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A brush with first love

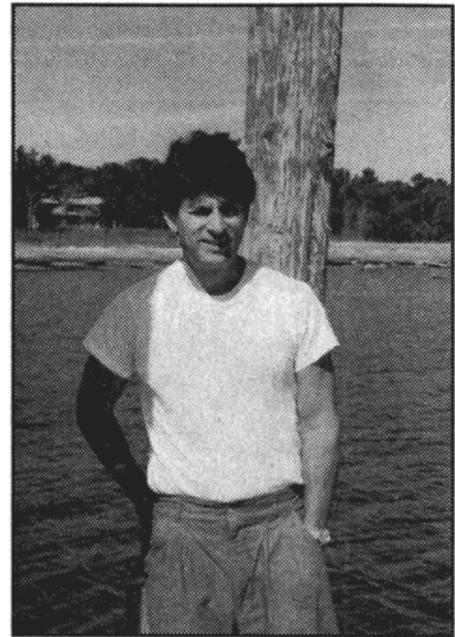
Doctor returns to first love;
art center to host exhibition

By **Michelle McGlone**
MPG Newspapers

Mike Mazer always knew he'd eventually somehow return to his first love, art.

It just took him a while to get there after serving in the United States Navy as a young man, raising a family and a 30 year medical career.

"I've always loved art. As a kid, I did a lot of drawing and even won some art competitions. Then I did a lot of sketching while I was in the navy," said Mazer. "But deep down I knew I had another calling, medicine. But I always knew that in the future, I'd get back into my art work."



Mike Mazer, Artist

As life often does surprise us, an unexpected turn of events forced him to change his lifestyle.

"In the early 1990's I had to retire, not due to age but because I had nerve compression problems due to a back injury," said Mazer. Shortly before he knew he'd be taking an early retirement, Mazer had begun dabbling with art again, mostly watercolors and oil. It didn't take long for word of his artwork to get around, and before long, his work was in great demand.

So when he did retire from medicine, he was working as the chief of cardiology and nephrology at Cardinal Cushing and Goddard Hospitals, which is now called the Good Samaritan Medical Center, he jumped right into his art. "Before I retired, it was a very busy time. I was working at the hospital and exhibiting my art," Mazer said. "I find that the busier you are, you're more likely to find time for everything."

And he's been very busy. Since the early 1990s, he's been fortunate to have had over 90 national and international shows. Some of his paintings have been displayed in museums and government buildings throughout the nation. His work has won him numerous awards, including the prestigious Winsor & Newton Award in 1999, the outstanding achievement award in watercolor for the Georgia Watercolor Society's 2000 National Exhibit and a first place at the Laredo Center for the Arts National Exhibition 2000 in Texas; he also took home a first at Quincy's Marina Bay Arts Affair on the Boardwalk, 2000.

For the past 16 years, Mazer has summered in Mattapoisett and recently moved there full time. It's by the sea where this marine artist gets most of his inspiration.

"Seascapes are my specialty. I have a lot of local scenes from Marion, Mattapoisett, Fairhaven, New Bedford, along the Rhode Island coast and the Cape," said *Mazer*. Many of his paintings include the human element. "I try to incorporate people into the scene as much as I can."

Mazer said he misses medicine and the gratification he got from that job. However, he finds painting also very gratifying.

"It's a different sense of gratification. You feel good that you're creating something," *Mazer* said.

Mazer's work will be on display at the Marion Art Center from June 29 through July 25. There will be a reception for the artist on Friday, June 29, from 5 to 7 p.m.