



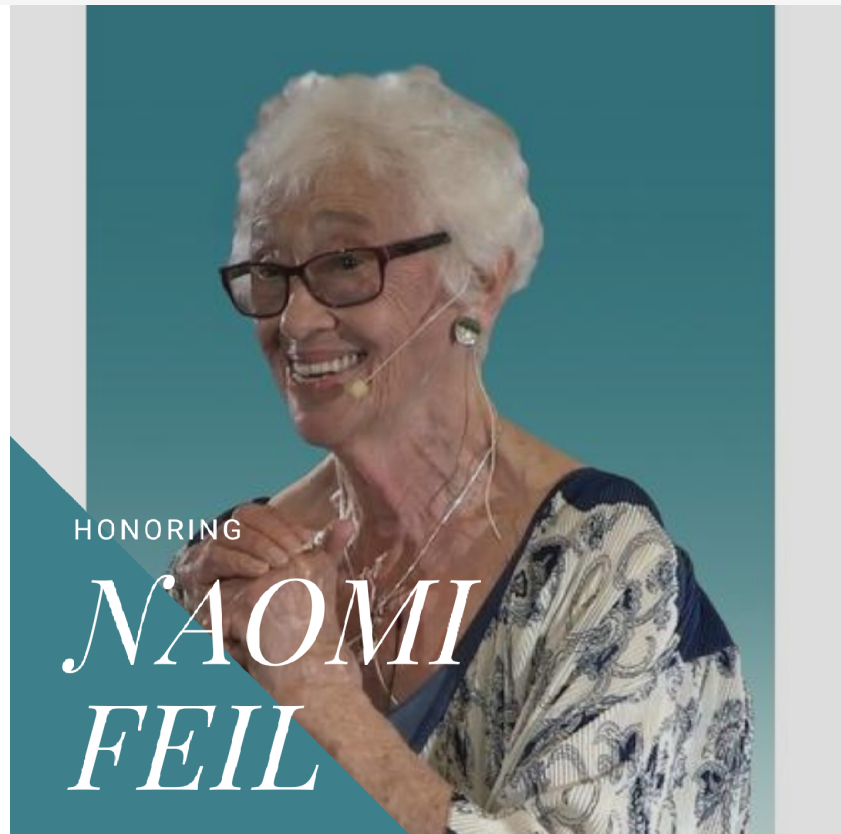
## December 2024 Newsletter



### Happy Holidays from VTI!

As we close out another incredible year, we want to extend a HUGE thank you to all of our supporters, partners, and friends. Your generosity, passion, and belief in our mission make everything we do possible. Together, we're transforming lives through the Validation method and spreading empathy and understanding around the world.

This holiday season, we celebrate you—our community—for helping us honor the legacy of Naomi Feil and continue her groundbreaking work. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful, peaceful, and meaningful holiday season!



## Honoring the Life and Legacy of Naomi Feil

So far, nearly 50 people from countries like Austria and Japan have signed up to join this heartfelt tribute to Naomi Feil. Don't miss your chance to be part of this extraordinary global event.

When: December 28, 2024

Where: Online via Zoom

What Awaits You:

- Hear moving stories from Vicki de Klerk and her siblings, reflecting on Naomi's incredible life and work.
- Share your own experiences of how Naomi's groundbreaking Validation method has touched your life.
- Unite with caregivers, practitioners, and others inspired by Naomi's legacy, celebrating her profound impact worldwide.

Zoom Gathering Times (CET):

- 10:00 AM EST | 4:00 PM CET
- 12:00 PM EST | 6:00 PM CET
- 3:00 PM EST | 9:00 PM CET

A Special Webpage: Starting at midnight on December 27th, explore the [Naomi Unveiling Event Webpage](#) for additional stories, photos, and ways to honor Naomi.

Reserve Your Spot: [Register Here](#) to join this unforgettable event. Once registered, you'll receive all the details you need to participate.

