

Validation News



Validation Training Institute, Inc.
Website: www.vvalidation.org Email: info@vvalidation.org

ESHEL of Israel Becomes an AVO and Completes Their First Certified Teacher Course

By Vicki de Klerk-Rubin, CVM, Executive Director

ESHEL, the Association for the Planning and Development of Services for the Aged in Israel, has become the first Authorized Validation Organization in the Middle East. ESHEL has been hosting Validation courses for the past four years. This includes 2 Worker courses (taught by Vicki de Klerk) and 1 Group Leader course (taught by Rikky Grill). In May 2017, ESHEL began a Certified Validation Teacher course in Tel Aviv and now the Presenters will be doing their co-training with Austrian Validation Master, Hildegard Nachum. Israeli Validation Teachers will continue to offer Validation training into the future. VTI congratulates both ESHEL and the new Validation Teachers and wishes them all much joy in teaching Validation in the future.

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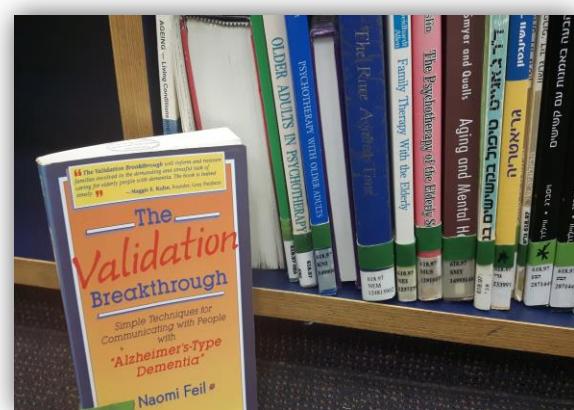


Back row: Hadas, Chaya, Debi, Yael, Deena, Vicki, and Nancy. Front row: Lina, Oran, Inbal, Galit, and Liat

The Validation method is anchored in Israel: how to build a movement by Eilon Caspi Ph.D.

Sometime during 2002 I was looking for a book in the library at Tel Aviv University. Right next to it I saw another book with a bright yellow color on its cover. I was curious. I picked it up not realizing the serendipity of the moment. It was the 1st edition of the book *The Validation Breakthrough* (1993).

I read the book in one sitting. I was fascinated, inspired, and moved by it. It was obvious to me that the method could assist tremendously in bridging a major gap in approaches and services used in Israel with elders living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.



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I shared the book with my friend and colleague, Chaya Koren PhD, who immediately after reading it, became very interested in working with me on raising awareness and promoting the method in Israel.

Both Chaya and I wrote a letter to Itzchak Brick, director of ESHEL (The Association for the Planning and Development of Services for the Aged in Israel), on May 13, 2002 introducing him to the method and encouraging him to consider adopting it as a training program for care staff in long-term care homes.

Together, we developed a comprehensive Hebrew booklet based on the book which served as the basis for presentations and introductory sessions on the method in various settings.

Between December 2002 and May 2004, Chaya and I delivered a dozen presentations trying to introduce the Validation concepts and gain some traction for certification training. We presented in memory care units, to social workers, family caregivers and home care nurses in Israel.

We found old films at ESHEL on the Validation Method, rented them, and incorporated powerful illustrative segments into the above presentations. We published an article in Hebrew about the method in a popular magazine for professionals working with elders¹

We formed a group of leading practitioners and researchers who expressed an interest in the method and compiled a contact list of close to 50 people. We met with many of them to discuss the method and shared copies of the booklet we created. Special thanks to Ms. Tamar Semel, a French-Israeli Validation Presenter, who worked extensively on various fronts to promote the method in Israel.

Overcoming some resistance by leading figures in the aging field, we were able to gather enough support and ESHEL sponsored Naomi Feil's first workshop on Validation on May 20, 2004.

Chaya and I wrote a 7-page proposal to the director of the Publishing Division at ESHEL to translate *The Validation Breakthrough* into Hebrew. While Tuvia saw the need for the method, ESHEL's review committee did not initially approve the translation of the book but it was finally translated and published in July 2011.

This coincided with Vicki de Klerk-Rubin's contacts with me, Chaya and all the interested, Israeli leaders in the field of aging we had gathered over the years and that culminated with Vicki giving a workshop in April 2012. Discussions and interest in further training increased.

By the time of this writing, ESHEL has hosted two Validation Worker courses, a Validation Group Leader course and is just completing a Level 3 Validation Teacher course. Worker courses will begin in autumn so that the Presenters can do their co-training and become the first team of Israeli Validation Teachers. The three Validation books have been published in Hebrew in addition to the DVD, *Introduction to Validation*, which I assisted in translating.

