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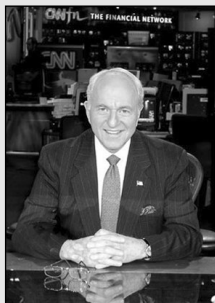
COVER STORY >> MYRON KANDEL

## “Mike” moves on

*Kandel leaves the tube to write books  
in retirement from CNN*

By Michael Juhre

On March 11, an era ended. Myron “Mike” Kandel, a pioneer of print and broadcast business journalism, took early retirement – three days before his 75th birthday and after a career of more than 50 years.

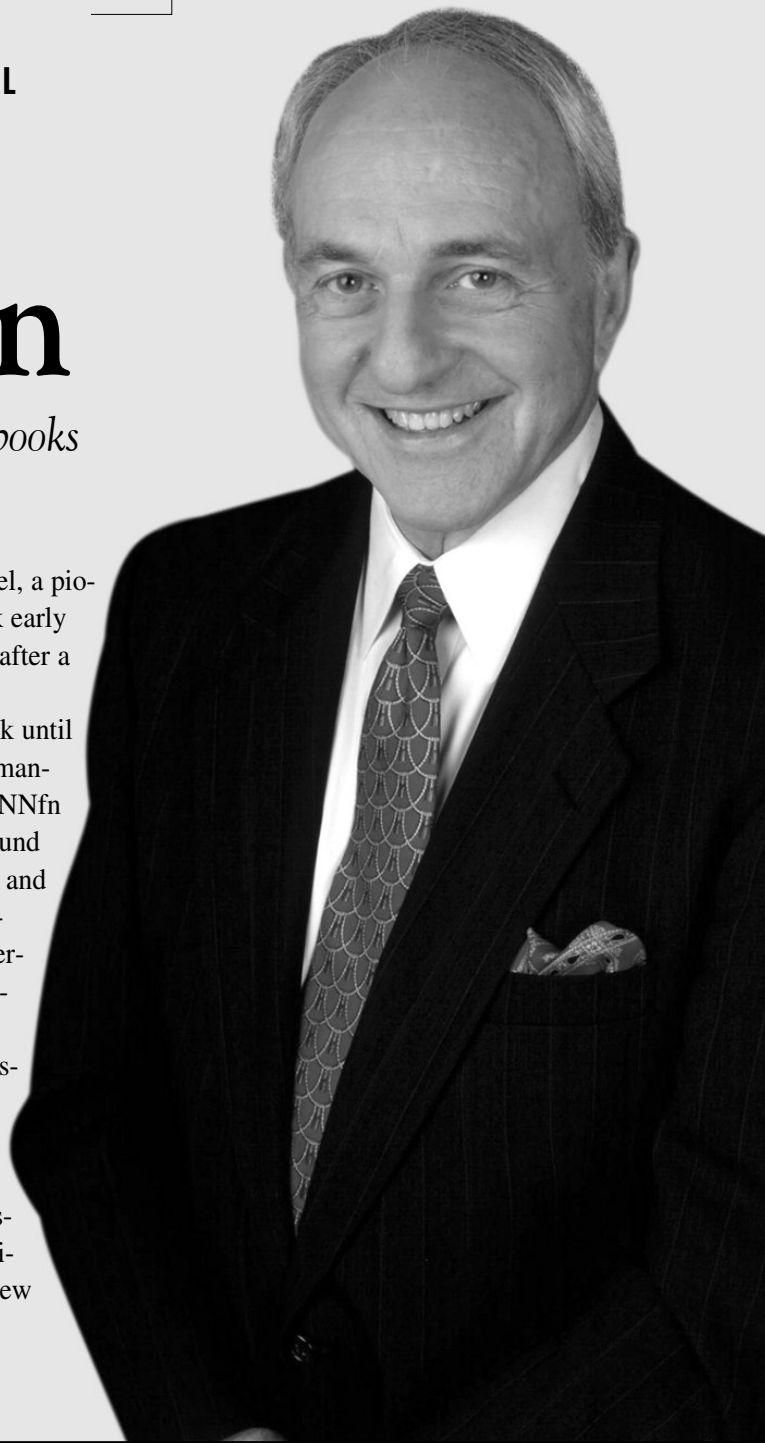


**Mike Kandel helped create CNN during the second-half of his journalism career**

Kandel had once planned to work until he was 80. But when TimeWarner management decided last fall to drop CNNfn from its media portfolio, Kandel found himself with precious little airtime, and he changed plans. Of course, retirement means different things to different people: to Kandel it means writing at least three books.

