

August 2026

Connection in Action



Connecting the Validation Community

Stephani Maser, Validation Master

Director of AVA Demenz - Akademie fuer Validation und Demenz

What happens when people with different levels of Validation experience come together, each with something to share and something to learn?

In Stuttgart this July, the Validation community did just that. Hosted by Validation Master Teacher Stephi Maser and AVA Demenz, Vicki de Klerk-Rubin led a workshop attended by 90 participants. The following day, a smaller group of the Validation community from Germany, Luxembourg, Austria, and the Netherlands gathered to continue the conversation. The two-day event was such a profound experience because everyone came as both a learner and a contributor. Whether participants were certified in Validation, had attended a workshop, or were exploring the Validation method for the first time, they all came together, sharing experiences, exchanging ideas, practicing skills, and strengthening the relationships that make the global Validation community so powerful.

→ [Read Stephi's complete story_\(German and English\) and see more photos:](#)



Connection in Action: From Learning to Relationship

What happens when Validation learning moves beyond the classroom? These moments from our AVO in China, Senior Living L'Amore, show how learning becomes practice—and practice becomes meaningful connection.



Practitioner & Resident

Relationship Grows Through Trust

At 92, this resident from Nanjing speaks softly, loves Chinese opera, and increasingly spends time within her own world. Level 1 Validation Practitioner Chenyu Wu has learned to stay alongside her without correcting or challenging her experience.

Over time, trust has grown. Sometimes the resident gently reaches out and touches Chenyu's cheek—her own tender way of connecting.

Chenyu has also learned the importance of her handbag. When it is missing, she may become distressed. Rather than dismissing her concern, Chenyu recognizes what the bag represents: **familiarity and security.** She acknowledges her distress and helps her find it.

“Every person living with dementia is



Family Caregiver

Beyond Right or Wrong

After attending a Validation family workshop, Mr. Yu began interacting differently with his mother. When she repeated questions, forgot things, or became distressed, he had often tried to correct or reason with her—leaving them both frustrated.

Through Validation, his focus shifted.

“The biggest change is that we no longer focus on what is right or wrong.”

Instead, he learned to listen, acknowledge his mother's emotions, and respond with empathy. Sharing experiences with other family caregivers also reminded participants that they were not alone.

[Read the full story: English](#) | [中文](#)

unique. I will
continue to
accompany her
with respect and
empathy.”

[Read the full story: English | !\[\]\(21199eb166cc97331a0c54c649195dcc_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(e79299683882154d856e57ff98e54c81_img.jpg\)](#)

Priority Life Care, an Authorized Validation Organization celebrated VALIDATION WEEK with an invitation: “Meet Me Where I Am.”

Their week-long celebration brought Validation into everyday interactions through listening, storytelling, music, shared memories, creativity, and simply being present with another person.

Spirit weeks are a fun and meaningful way to bring people together and celebrate a shared purpose. Validation Week does the same—honoring Naomi Feil’s legacy while introducing Validation to new audiences with the potential to spark curiosity for compassionate understanding and connection. Look for Validation Week celebrations during 2027.

One week. Many small moments. One powerful reminder: connection happens in what we do every day.



IGNITE COMPASSION,
INSPIRE
UNDERSTANDING.

VALIDATION WEEK 2026

Meet Me Where I Am

AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF HUMAN CONNECTION

AUGUST 17-23, 2026



THE THIRD
FULL WEEK OF
AUGUST

Culminating

NATIONAL
SENIOR
CITIZENS DAY

VALIDATION WEEK BINGO

COMPLETE A LINE, FULL CARD, OR AS MANY AS YOU CAN!

 LISTENED WITHOUT INTERRUPTING	 ASKED AN OPEN-ENDED QUESTION	 HEARD A NEW LIFE STORY	 VALIDATED A FEELING	 USED SOMEONE'S PREFERRED NAME
 LOOKED THROUGH OLD PHOTOS	 DANCED OR SANG TOGETHER	 HELD SOMEONE'S HAND (WITH PERMISSION)	 SHARED A FAVORITE MEMORY	 LEARNED ABOUT SOMEONE'S FORMER CAREER
 SAT QUIETLY WITH SOMEONE	 AVOIDED CORRECTING A MEMORY	 FREE SPACE	 INVITED A FAMILY MEMBER TO SHARE A STORY	 THANKED A CAREGIVER
 WORE A COSTUME OR PROP FOR RESIDENT THEATER	 PRACTICED A VALIDATION ROLE PLAY	 LEARNED ONE NEW FACT ABOUT A RESIDENT	 MADE SOMEONE SMILE	 CREATED SOMETHING TOGETHER
 SAID, "TELL ME MORE ABOUT THAT."	 LEARNED ABOUT SOMEONE'S FAMILY	 SANG A SONG FROM THE PAST	 SHARED A LAUGH	 CHOSE CONNECTION OVER CORRECTION