ESHEL is expected to become an Authorized Validation Organization (i.e. an official training center in the Validation Method) in the Fall of 2017.

¹ Caspi, E. & Koren, C. (2003). Validation Therapy: Care and communication with patients with Alzheimer's disease. *Dorot*, 67, 32-35.

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It has been very rewarding for me to learn this humane and powerful method over the years and to raise awareness in it. My hopes are that it will someday be fully integrated into community-based and long-term care service delivery programs in Israel.

Looking forward to continue learning and supporting the Validation Method,

Eilon Caspi B.S.W. M.A. Ph.D.
 Gerontologist & Dementia Behavior Specialist...and woodcarver
 Founder and Director
 Dementia Behavior Consulting, LLC
 Minneapolis, MN
 Website: <http://dementiabehaviorconsulting.com>



Chaya Koren, PhD.
 Lecturer and Researcher
 The School of Social Work
<http://lecturers.haifa.ac.il/en/hw/ckoren/Pages/default.aspx#>
 and The Center for the Study of Society
 University of Haifa
 Tel: +972-54-6345876
<http://society.haifa.ac.il/>



Validation Training Institute is Launching its Annual Fundraising Campaign

Two years ago VTI ran a successful Indigogo fundraising campaign with the goal of hiring a part-time grant writer. We raised an incredible \$56,000 thanks to a matching grant. Since then, VTI has undergone huge changes – we are grant ready and submitting grants. VTI is now 22 AVOs strong with well over 5000 certified Validation Workers, 700 certified Group Leaders, 400 Presenters/Teachers and 14 Validation Masters. We have developed funding projects that align with foundation goals like:

- Research into the effectiveness of Validation
- Beta testing the new Modular Learning curriculum (geared to bring Validation training into care facilities),
- Offering our Validation for Family Caregiver course.

We need to keep the momentum going, keep the grant proposals going until we have a steady stream of income to keep the company financial stable.

The "Commit to Care" fundraising campaign (#Commit2Care) will run from November 23rd through December 28th. This year we plan to raise \$50,000 so that we can hire a full-time development professional to help us secure grant funding that will make VTI sustainable into the future.

Stay tuned in the coming weeks for more information on how to support the campaign.

About the Validation Training Institute, Inc.

VTI is a United States-based, 501(C)3 nonprofit organization founded in 1984 by social worker and gerontologist Naomi Feil, one of the originators of 'person-centered care' for older adults with age-related cognitive decline or disorientation. VTI's mission is to enrich the lives of older adults experiencing age-related cognitive decline and their caregivers through education and support services-rooted in the Validation Method-that nurture respect, dignity and well-being.

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Old People are Cool!

One of our partners, Linked Senior, officially launched an [Old People are Cool](#) Campaign on September 12th. Their project was featured in a Senior Housing News [article](#).

They are sharing their #OPAC message both on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). They are also encouraging people to take [their oath](#) and share widely.

Proceeds from their [OPAC store](#) will be donated directly to the Alzheimer's Association via their Linked Senior 2017 [fundraising page](#).

Introducing VTI's new Grant Writer, Meaghan B. McMahon, MSW



Meaghan McMahon joined the VTI team in June and brings both experience in not-for-profit fundraising but also a background in aging and social work.

Meaghan earned her Bachelor of Arts in English and Sociology from Cornell University where she graduated Magna Cum Laude. Following graduation, she attended the University of Michigan School of Social Work as a Geriatric Scholar and in 2011 earned her Master of Social Work degree. During her time there, Meaghan concentrated her studies on public policy and aging in families and society. She demonstrated her commitment to health and aging issues with two field placements: one with [Presbyterian Villages of Michigan](#) and the second at [Generations United](#) in Washington, D.C.

Following graduation, Meaghan spent a year with the [National Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly \(PACE\) Association](#) as their health policy analyst. During her time with NPA, she specialized in reviewing state and federal policy regulations affecting frail older adults with a focus on the dual eligible population. Meaghan led the association's review of the HITECH Act and electronic health record meaningful use incentive payments.

Meaghan joined [THE GREEN HOUSE® Project](#) team in April 2013. As the Peer Network Project Manager she assisted over 150 open and operating Green House homes across the country with technical assistance including webinars, educational programming, model integrity efforts, and nationwide peer-to-peer engagement opportunities. As the leader of the Government Relations committee, Meaghan created website content and led webinars that helped Green House adopters learn how to educate their local communities and policymakers on the value of this innovative model in the field of long-term care.