Let's come together to celebrate Naomi Feil's extraordinary legacy of compassion, empathy, and love. We look forward to seeing you there.

Join us and help honor a life that changed so many others.



## Fall Fundraiser Update

We're thrilled to share that our Fall Fundraiser has raised nearly \$12,000 so far—and we're still tallying the final numbers! This incredible support from our community means so much as we work to honor Naomi Feil's legacy and expand the reach of the Validation method worldwide.

Your generosity is helping us provide caregivers with the tools to connect, understand, and care for older adults with compassion and empathy. Every dollar raised brings us closer to ensuring Naomi's vision continues to transform lives for generations to come.

From all of us at VTI, thank you for your unwavering support—you are making a difference! Stay tuned for the final results.



## Growing up with Naomi Feil

In this heartwarming reflection, Ed Feil and Vicki de Klerk share early memories of growing up with their mother, Naomi Feil. From living room performances of *The Music Man* to puppet shows brimming with imaginative storytelling, Naomi's creative spirit and deep empathy shone through in every moment.

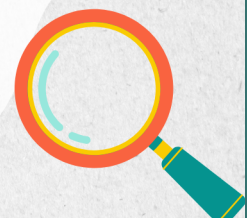
Through these magical experiences—whether directing backyard plays or bringing characters to life in puppet theaters—Naomi instilled in her children the freedom to explore, a love for the arts, and the power of unconditional love.

To read more about these cherished memories and how they embody the essence of Validation, [click here for the full article.](#)



**SPOTLIGHT**

**Dr. Marina Kojer**



## Spotlight on Dr. Marina Kojer: Pioneer of Validation in Long-term Care

VTI proudly celebrates the groundbreaking work of Dr. Marina Kojer, a Validation pioneer who began using the method in 1997 as chief doctor in Europe's largest long-term care home. Integrating person-centered care into daily practice, Dr. Kojer transformed dementia care, creating trust and connection with her patients while improving diagnostic and therapeutic outcomes.

Dr. Martina Schmidl, a senior physician under Dr. Kojer, beautifully captured the power of Validation in her chapter, *The Importance of Validation for the Doctor*, from the book *Old, Sick, and Confused* (4th edition). She shares how Validation allowed her to reduce stress, achieve better diagnostic clarity, and experience profound, rewarding relationships with her patients.

“Since I started approaching patients in a validating way, it became natural for them to greet me with a smile, hold my hand, and thank me for respecting and understanding them,” Dr. Schmidl reflects.

To read more about Dr. Kojer’s remarkable journey and how Validation transforms dementia care, [click here for the full story.](#)

## Thank you Validation Partners!

### Gratitude for our Partners

On behalf of the international Validation community, the Validation Training Institute wishes to thank our Partners—organizations that share our values and vision and work with integrity, transparency, and love for older adults. Our joint mission is to improve the lives of older people living with or without cognitive decline.

These reciprocal, non-competitive relationships strengthen both of us. We’re all small in the scheme of things, but together, we can make change happen. We welcome new partnerships with organizations that share our values and vision.



AVO Feature: Crosslands’ Journey with the Validation

## Method

Kendal~Crosslands Communities has embraced the Validation method as a cornerstone of its dementia care approach, reflecting its core values of belonging and support. Starting in 2022, the Crosslands Health Center partnered with the Validation Training Institute (VTI) to introduce staff and residents to the Naomi Feil Validation method, offering classes and certifications for staff to deepen their expertise.

In November 2024, Crosslands achieved a major milestone by becoming an Authorized Validation Organization (AVO), joining an elite group of 28 organizations in 14 countries. With 10 Certified Validation Workers and three Certified Group Leaders, Crosslands continues to offer group validation sessions, fostering connection, expression, and enhanced relationships between residents and caregivers.

