

# "My" Yonatan



**Hila Amir**  
tour guide

Translation:  
**Alex Huber**

Everyone has his own **Yonatan** ... me too. 22 years ago, I was a new tour guide. I was looking for a local tour guide from Paris. I was on a tour, with an Israeli group, in the Loire Valley. I got **Joshua Spector's** phone number.

I called. A man with a pleasant voice answered. I asked in French to speak to Joshua (at that time he was not called Shuki). I asked if it was possible to switch to English, and the man replied: "It is also possible in Hebrew". This was my first conversation with Yonatan. We talked some more. It turned out that he said to Shuki: "She sounds nice and you will help her!"

I actually met Yonatan through Shuki. Yonatan became a friend of mine as well. Whenever I finished guiding a trip to Paris, I would remain for two or three extra days with Shuki and Yonatan at their home. Shuki worked all day and I would stay with Yonatan.

Yonatan would go down to the Boulangerie, buy a baguette and make me breakfast. But first he would serve me coffee in bed. Later we would stroll the streets of Paris and enter the shops I loved. Once we even went looking for a dress to wear at my son's bar mitzvah. We had coffee everywhere and he always told me stories about the many people that he knew.

He would cook special meals for me and pamper me every time I came to Paris. But not only in Paris...

When Yonatan was in Tel Aviv, I would meet him on Fridays at noon at various cafés on Dizengoff street. Whenever we passed a florist, Yonatan



would buy me a bouquet and say, "you should have flowers for Shabbat."

Yonatan told me many stories about people, some more famous than others. It was never gossip. Always biographical details that allowed me to get to know another side of artists' personality.

Whenever I asked him how he was, the answer was always the same answer: "What shall I tell you? It's all ten."

A hopeless optimist, who sees only the good in everyone, does not argue with anyone and accepts everyone as they are without trying to change them.

He was always interested in the well-being of my family and I could always consult with him about it. If he asked for something, I could not refuse him.

I think in the twenty-two years I knew him, I learned about the history of Israel and that of Paris, more than you could learn from any history book. For Yonatan, the story would take on color and shape, taste and smell and most importantly, a life. 🙌

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