a number of different routes. She is a professor of Spanish at Roanoke College in Virginia where she is known for her enthusiasm for the Camino. With her son, she edited a collection of essays entitled Following the Yellow Arrow. Younger Pilgrims on the Camino (2011). She has also volunteered at the Pilgrim's Office in Santiago de Compostela.

## Presenter Information and Bios (continued).

### Deacon Ron "Willie" Williams

We are all pilgrims-Lost and Found along The Way - The presentation will share three snapshots from his Camino walking: a Godcidence, a Junkyard-Dog-Like-Kindness, and a creative reflection-Satan Jeopardy! Stories and short videos of adult dramas recreate these drama moments while on his Camino. These and many other inspiring stories are contained in his book, available at this Annual Gathering of Pilgrims.

Willie is married with five children and six grandchildren whom he relishes taking on “Papa adventures.” He lives near Chicago, Illinois. Willie has earned his BS in Education and the equivalent of three master’s degrees, and as an ordained Catholic deacon he is a spiritual director, retreat leader, and professional speaker. Willie is a three-time walker of the Camino, a total of 1200 miles, and has a newly published book of his Camino experiences, Lost and Found along The Way.

### John Holenko

Owner of Hungry Monk Music, John holds degrees in Classical Guitar Performance from the New England Conservatory of Music and the University of Southern California. John has taught throughout the Charleston area at public and private schools, Charleston Southern University, and Creative Spark. John has several music books published by Mel Bay Publications. An active performer, John has played with The Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Na Fidleiri, and his group The Hungry Monks.

### Celeste Mancinelli

Celeste Mancinelli has been performing professionally since the early 80’s. Her NYC credits include the hit show “Nonsense” at the Douglas Fairbanks Theater, Cynthia Heimel’s long-running play “A Girl’s Guide to Chaos” at the American Place Theater (originating the character of Lurene) and Larry Gelbart’s “1-2-3-4-5” at the Manhattan Theater Club. She has appeared as Mama in “My Big Fat Gay Italian Wedding” and its sequel (Funeral) at the St Luke’s Theatre. Celeste has worked in numerous Off-Broadway, cabaret, stock, regional and national touring productions throughout the United States. Her most recent appearance was as Edith Frank in “The Diary of Anne Frank” at the Greenbrier Valley Theatre in West Virginia.

Celeste has proudly enjoyed a second career as an ASHA certified Speech/Language Pathologist earning the NJSHA Distinguished Clinical Achievement Award for her innovative drama/social skills program. Celeste is also a Drama and Speech coach for the Rosa Parks Performing Arts High School in her hometown of Paterson, NJ. Prior to the COVID outbreak she worked closely with her long-time mentor, the late Wynn Handman. At his studio she began writing and developing this original, one-woman show. “Crying on the Camino” is based on her 200-mile hike through Spain. She dedicates her performance to the late Wynn Handman.

## Presenter Information and Bios (continued).

### **Whitewater Bluegrass Company**

For over 35 years The Whitewater Bluegrass Co. has captivated audiences throughout the Southeast with their blend of Bluegrass music, country ballads, mountain swing and down-home humor. With Whitewater, mountain culture is a celebration of music, song and dance.

**"Uncle Ted" White** - Audience involvement is a priority for any Whitewater performance. With true Southern charm and manners Whitewater's MC, square-dance caller and bass man, "Uncle Ted" White, will put you right at ease. In a short amount of time he can have you up, dancing and following calls. Combine this with some country humor and you have a show with a solid foundation.

**Bill Byerly** - Bill is the longest standing member of the band and has been with the band for over 35 years. After playing a variety of music early in his career he provides a lot of diversity to the group's sound. Bill sings lead and harmony as well as providing rhythm on the guitar behind some of the finest musicians. His favorite part of the band is to entertain the audience and insure they have a good time.

**David Pendley** - With David on mandolin, the blend of the Whitewater sound has become riveting. Dave served for ten years with "Ric-o-Chet," who recorded several albums for Rebel Records. His distinct chop, paired with impeccable timing, adds to the drive of Whitewater's accent. In addition, his great ear for harmony and lead singing make Dave a welcome addition to the Whitewater family.

**Seth Rhinehart** - on banjo.

**Molly Barrett** - on fiddle.