Donald William Kahn was born and grew up in New York City, primarily in Belle Harbor, Queens. According to the anecdotes he told about this time, it was a neighborhood with a rough edge to it which provided a compulsory education in being street-smart. He was born into a family of noted longevity, his father being the investor Irving Kahn who died recently at the age of 109, just a few weeks after Don. His mother, Ruth Perl Kahn, had a Ph.D. in psychology. After attending high school at Woodmere Academy he went to Cornell University as an undergraduate, where he decided to study mathematics. He then received his Ph.D. at Yale University in 1961 under the supervision of William Massey, writing a thesis with the title, ‘On the Real Cohomology of Fibre Spaces’. After this he was a Ritt Assistant Professor at Columbia University working with Samuel Eilenberg which, incidentally, provided him with many stories about Eilenberg’s no-nonsense approach. He moved to Minnesota in 1964 where he became assistant professor of mathematics. He was promoted to associate professor in 1967 and full professor in 1984. He served twice as the department’s Director of Graduate Studies from 1992 to 1999. Don retired and assumed the rank of Professor Emeritus in 2010. During this time he was the author of 26 research publications and two mathematical books, the first an undergraduate text on topology which came out in 1975 and the second a more advanced treatment on global analysis which appeared in 1980. Both books remain in print. He supervised 8 Ph.D. students at the University of Minnesota. He is survived by his wife Phyllis, children Tamar and Jeremy, and 7 grandchildren.