



April 1 at The Flower Fields Kids' ... of Today's Local News



### Site highlights Flower Field sights

WEB SITE [www.theflowerfields.com](http://www.theflowerfields.com)

**WHAT** The Flower Fields of Carlsbad is a working ranch with fields of colorful flowers blanketing more than 50 acres of land on a hillside that overlooks the Pacific Ocean.

**WHERE** From Interstate 5 take the Palomar Airport exit and go east. Turn left at Paseo del Norte and Carlsbad Premium Outlet stores and Flower Fields parking lot.

**WHEN** Open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. until May 7.

**COST** Parking is free. Daily admission to The Flower Fields is \$8 for adults, \$7 for those 60 and older, \$5 for children ages 3 to 10 and free for children 2 and younger. Season passes are \$15 for adults, \$13 for those 60 and older and \$9

for children ages 3 to 10.

**SITE HIGHLIGHTS** A list of upcoming events, including the sunrise Easter service set to start at 6:15 a.m. today and the annual arts and crafts fair on April 22-23.

**Local links** Know a Web site that is a good source of local information? E-mail it to [arts@tnews.net](mailto:arts@tnews.net).

You also can browse and purchase flower bulbs to make your home garden resemble the ranunculus fields of Carlsbad.

— Ben Seaver | Special to Today's Local News

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Carlsbad resident Susie Ferry, 56, holds one of her pieces. In May, Ferry is having her first one-woman show at Rancho Buena Vista Adobe Gallery. Michael J. Kacmarcik | [mike@tnews.net](mailto:mike@tnews.net)

# Keep on keepin' on

## Carlsbad woman uses art as therapy in her battle with breast cancer

By Joanna Smiley | [joanna@tnews.net](mailto:joanna@tnews.net)

Maybe it's her homeopathic diet of raw vegetables and wheat germ, her contagious zest for exercise or her smile that is as radiant as her paintings of parrot tulips. Looking at 56-year-old Carlsbad resident Susie Ferry, you would never know she has metastatic breast cancer.

### Life with cancer

Eight years ago, Ferry was given a "death sentence." Her doctors told her that she would have one to two years left to live once her breast cancer spread to her lungs, which it did.

Even when Ferry was "baldier than Demi Moore in 'G.I. Jane'" from her first and only round of chemotherapy, she never gave up on life or, more importantly, on herself.

She is what one might call a human version of the Energizer bunny.

While undergoing chemotherapy six years ago, Ferry ran six triathlons. She placed in all six races.

Shortly after her chemo, Ferry found out about a program at Optimum Health Institute in Lemon Grove. The program teaches people that miracles can happen through lifestyle changes, positive thinking and spirituality.

"I'm an athlete . . ." Ferry said. "I wanted to keep exercising and living my life. Chemo wasn't for me."

She decided to enroll in the program. "I got my tumor to shrink in three months thanks to Optimum Health," Ferry said. "Still, I've never been able to fully get rid of it. . . . Maybe it's because I push myself so hard. But I have to. . . . I've never once thought to myself, why me?"

Optimum Health Institute turned Ferry on to raw food and homeopathic medicine. Although these expenses stretch her Social Security and disability checks budget, she credits the diet with keeping her alive.

Once a week, Ferry goes to a homeopathic doctor.

She is involved with a University of California study to determine how eating certain foods helps fight breast cancer.

Ferry attends church services Saturday eve-

nings without fail. "I focus on overall body wellness and not just getting rid of the cancer," she said. "I don't go to support groups because my goal is to stay positive."

### The power of art

Ferry has a bachelor's degree from San Diego State University in fine art. For 21 years, she worked in marketing and project management at Hewlett-Packard in San Francisco.

# LIFESTYLE

## > Wine



Smell and sip are the best parts of wine tasting.

B2

## > Decorating



San Marcos man ardent about decorating for the holidays.

B3

## > Poetry



Vista's Village Idiots Literary Society features Escondido, Vista poets

B4

## > Coming Wednesday



North County residents to get their licks in at San Diego's Power Chord Academy.

### LIFESTYLE REPORTER!

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