From the Editor's desk:

George Kempf had a remarkable way of making any topic elegant and transparent. I attended his lectures on complex abelian varieties in 1989—George would casually walk into the classroom carrying his coffee cup and then effortlessly launch into a beautiful treatment of abelian varieties complete with new insights combining analytic and geometric viewpoints. (Those lectures were later incorporated into his excellent book on the subject.) His facility for exposition extended to his teaching at all levels. Before his illness interfered with his ability to teach, I had the pleasant experience when I was Department Chair of hearing undergraduates who were not math majors tell me how much they enjoyed his introductory algebra course.

An endowment has been set up in his name at Johns Hopkins University. Donations may be made to the George R. Kempf Memorial Endowment, Department of Mathematics, The Johns Hopkins University, 3400 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. His family also suggests that, according with George's wishes, donations be made to the National Alliance for Research in Schizophrenia and Depressive Illnesses (www.narsad.org) in hopes that a cure can be found for the future.

Bernard Shiffman