For all he accomplished journalistically, Kandel is equally admired for his warm and engaged mentoring to hundreds of young journalists and for his service to the profession as a fierce advocate of strong ethics and as president of SABEW (twice, 20 years apart) and of the New York Financial Writers Association.

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# Kandel: "A true hero of business and financial journalism"

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"Mike has been an incisive reporter on the financial scene since I was a kid, and I, along with millions of others, have benefited from his wisdom," said Floyd Norris, chief financial correspondent of The New York Times. "He also is a wonderful, generous person willing to take time to talk to even a neophyte."

Paul Steiger, managing editor of The Wall Street Journal, called Kandel a "true hero of business and financial journalism."

"As print reporter, columnist and television anchor, he brought a better understanding of financial issues to untold millions of readers and viewers in the U.S. and around the world."

And Steve Shepard, the editor in chief of BusinessWeek — and this year's winner of SABEW's lifetime achievement award, which Kandel received in 1999 — said Kandel "is one of the greats of business journalism ... a pioneer in the old days at the New York Herald Tribune and a star in the new world at CNN. He was a role model for many of us, a man of great integrity, talent and wisdom."

Kandel remains active in SABEW. He applied equal doses of charm and arm-twisting to persuade Eliot Spitzer, the New York state Attorney General, to address the SABEW annual conference in Seattle in May.

"Without Mike, there might be no SABEW," said Rex Seline, SABEW's president and managing editor/news of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. "He was there in the earliest years, and he has been a steady, guiding influence on the board and through two terms as president. He was doing great work long before many of us could type."

Kandel's first job in journalism came in 1951, as a copy boy at The New York Times. After graduating from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism he was promoted to copy editor, then financial reporter. He went on to become the financial editor for The Herald Tribune, The New York Post and The

## Boy from New York City

**Brooklyn boy:** Die-hard Brooklyn Dodgers fan.

**Education:** Bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College; master's degree from Columbia School of Journalism.

**Family:** Wife Thelma is an author and an artist; one daughter, one son; four grandchildren.

**His game:** Tennis

**El Presidente:** Served as president of four journalism groups: SABEW (1976, 1996); the New York Financial Writers' Association; the Alumni Association of the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism and the New York Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

**SABEW life:** Joined in 1965 as the 35-year-old financial editor of the New York Herald Tribune.

**Favorite SABEW annual conference:** 1975 in Washington, D.C., when the speakers included Fed Chairman Arthur Burns, Treasury Secretary William Simon, Alan Greenspan, then chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, SEC chief Ray Garrett and labor leader George Meany.

**J book recommendation:** "Writing about Business: The Knight-Bagehot Guide to Economics and Business Journalism," edited by Terri Thompson and published by the Columbia University Press.

Washington Star, as well as the editor of the New York Law Journal.

In 1980, he joined Ted Turner's fledgling 24-hour Cable News Network with the mission of bringing business journalism to television news, which he believed to be a "wasteland of underreporting." His coverage of the 1987 stock market crash proved a milestone.

*"Without Mike, there might be no SABEW."*

**Rex Seline**

SABEW president and managing editor/news of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

"It was really the first time that television covered a business story around the clock," said Kandel. "We stayed with it throughout the day and night, and then continued as markets opened in Asia and in Europe."

Kandel earned a Peabody Award for the coverage.

Kandel also launched CNN's "Moneyline," and at the height of the market boom he appeared on CNN more than a dozen times a day to provide market coverage.

On the flipside, Kandel cites his most embarrassing moment in journalism as being "when — after having just lectured my staff on how important it is to get names correct — I misspelled the name of a guest on the screen of a half-hour taped program. I was ready to slit my throat. It just shows we're all human, and even an editor needs editing. Fortunately the technical wizards at CNN were able to cover up that mistake. They blacked it out, so it never appeared on the air."

He does not plan to sit still. For the next year, he will keep his office at CNN as a consultant.

He is also preparing to write three books, including a memoir; a collection of stories about famous people who learned from rejection and went on to achieve great success, and "Nice Guys Finish First," a testimony to his belief "that you don't have to be an SOB to be successful."

*Michael Juhre recently earned a master's degree in business journalism at Baruch College/CUNY and is currently exploring his options.*

*"[CNN's coverage of the 1987 stock market crash] was really the first time that television covered a business story around the clock. We stayed with it throughout the day and night, and then continued as markets opened in Asia and in Europe."*

**Myron Kandel**