After leaving THE GREEN HOUSE® Project, Meaghan began her own business, [MBM Consulting LLC](#), in July 2015. Since that time, she has worked with government agencies, for-profit, not-for-profit and start-up organizations in both the Washington D.C. metro area and San Francisco. Meaghan assists clients with member engagement, grant writing, grant management, communications, research and data analysis.

Additionally, as the past Director of Outreach and Communication for the [Aging2.0](#) Washington D.C. Chapter, Meaghan directed the group's social media campaign on Twitter and LinkedIn to increase local partnerships and identify sponsors. She assisted with planning and hosting quarterly community events. Meaghan presented, "Innovations in Healthy Aging," a session about Aging2.0, at the 2015 National Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) conference in Washington D.C.
We welcome Meaghan to the VTI team.

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The Validation Breakthrough Translated and Released in China

On May 20, 2017, The translation and release of *The Validation Breakthrough, Third Edition: Simple Techniques for Communicating with People with Alzheimer's and other Dementias* by Naomi Feil and Vicki de Klerk-Rubin in China was released in Mandarin. The translation was made possible by a collaborative effort between the Validation Training Institute, Meridian Senior Living and their partner in China Sino-Oceanland.

"We are very proud at Meridian to have been involved with bringing this groundbreaking book to China and the enthusiasm we received from Chairman Li Ming at Sino OceanLand when we first met and discussed the possibility of translating and publishing the book," says Kevin Carlin, Principal and Chief Sales Officer, Meridian Senior Living, LLC. We also would like to thank Chunxuanmao in China for being committed to being a leader in the care of people with Alzheimer's and related dementias. This commitment has lead them to team with Meridian Senior Living and to embrace international standards of caring innovations and they have demonstrated that commitment by translating and publishing this book on Validation approaches to the care of the elderly with dementia in China," says Robert Arsenault, VP, International Operations, Meridian Senior Living, LLC.

Thirteen People from Bulgaria are Involved in Validation Training

Thirteen caregivers applied for Validation training to learn communication skills needed in dementia care, we were informed by the municipality of Lovech. (Lovech is a town to the North-West of Bulgaria.) Ms. Petra Fercher, a Certified Validation Master, came from Austria in order to lead the training. On Friday, the 17th of March, Ms. Fercher met citizens of Lovech in the Baroque Building. Everyone interested in the topic from any point of view was invited to attend the meeting, especially social workers and caregivers.



Ms. Fercher (center wearing the grey shirt) and her students

This training took place for the first time in Bulgaria. Ms. Fercher was invited by the Chair of NGO – Society of Applied Individual Psychology- Ms Galya Baeva. During three days of training, the trainees learned about appropriate attitudes and techniques, applicable in dementia care. Participants received certificates at the end of the course.

People, suffering at Alzheimer and other types of dementia, need specialized care and the caregivers learn very special communication skills and other skills. Several appropriate and working approaches to dementia care have been developed in other countries, where the social interest and solidarity are a reality. Unfortunately, in our country, providing specialized training for people who care for people with Alzheimer's and other dementia types is not a priority. On the other hand, the number of Bulgarians with

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Alzheimer's is increasing continuously.

The training of caregivers in Lovech was completed with the financial support of the Community Board at Telus International Europe and the assistance of the Municipality of town. We are grateful for their generosity.

EVA Meeting October 19-21, 2017

European Validation Association, EVA
*c/c President : Kathia Munsch,
 5, rue des trois Piliers
 F-51100 REIMS France*



email : eva@vfvalidation.fr
 Phone: +(33)6 08 42 58 08

Dear Presenters, Teachers, Masters and AVO,
 Dear EVA members,

We put the final touch to our annual meetings (the Teacher and the AVO meetings as well as the General Assembly) which will take place on:

19TH, 20TH AND 21ST OF OCTOBER 2017
PALAU MACAYA,
PASSEIG SANT JOAN
BARCELONA (SPAIN)

The Asociación Relay, our host AVO for 2017, organises a Symposium (in English, Spanish and Catalan) on the 17th and 18th of October and the theme is "The Validation® method and other person-centred care methods". The Asociación Relay gives a special rate for the EVA members (who paid their membership for 2017): 150€ for both days.

