Remembering Donald Kahn
Friday October 16, 2015
Weisman Museum
How to turn coffee cups onto doughnuts.

The kind of haha mathematician that Don was haha.

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Memories of Don:

Don was a polymath.

3) Boyhood projects:
   1) Idea to build a Reflecting Telescope.
   2) Amateur Radio Maker.
   3) His version of the V2 rocket.

"It just fizzled."

Alan Kahn Brother

"He was a rocket scientist, but he was not a rocket scientist."
I cannot animate
with breath the
syllables of death.

I leave thee
to Oblivious
Night.
He was a part of my life... entwined with mine.

"I can't believe I'm here at Don Kahn's memorial.... I don't feel effusive....

Don's kindness and generosity... Always positive.

Don seemed to be everywhere, and connected to everything.

"Seemed to know everything about everything."
He took a photo of my son that I still have.

I miss Ken most as a friend. He was a Mensch.

He had a big heart - he was an Uber-mensch.
Don was a great grandfather such warmth and brilliance. I miss him everyday.

I talked to my dad every week about everything, not just math. We would talk for hours about the etymology of a French word.
"Still I'll always keep the memory of... no they can't take that away from me."

PRUDENCE JOHNSON

a song sung

DAN CHOUNIAR
Thomas Kahn
Brother

"It was Don calling us in that French hotel!"
ha ha ha ha
ha ha ha ha

other pen ran out, oh well.
"I remember Don with a smile on his face and laughing."
"I will miss him."

Don was a kind, and generous man but he also had chutzpah.
"Don had many virtues."
We shared common interests in French culture, Ashkenazi culture, literature was something we were interested in as well.

Don was a mensch. I think about Don when I attend a Topology lecture, or listening to Thelonious Monk... or John Coltrane.
Jon Rogness
Phd student

"As a teacher, he was entertaining, informative and a bit quirky."

"Chalkboard anecdote"

"I remember his generosity and kindness;"

"He deserved to have these stories told about him;"

"our department is a little less interesting and less fun without Don and to miss him."

[Handwritten notes:]

Radio Station Kahn
"too much talk not enough music."
Phyllis Kahn

"Always the more responsible one,... The emptiness of missing him along with the fullness of memory. There was a time when we cried a lot."
Such deep music soars over all of us and our collective loss as evening settles in, darkness comes on now as Don Kahn's memory shines so bright.

My tears fall, I feel deeply moved.
Poem for Don Kahn  
written after the Memorial Service  
on October 16, 2015  

He was a mathematician;  

I knew him as a musician,  
and turned pages for him,  
as he played piano  
at my friend's home.  

Golden sunlight  
turned to lavender dusk  
as person after person  
spoke deeply of him,  
and his generous heart.  

I drew them all....  
and the poignant music;  
cello and piano played,  
wrapping around us  
deply,  
until all we could do,  
was weep for the  
loss of Don.  

Today  
I can remember  
him clearly,  
grinning  
an impish smile,  
hands flourishing  
before they hit  
The Keyboard.  

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may donald kahn's memory
be only for a blessing.

fantastic don kahn's
photo of waterlilies.