

U-U News

www.ubaru.org



Winter Sunrise

Upcoming Events:

- **Bioblitz 10/3-5**
- **Women-aligned 10/10-12**
- **Men-aligned 10/24-26**
- **Worker Bee 11/1**
- **Thanksgiving 11/27**
- **Writers Weekend 1/16-19**

Hill Country Flooding Recovery

The memorial wall to the flooding victims has been relocated to the Hill Country Arts Foundation. The community continues to recover but the process is long.

The state legislature passed bills to increase the safety of camps on Sept. 5, 2025. See article later on changes we expect. Please consider writing a letter to your legislators concerning the requirement for fiber internet connection.



UBarU Camp and Retreat Center is a privately owned and operated, non-profit 501c3 organization. We rely solely upon usage fees and donations to operate our UU sanctuary in the Texas Hill Country. Many thanks!

<https://www.ubaru.org/make-a-payment-or-donate>

Winter at UBarU



“How many lessons of faith and beauty we should lose, if there were no winter in our year!” — *Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Unitarian Minister and Politician*

Bioblitz



The Fall Bioblitz was another great weekend of learning and enjoying nature. Sherry Wilson gave a talk on butterflies and their habitats followed by a nature walk. We spent the afternoon documenting flora and fauna, aided by some camera traps too. We identified 235 species (plants, animals, insects, fungi, etc). You can see the results here: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/ubaru-bioblitz-fall-2025> . The next Bioblitz will be April 24-26, 2026.

Women-Aligned Retreat



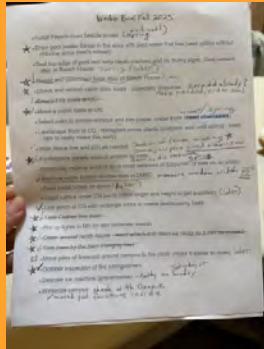
Kelly Stokes facilitated the women-aligned retreat in October. We had time to talk, to explore UBarU, to swim in the pool, to view the stars and to make embroidered finger labyrinths and sun catchers. It was truly a wonderful weekend of fellowship.

Men-Aligned Retreat



Mark Kilpatrick and Michael West facilitated the Men-Aligned Retreat also in October. The retreat highlights included great food, good conversation, and time with nature.

Halloween/Worker Bee



On Halloween we gathered for fun and carved pumpkins followed by a full day on Saturday checking off tasks on our todo list. We accomplished SO much!!! Thanks to all who came out to help with landscaping, winterizing, maintenance, and all the other tasks needed to keep camp running.

Thanksgiving



This was our second year to offer Thanksgiving at UBarU and we had a great time! We had 46 registered – about half stayed at UBarU and the other half included local folks from the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country in Kerrville. We enjoyed a big meal followed by walks, naps, and hay rides in the gorgeous weather. Thanks to all who came and brought a dish to share – the variety of food was amazing – and conversation was lively.

Hill Country Flood Updates

As reported in the last newsletter, as a result of the flooding at youth camps along the Guadalupe River, the Texas legislature passed 2 Acts on 9/5/2025 that directly affect summer youth camps: the “Youth CAMPER (Youth Camp Alert, Mitigation, Preparedness, and Emergency Response) Act” and the “Heaven’s 27 Camp Safety Act” which create new requirements we must meet. There are 3 higher cost items that we need to do: a kitchen vent hood with fire suppression, a redundant broadband internet connection (the bills specify that one should be fiber), and a Public Announcement System. The other requirements are mostly things we have and will update (evacuation plans, emergency training for staff, posted evacuation routes, etc).

Our biggest concern is the requirement that we have a fiber internet connection. About half of the 350+ youth camps in the state will not be able to meet this requirement because fiber is not available near camp. A couple of legislators tried to delay the requirement until 2027, but this was done after the special session was ended and it appears that the requirement will hold for camps this year. We (along with other camps in the same situation) may need to pursue some legal action to renew our license to operate this year. Please consider writing to your legislators to see if they can find a remedy for this situation.

Cabin Reservation Software

New: Cabin Reservation Software. You can see availability and reserve online up to 6 months out (paying an additional fee to the company) or sending email to director@ubaru.org and pay via Zelle or PayPal without additional fee

Valentine Fundraiser

UBarU is hosting a fundraiser on Valentine’s Day (February 14-15). Join the fun which will include an elegant dinner with candlelight, music, chocolate, and wine on Saturday night followed by a star party, 1 night lodging and breakfast on Sunday morning. Enjoy yourself and know that your are helping UBarU to raise money for updates needed to meet new camp safety requirements as well as general improvements to our campus. Cost will be \$300 per person to stay in a private suite in the Brown Center or cottages (double occupancy- there are queen beds in the DMBC private rooms and a mixture of queen, king, and full in the cottage rooms).

U-bar-U

Camp and Retreat Center

Upcoming Events

2026



JANUARY
16-19

Writers' Retreat

Come with your drafts, finished products and empty pages.

FEBRUARY
14

Valentine's Fundraiser

Come alone or bring your love to eat & raise some money for camp

FEBRUARY
20-23

Creative Arts Retreat

Bring your art projects to work on, share, and collaborate with friends

FEB-MAR
27-1

Men's Retreat

Join other Men-aligned folks from UU churches across Texas

MARCH

Bed & Breakfast

UBarU is offering lodging and breakfast over most Texas spring break's

APRIL
10-12

Women's Retreat

UU women-aligned folks gather for a weekend of relaxing, having fun and Sharing Our Stories

APRIL
24-26

Bioblitz

We will be gathering info about plants and other wildlife at UBarU



Event Registration



Website



Cabin Rentals

Event/retreat hosting: email director@ubaru.org with your preferred dates and needs

U-bar-U

Camp and Retreat Center

Summer Events 2026



MAY
22-25

Summer Family Camp

Spend time with your family in the beautiful Texas Hill Country!

JUNE
7-13

Primary Camp

For campers ages 9-11 or rising grades 4-6th

JUNE
14-20

Intermediate Camp

For campers age 12-14 or rising grades - 7-9th

JUNE
21-27

Senior Camp

For campers age 15-18 or rising grades 10th-2026 high school graduates

JUNE
27-30

Young Adult Weekend

Young adults (ages 18-30 years old) are invited to UBarU for a weekend of camp fun

JULY
14-19

SWUUSI Camp

Southwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Intergenerational camp

AUGUST
14-16

GenderfUUL

The Genderful retreat is an affirming retreat where trans, non-binary and agender UUs can build community with each other



Event Registration



Website



Cabin Rentals

Event/retreat hosting: email director@ubaru.org with your preferred dates and needs