The EVA meetings will take place as described below:

- **Teacher meeting:**
 - Thursday 19th of October from 9 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. (with 1h30 lunch break)
 - Friday 20th of October from 9a.m. to 5p.m.
- **AVO meeting:**
 - Friday 20th of October from 5.30p.m. to 9p.m.
- **General Assembly:**
 - Saturday 21st of October from 9a.m. to 11.30 a.m.
- **Board meeting**
 - Saturday 21st of October from 12p.m. to 2 p.m. (only for elected Board members)

All **EVA members** (i-e, members who paid their membership for 2017-2018) get **free entrance** to all the meetings.

The Teacher meeting will be punctuated by different interventions on other person-centered methods (Reminiscence, Musica, DCM, Montessori,...) and story telling. We will also discuss the new tests (study case) and the quality manual. We also ask you to send us your questions so that we can try and answer them in plenum.

The AVO meetings will focus on the effects of the new tests. Again, feel free to send us any issue you would be interested in discussing during this meeting.

You can already book your trip there and your accommodation (Barcelona has an international airport and a train station in the city center – Barcelona Sants -, you will easily find an hotel next to the Palau – e.g. Hotel Catalonia La Pedrera, SM Hotel Sant Antoni).

We hope to see you there to ~~drink mojito~~ work and learn from each other,

Have a great day,

Kathia Munsch

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Certified Validation Support Group Update

The Validation on-line support group, for Validation certified participants, started in February 2017. The group is open to anyone who has completed the Level 1 Validation Worker Course or equivalent. Because participants are spread worldwide, the biggest challenge of the meeting is to connect at the right time! The safest way is to search: "What time is it in San Francisco, CA?" If the answer is 5PM, on the last Wednesday of the month, it is time to connect and discover soul mates from all over the world.

The group is facilitated, in English, by Olga Lavault, Certified Validation Teacher who has a deep experience in residential communities accommodating elders with varied level of forgetfulness and disorientation. Topics have included aphasia, false accusations rooted in ancient fears/trauma, withdrawn patients, how to celebrate a memorial in a forgetfulness environment, families in denial, patients transitioning into mal-orientation, expressions of unfinished grief, staff training, repetitive phase and use of music. Typically the participants live in areas where there is no organized Validation structure or they work in environments where they are the only one trained in the Validation method. The group is a safe place to exchange resources and to receive suggestions and encouragements.

The technical requirements are simple: a computer, a tablet or smart phone with microphone and speaker. The Zoom app offers video and audio connection; audio only through a phone is an option.

To join, register in advance with Jana Stoddard [jana\(at\)vfvalidation\(dot\)org](mailto:jana(at)vfvalidation(dot)org).

Certified Validation Support Group Schedule

Dates	Times
Sept 27, 2017	5pm PST/6pm MST/7pm CST/10am Australia/3am Israel
Oct 25, 2017	5pm PST/6pm MST/7pm CST/10am Australia/3am Israel
Nov 29, 2017	5pm PST/6pm MST/7pm CST/10am Australia/3am Israel
Dec 27, 2017	5pm PST/6pm MST/7pm CST/10am Australia/3am Israel
Jan 31, 2018	5pm PST/6pm MST/7pm CST/10am Australia/3am Israel
Feb 28, 2018	5pm PST/6pm MST/7pm CST/10am Australia/3am Israel
March 28, 2018	5pm PST/6pm MST/7pm CST/10am Australia/3am Israel

Contact [jana \(at\) vfvalidation\(dot\)org](mailto:jana(at)vfvalidation(dot)org) for the invitation and link to participate in the call.

New Validation Support Group

In case you haven't heard or our email got lost in cyberspace, we will be hosting a new Validation support group for **beginning** Validators. People who have attended a Naomi Feil workshop, read one of Naomi's books or taken the online "Beginning Validation" course are welcome to join the group. The group will be led by Certified Validation Presenters/Teachers. The group will meet on the last Thursday of the month. See the schedule below. If you live outside the USA and want to participate, you are welcome to join us and discover soul mates from all over the world.

The technical requirements are the same as for the Certified Validation Support Group.

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For more information or to register for the group, contact VTI Manager, Jana at jana (at) vfvalidation (dot) org.

Beginning Validation Support Group Schedule

Dates

Sept 28, 2017
Oct 26, 2017
Nov 30, 2017
Dec 28, 2017
Jan 25, 2018
Feb 22, 2018
March 29, 2018

Times

6pm PST/7pm MST/8pm CST/9pm EST
6pm PST/7pm MST/8pm CST/9pm EST

Contact jana (at) vfvalidation (dot) org for the invitation and link to participate in the call.

Please email newsletter editor jana@vfvalidation.org

with any question, comments, or suggestions.

We accept submissions, suggestions or ideas for future newsletters.