

June 2026



June 2026 Newsletter

Shirin Mordechai, Certified Validation Practitioner, Jerusalem, Israel

When Connection Breaks Through

One of the greatest gifts of Validation is the reminder that even for people living with advanced dementia, the need to feel accepted, understood, and emotionally connected remains deeply present. And sometimes the most meaningful communication happens without words. I witnessed this firsthand while co-leading a Validation Group in our memory day center.



During one of our Validation Group discussions, we talked about friendship using these prompts:

- “What makes someone a good friend?”
- “Is it important to have friends—and to be a friend?”
- “What does friendship mean?”

One woman in the group quietly said,

"I don't have many friends. I only want to be with people who like me."

For a moment, the room became still.

Then another member of the group slowly reached over and took her hand.

No prompting. No advice. No reassurance. No attempt to fix or redirect the moment. Just a simple gesture of connection.

It was this moment that inspired me to learn more about Validation and eventually enroll in the Level 1 Validation Practitioner course. It has become an invaluable part of my practice.

(If you are interested in learning more about our Level 1 Certified Validation Practitioner course, please contact us: info@vfvalidation.org.)

From Our Global Community

Viviana Bilezker, Argentina
Authorized Validation Organization
(AVO)

Our AVO in Argentina is growing and busy as ever! Here are only a few of the highlights:

1. One of the Validation students wrote a book about her experience with Validation and her mother's dementia. This is the first-ever book written about Validation in Argentina.
2. Twice-monthly family support groups.
3. Staff training in various residential facilities.
4. Volunteers trained in Validation working in various communities.
5. Developed Validation training for End-of-Life Care.

Contact Viviana: secretaria@elfaroasociacion.org.ar
www.elfaroasociacion.org.ar



"YOU KNOW ME!"

I have a friend named Myra who doesn't talk very much anymore. Yet I see her light up when I mention the people and places that have mattered in her life.

If I say, "Dottie—your mom, right?" she reacts immediately.

The same thing happens when I mention her husband, her children, her sister, or the town where she grew up.

But the biggest response came when I mentioned the name of the hair salon she once owned.

In that moment, with her whole being, she seemed to say:

“You know me.”



That experience reinforced an important lesson for me: details matter.

When we remember and use the names of people, places, roles, and experiences that shaped someone's life, we help them feel recognized and valued. Even when words become difficult, the emotional meaning remains.

I have seen care teams collect and share personal details so that everyone—from staff to family members—can connect more meaningfully. A former comedian was given the joy of delivering the punchlines to his favorite jokes because staff took the time to learn them.

Validation reminds us that every person is unique and worthwhile (Naomi's Validation Principle #1). The more we know about someone's story, the more opportunities we have to help them feel truly known.

Carmen Bowman, CVP (Certified Validation Presenter), Owner, Educating: Catering Education for Compliance and Culture Change in LTC



Growing the legacy
Carrying Naomi's Legacy Forward



LEARNING TO STAY PRESENT

In our trainings, participants explore how small shifts in presence, tone, and observation can transform everyday interactions. These skills are developed through practice, reflection, and experience.

Registration now open for:

Validation for Activity Professionals
Begins September 8

<https://vfvalidation.org/produ...>

Practical Validation Training

Our most extensive Validation training offered exclusively online.

Begins October 28

<https://vfvalidation.org/produ...>

*Where We've Been:
Sharing Validation in Practice Around the World*



Marie-Claire Girard, CVM and
Anick Martin, CVT

Alzheimer's Disease International
Conference, Lyon, France

*Integrating Validation into
Professional Nursing*



Krissy Wuerdeman, CVT

Eden Alternative, Atlanta, Georgia

Many attendees were familiar with Naomi's Validation method. Our oral presentation, *Authentic Connection Through Validation and Creative Expression*, inspired them to share how Validation has made a positive impact in their personal and professional lives.

Expanding Access

Meaningful connection should not be limited by financial circumstances.

Through our new *Sponsorship Initiative*, individuals and organizations can help expand access to Validation training by:

- sponsoring a caregiver or professional
- supporting group participation
- or contributing toward scholarship opportunities for those who express interest but may not have the financial resources to attend

Every sponsorship helps strengthen compassionate, relationship-based care in communities around the world.

→ Learn more about sponsorship opportunities, including your interest in being sponsored:

<https://vfvalidation.org/sponsorship/>



UPCOMING MEETINGS 2026

JUNE

18
THU

Community Forum: Nancy
12pm ET / 5pm GMT / 7pm EET

25
THU

Community Forum: Jim
5pm MT / 6pm CT / 7pm ET

JULY

13
MON

Teacher Meeting
10am PT / 1pm ET / 7pm CET / 8pm IL

16
THU

Community Forum: Nancy
12pm ET / 5pm GMT / 7pm EET

23
THU

Community Forum: Krissy
5pm MT / 6pm CT / 7pm ET

27
MON

AVO Meeting
10am PT / 1pm ET / 7pm CET / 8pm IL

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info@vfvalidation.org

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