



## August 2024 Newsletter



Strategic Insights from the VTI Board Meeting:  
Washington, DC - July 23, 2024

The VTI Board Strategic Planning Meeting in Washington, DC, on July 23, 2024, marked a significant milestone since the passing of our founder, Naomi Feil. Facilitated by Board members Rudolf Rodenburg and Mariska Praktiek, this gathering saw members from across the US and Europe come together to reaffirm their commitment to Naomi's vision and the core values of respect, transparency, and innovation.

Highlights included heartfelt personal stories from attendees, a focus on succession planning for the Executive Director position, and an in-depth SWOT analysis to shape our strategic direction. This collaborative effort aims to expand our audience, enhance caregiver satisfaction, and maintain the high quality of Validation training.

For a detailed account of the meeting and to see how we are working to bring Naomi's vision to life, [click here for the full article](#).



## Teacher Feature: Gunvor Sramek

In the early nineties, Gunvor Sramek had a life-changing experience while observing Naomi Feil, a petite lady using the Validation method to connect with an old, disoriented woman. In a dimly lit room, Gunvor watched as Naomi mirrored the woman's movements and sounds, eventually bringing the woman to express a heartfelt sentence about her mother. This profound interaction demonstrated the power of the Validation method in fostering empathy and communication.

Discover the transformative power of the Validation method in Gunvor Sramek's captivating account of her first encounter with Naomi Feil. Witness how a simple yet profound interaction between Naomi and a disoriented elderly woman inspired Gunvor to pursue Validation training, leading to remarkable breakthroughs in her caregiving approach. This story is a testament to the



impact of empathy and effective communication in improving the lives of those with cognitive impairments.

Don't miss this heartwarming and inspirational tale—[click the link to read the full article.](#)

[Lesen Sie hier die deutsche Version](#)



## AVO Feature: VASO (Italy)

On June 10, 2024, Italian Switzerland celebrated a significant achievement as Casa Bianca Maria in Cadro received its first institutional Validation Certificate of Quality. This recognition underscores the home's dedication to the Validation method, a non-pharmacological approach that honors the individuality of older adults with cognitive changes.

Casa Bianca Maria and Casa San Giorgio di Brissago exemplify how empathetic listening and respect can profoundly impact elderly care. Led by Director Federico Mazzoleni and Validation team coordinator Selam Marquardt, the staff's commitment has created an environment where older adults can express their emotions freely, maintaining their dignity and peace.

Learn more about this inspiring milestone and the dedicated individuals behind it—[click the link to read the full report.](#)

[Leggi la versione italiana qui](#)



## Partner Feature:

The Bridge Alzheimer's Dementia Resource Center is thrilled to announce its new partnership with the Validation Training Institute (VTI). This collaboration will be highlighted at The Bridge's 4th Annual Education Conference on Alzheimer's & Dementia, featuring Certified Validation Teacher Eric Portnoff as the keynote speaker. This partnership aims to share stories and raise awareness about the profound impact of Validation Training, emphasizing the philosophy of "Connecting Heart to Heart with Older Adults."

The Bridge, located in Shreveport, Louisiana, has been a vital resource in promoting Validation techniques in the community, thanks to the dedication of Certified Validation Teacher Stacey Hand. The upcoming conference on November 8, 2024, will provide family members, caregivers, and professionals with tools to engage and empower individuals affected by Alzheimer's and dementia.

Learn more about this exciting partnership and how it aims to transform dementia care in Northwest Louisiana.

[Click here for the full report.](#)



## Reunion and Recognition: European and Israeli Validation Teachers Meet in Person

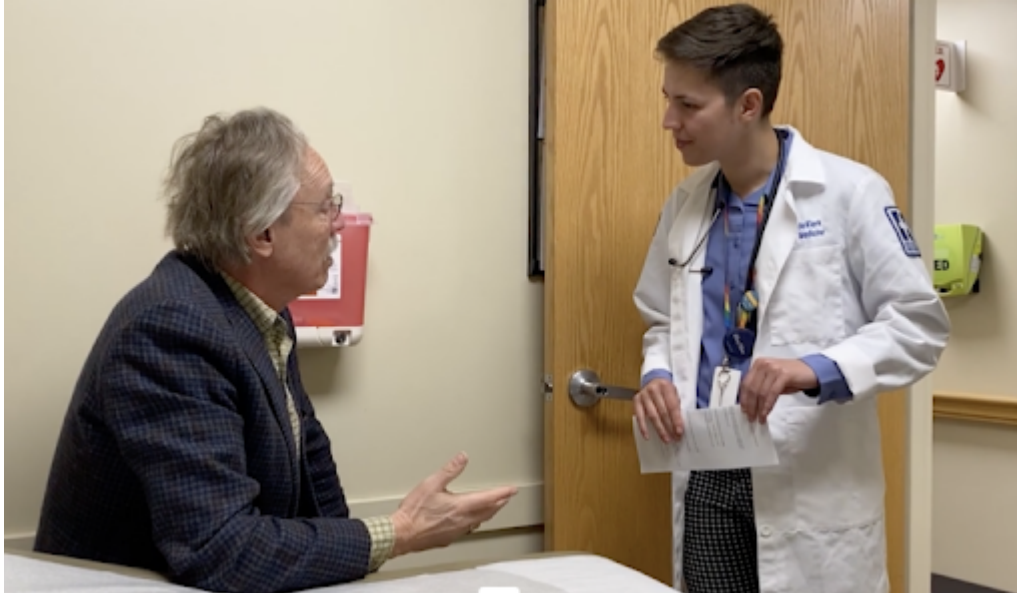
For the first time since COVID-19 forced our annual teacher meetings online, 30 teachers from Europe and Israel met in person at the Diakonissen in Speyer, Germany, hosted by Hedwig Neu and her AVO, Autorisiertes Zentrum für Validation.