Learn how Crosslands is transforming dementia care and empowering residents to lead lives full of purpose and meaning. [Click here for the full story.](#)



**Zhao Dapeng**



**Zhao Dan**



## Teacher Feature: VTI Welcomes Two New Certified Validation Teachers in China

The Validation Training Institute is thrilled to announce two newly certified Validation Teachers in China: Zhao Dan and Zhao Dapeng, both Level 4 Certified

Teachers as of December 2024. Their dedication to advancing Validation principles in elder care marks a significant milestone for Validation in China.

Zhao Dapeng, a Master of Social Welfare, has over 15 years of experience in elder care across Japan and China. As Director of Dementia Care for Senior Living L'Amore and Director of China's only Authorized Validation Organization, he combines hands-on expertise with a deep commitment to dementia care and Validation training.

Zhao Dan, a Doctor of Social Welfare, brings a wealth of expertise from her roles at Senior Living L'Amore, including Director of Dementia Care and Executive Director. Currently serving as the organization's Director of Elderly Care Training, Zhao Dan has been instrumental in spreading Validation practices since beginning her training in 2015.



**Validation**  
World Congress

**COMING SOON**

**25 FEB. 2025**

## Save the Date: 2025 Validation World Congress

Date: February 25, 2025

Time: 12–4 PM ET (with a Happy Hour following)

Theme: *Creative Arts for a Purposeful Life with Cognitive Change*

Join the Validation Training Institute, LifeLoop, and Dementia Minds for an inspiring virtual event exploring how the creative arts empower individuals living with cognitive changes. This year's Congress features three panels highlighting the transformative role of Visual Arts, Performing Arts, and Literary Arts in fostering connection, expression, and advocacy.

Each session will include personal stories from individuals living with cognitive changes, along with expert insights and interactive activities to engage participants.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn, connect, and celebrate creativity. Stay tuned for more details!

Mark your calendars now!



## Elevate Your Memory Care Skills with NCCAP and VTI!

Join us for "Memory Care: Validation for Activity Professionals." Register today! Our classroom platform opens on January 14, with the first interactive webinar on January 28. Secure your spot now and invite a colleague to join you. CEU credits are available.

This 11-week interactive course includes 6 live webinars, coursework, and practice sessions. Led by certified Validation and NCCAP instructors Nancy Brown, CVT, and Brenda Deckman, CVW, you'll learn to integrate the Validation attitude and techniques into your activities and interactions with individuals living with dementia. Don't miss out! Click the link below to sign up!

[https://www.nccap.org/validation-memory-care-engagement-course?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR3A1fTm29PCyyQGgCXR\\_EKIt0eUrnfE-m86hkjyKQI4JPhapkdBo6x3BkU\\_aem\\_AVXCXBxUMMWYXqzxfjOrgA](https://www.nccap.org/validation-memory-care-engagement-course?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR3A1fTm29PCyyQGgCXR_EKIt0eUrnfE-m86hkjyKQI4JPhapkdBo6x3BkU_aem_AVXCXBxUMMWYXqzxfjOrgA)

## Upcoming Meetings

### January 2025:

- Teacher Meetings:
  - Friday: January 10, 10:00 AM CET / 11:00 AM Israel / 9:00 AM Pacific / 12:00 PM Eastern.
- AVO Meetings:
  - Friday: January 24, 10:00 AM CET / 11:00 AM Israel.

### February 2025:

- Teacher Meetings:
  - Monday: February 10, 10:00 AM Pacific / 1:00 PM Eastern.
- German Teachers:



- February 4, 6:00 PM CET / 7:00 PM Israel.
- French Teachers:
  - February 25, 7:00 PM CET / 8:00 PM Israel.
- AVO Meetings:
  - Monday: February 26, 9:00 AM Pacific / 12:00 PM Eastern.

March 2025:

- Teacher Meetings:
  - Tuesday: March 11, 10:00 AM Pacific / 1:00 PM Eastern (US time).

[For more information or to register for the meetings- click here](#)

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