



December 2023 Newsletter



VTI Board Spotlight: Naomi Feil

In a conversation between Naomi Feil and Vicki de Klerk, Naomi reflects on the early years of Validation. The discussion touches on influential figures like psychologists Al Palino, PK Saha, and Evelyn Sutton, who played key roles in validating the method.

Despite Naomi's acknowledgment of her imminent passing, she trusts the current board, comprised of experienced and new members, along with the extensive network of validation teachers, to carry on the work and understanding of Validation worldwide.





Partner Spotlight: Center for Innovation

The Center for Innovation (CFI) has become the hub for three prominent eldercare transformation brands: The Green House Project (GHP), Pioneer Network, and EmpowerED. These organizations collectively aim to establish empowering, person-directed services as the standard for older adults, irrespective of various demographics.

GHP focuses on replacing institutional nursing homes with small-scale, person-directed Green House homes, while Pioneer Network advocates for person-directed care practices across eldercare settings. EmpowerED, launched in 2023, extends these principles through eLearning and consulting services for caregivers.

CFI envisions a world where dementia care goes beyond physical needs, emphasizing the holistic humanity of elders, and strives to create a universal care landscape with high-quality, dignified care at every stage of aging.

"Too often, people living with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia have a particularly difficult time receiving services and supports that address their holistic humanity. Many leaders involved in the founding of GHP and Pioneer Network were inspired to improve eldercare after seeing firsthand the ways that institutions rob people living with dementia of their autonomy"

Click here to read the full article

To learn more about their work, check them out at www.thegreenhouseproject.org and www.pioneernetwork.net.



Validation Teacher Spotlight: Krissy Wuerdeman

Krissy Wuerdeman, a Certified Validation Teacher and Founder of That Place You Know, LLC, recently co-presented at the California Assisted Living Association (CALA) conference, emphasizing the effectiveness of combining Validation and Art to enhance communication for adults with memory loss.

The session showcased how artwork serves as a powerful tool in facilitating the healing process, allowing suppressed emotions to be expressed and creating opportunities for empathic dialogue and care using Validation techniques. The conference, attended by senior-level staff and corporate leadership in the assisted living, memory care, and CCRC sectors, highlighted Wuerdeman's holistic approach to memory care through her social adult day program in New Hampshire.

<u>Read the full article here</u>

Give Validation to your loved ones – 10% off any Validation product until January 1st with code: GIFT23

GIVE A GIFT NOW







Conference Report: Symposium Validation® by Feil – Vicki de Klerk-Rubin is finally a guest in Vienna again

On October 25, 2023, the Symposium Validation® by Feil took place in Vienna, Austria, after a four-year hiatus, aiming to rejuvenate Validation® following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Organized by AVO Caritas Vienna and AVO Red Cross Vienna, the event brought together health and care professionals, volunteers, and those interested in the needs of elderly disoriented individuals. Vicki de Klerk-Rubin led an interactive workshop, revitalizing 130 participants with the principles of Validation®.

The symposium featured a lecture on dementia by Prim. Dr. Georg Psota, connecting biopsychosocial perspectives with Validation, and included workshops on various topics related to Validation. Validation® enjoys recognition in Austria, being integrated into training courses and recommended by the Austrian Federal Ministry for appreciative and respectful treatment of the elderly. The organizers express gratitude to the speakers, experts, and contributors who made the symposium a success.

Read the full article here



Step Into Their Shoes and Cross the Street: Connecting Heart to Heart with Older Adults

Nancy Brown delivered the keynote address at The Bridge Alzheimer's and Dementia Research Center's 3rd annual conference in Shreveport, Louisiana

(the same stage where Naomi presented a workshop), themed "Engage, Empower, Educate" on November 3, 2023.

Her 3-hour presentation, "Step Into Their Shoes and Cross the Street: Connecting Heart to Heart with Older Adults," centered on the legacy of Naomi Feil, the Validation method, and the path to empathy through the Validation Attitude.

The conference, attended by a diverse audience of 300, included healthcare professionals, administrators, family caregivers, educators, and students. The Bridge Alzheimer's & Dementia Research Center, a local non-profit, focuses on providing comprehensive services, education, and resources for those affected by Alzheimer's and dementia in Northwest Louisiana.

Read the full article here



Where has VTI been and where's it going?

In 2023, VTI experienced numerous successes, including reaching out to younger individuals struggling to connect with aging parents, achieving fundraising goals, and participating in conferences worldwide. The 2nd World Congress, Decoding Dementia, and partnerships with organizations like CARD and Meridian Senior Living highlighted VTI's global impact. Beta testing for a new training, Validation for Physicians, proved successful, and data collection from training surveys aims to validate the quality of Validation training.

Looking ahead to 2024, VTI plans to sustain ongoing projects, expand the Validation community, showcase training quality through data, update literature, enhance company operations, and raise the Endowment Fund to \$2,000,000.

Unfortunately, the year was marked by the impending loss of VTI's founder, Naomi Feil, who has bravely shared her insights on life and death in the Forum dedicated to maintaining contact with the Validation community.

The newsletter concludes by wishing everyone a compassionate holiday season.

Read the full 2023 recap here

Support Groups

VTI hosts support meetings for everyone interested in the Validation method, whether you have read a book or taken a certification training. Find answers to questions, network with others and gain more confidence in using Validation to enhance the lives of older adults. All meetings are conducted via Zoom.

Validation Talk & Techniques Meetings:

JAN 18

Time

19:00 Eastern European Time 17:00Greenwich Mean Time 12:00PM U.S. Eastern Time JAN **25**

Time

5:00PM U.S. Mountain Time 6:00PM U.S. Central Time 7:00PM U.S. Eastern Time

English Teacher Meeting

JAN **12**

Time

10am CET 4pm China11am Israel 5pm Japan

AVO Meeting

JAN 26

Time

10am CET 4pm China 11am Israel 5pm Japan

Click here for more information or to register for the meetings

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