The event began with an open symposium on palliative care: "Dying in peace - Validation and Palliative Care in the last phase of life." Vicki de Klerk-Rubin was one of the featured speakers. After her presentation, Vicki presented the "Naomi Feil Award for Outstanding Service" to Hedwig Neu, who is retiring after 30+ years of service to Validation and spreading Naomi legacy. This special award was created by the VTI Board of Directors. Hedwig is the first person to receive such recognition.

The event was a rich experience, with the following two days filled with learning, sharing, and dining together. The program included a variety of activities, from presentations to working group sessions on research, expanding the teacher Exercise Booklet, networking in Germany, Validation and family members, and the Online Library of resources for Teachers and Presenters. The future of the European Validation community was also a key topic of discussion.

Mark your calendars: Teacher/Master/Present Meeting 2025: June 20-21 in Geneva, Switzerland.





## Enhance Patient Care: Join Our Validation Course for Medical Professionals Starting October 14th!

Our Validation Course for Medical Professionals now starts on October 14th! Designed for physicians, this course helps you understand disoriented older adults, recognize behavior meanings, empathize with emotions, and practice effective communication techniques.

Improve patient outcomes, learn practical tools, and build meaningful connections. The course includes five online lessons with videos, quizzes, case studies, and interactive webinars on October 16 & 19, October 23 & 26, October 30 & November 2, November 6 & 9, and November 20 & 23.

Register for \$200 and get a 50% refund upon completing surveys and a focus group. Don't miss this chance to enhance your skills and improve patient care. Sign up now at

[vvalidation.org/product/validation-training-for-physicians!](https://vvalidation.org/product/validation-training-for-physicians) ☐☐



Join us for NCCAP and VTI's: Memory Care: Validation for Activity Professionals.

Register today! The classroom platform opens on October 1: 1st interactive webinar will be October 15. Reserve your place now and bring along a colleague to share this opportunity. CEU credits available.

This interactive course is delivered over 11 weeks with 6 live webinars, course work and practice. Classes are led by certified Validation and NCCAP instructors Nancy Brown, CVT & Brenda Deckman, CVW. You will learn how to incorporate the Validation attitude and techniques into your activities and interactions with those living with dementia.

Click on the link below to sign up!

<https://www.nccap.org/validation-memory-care-engagement-course>

# Free Support Groups

AUGUST 22

## VALIDATION TALK & TECHNIQUES

5:00PM U.S. Mountain Time

6:00PM U.S. Central Time

7:00PM U.S. Eastern Time

SEPT. 19

## VALIDATION TALK & TECHNIQUES

### Time

19:00 Eastern European Time

17:00 Greenwich Mean Time

12:00PM U.S. Eastern Time

SEPT. 3

## GERMAN TEACHER MEETING

6:00pm - 7:00pm CET

SEPT. 10

## ENGLISH TEACHER MEETING

9am Pacific, 6pm CET, 7pm

noon Eastern, Israel



Validation

## Upcoming Conferences



VTI is proud to be accepted to the following conferences:

Symposium zum Thema Validation im Haus Döbling

Date: 20 September

Location: Vienna

Type: In-Person

Alzheimer's Europe

Date: 8-10 October

Location: Geneva, Switzerland

Type: In-Person

Center for Innovation

Date: 11-13 November

Location: Grand Rapids, MI

Type: In-Person



International Conference on Active Aging

Date: 19-21 November

Location: Raleigh, NC

Type: In-Person

Gerontological Society of America

Date: 13-16 November

Location: Seattle, WA

Type: In-Person

Stay tuned for more conference action in autumn!

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