



Rev. Dr. Natalie Maxwell Fenimore

April 15, 2026

Rev. Dr. Natalie Maxwell Fenimore, the Lead Minister and Minister for Lifespan Religious Education at Manhasset's Unitarian-Universalist (UU) Congregation at Shelter Rock, died on Long Island on April 15, 2026. Prior to being called to Long Island, she served parishes in Maryland and Virginia as a minister or as a religious educator. She is a past President of the Liberal Religious Educators Association and has served on the Boards of the UU Minister's Association and of Starr King School for the Ministry.

Rev. Dr. Fenimore was a member of the UU Association's Commission on Institutional Change, of which she said: I'm in love with the Unitarian Universalism that does not yet exist. But I have to hold both the love for that thing and the love for the reality...wanting to be there in that struggle. That's why I'm fighting.

Rev. Dr. Fenimore was a prolific writer of UU Religious Education Curricula and

Renaissance Modules, sermons, meditations, and readings. Her Doctor of Ministry study was on Narrative Theology emphasizing Faith Identity Development for African American Unitarian Universalists. She preached the 2021 Service of the Living Tradition at the UUA General Assembly. In 2025 she received the Angus MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education.

Natalie was an engaging preacher who brought a passion to lifespan religious education and faith development. In her own words, “religious education is central to Unitarian Universalism...a process of giving an outline for living. Religious education encompasses all aspects of learning and growing.”

Natalie Maxwell was born in Birmingham, Alabama, on February 20, 1958, to Ralph and Lovie Carroll Maxwell. She was raised in Detroit, Michigan. She and Charles Fenimore married in 1982. Their children are John and Helen Fenimore. She was also stepmother to Paul and Rachel Fenimore. Natalie is survived by her immediate family and by a sister, Hermanetta Smith, of Detroit.

A Memorial Service and Celebration of Life will be held at 1:00 PM, Saturday, May 30, 2026 at The Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, 48 Shelter Rock

Road, Manhasset,
NY 11030

Donations in her memory may be made to “The Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore
Scholarship Fund”
at Starr King School for the Ministry, 414 13th St Suite 700, Oakland, CA
94612

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 30. 1:00 PM (ET)

Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock
48 Shelter Rock Road
Manhasset, NY