A Note About Validation: Not every square on this card is a Validation technique or skill on its own. That's the challenge! As you complete each activity, consider how you might integrate Validation into this moment. Validation can be woven into everyday interactions from activities and conversations to meals and personal care.

Join the
MOVEMENT!

During Validation Week, we pause, listen, and remember that
behind every behavior is a person with a story worth hearing.



Validation
Training Institute

**How many squares
will you fill this week?**

Not every square on this card is a Validation technique or skill on its own. That's the challenge! As you complete each activity, consider how you might integrate Validation into this moment.

[Learn more about Validation Week](#)



Validation
TRAINING INSTITUTE

A diagnosis may
change many things.

*The need for
connection remains.*



World
Alzheimer's
Day



SAVE THE DATE!



Beyond the Diagnosis: WHAT NOW?



World Alzheimer's Day

21 September 2026



A free educational webinar from the Validation Training Institute



Understanding the diagnosis
is only the beginning.

What happens next matters.



Details & registration coming soon



For people
living with
cognitive change



For family
members &
care partners



For
professionals



One global
conversation

At the IAGG (International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics) World Congress in Amsterdam, research, new partnerships, and unexpected reunions showed

how Validation continues to travel—from one person, one country, and one generation of learners to another

Connections Across Time and Borders

Vicki de Klerk-Rubin



A Growing Validation Community

Vicki connected with Raul Vinandy of Luxembourg, home to one of VTI's newer Authorized Validation Organizations—a reminder of how the Validation community continues to grow across countries and cultures.

→ [Visit the Luxembourg AVO](#)

→ [Learn more about the Luxembourg AVO in a VTI Blog](#)

Vicki also presented research exploring online and blended approaches to Validation training.

→ [Explore the research](#)

Were you there, too?

Did you attend a workshop, training, or event with Naomi Feil? As we prepare a special **Legacy** issue, we are collecting photos and memories from across the Validation community.

Send to: info@vfvalidation.org



A Connection to Naomi--Years Later

While Vicki was presenting VTI research, Davynn Tan approached her with an immediate connection: years earlier, Davynn had attended a workshop with Naomi Feil in Singapore. Now, in Amsterdam, that shared history brought them together again.

Continue Your Validation Journey—or Begin One.



Begins September 8

Validation for Activity Professionals

Bring Validation into the activities you already do.

An 11-week online course showing you how to integrate the **Validation Attitude and techniques into individual and group activities** to strengthen engagement, participation, and meaningful connection.

Ideal for Activity Professionals, Life Enrichment staff and adult day programs.

Practical. Adaptable. Immediately useful.

→ [Learn More and Register](#)



Begins October 28

Practical Validation Training

What do you do when words, logic, or reassurance aren't enough?

This highly interactive 20-hour online course takes you beyond learning *about* Validation. Learn and practice specific **verbal and non-verbal techniques for one-to-one interactions** with older adults living with cognitive change.

Designed for anyone who wants practical Validation skills they can use in real-life, one-to-one interactions.

5 interactive Zoom sessions | 20 hours

→ [Learn More and Register](#)

Visit Upcoming Courses

CONNECT with the *Community Forum*

Share ideas. Learn together.
Support one another.



20

at 12:00 pm Eastern

5:00 pm GMT
6:00 pm CET
7:00 pm EET

27

at 7:00 pm Eastern

6:00 pm Central
5:00 pm Mountain
4:00 pm Pacific



17

at 12:00 pm Eastern

5:00 pm GMT
6:00 pm CET
7:00 pm EET

24

at 7:00 pm Eastern

6:00 pm Central
5:00 pm Mountain
4:00 pm Pacific



VTI

Validation Training
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All are welcome!

Let's continue the conversation.
Together, we make a difference.



Make a Connection!



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