“One of my most memorial memories of my mother is her calling me into the bathroom one night when I was 16 years old,” Kaiser said. “She wanted to show me her ‘breast.’ My mother thought she was recovering from breast cancer, but in 1971 there was no recovery.”

What Kaiser saw that night was a mother showing her youngest daughter how breast cancer disfigured her body and eventually took her life. She observed a large scar on a concave chest where her mother was supposed to have a breast. Kaiser recalls how her mother couldn’t move her arm anymore, as the lymph nodes in the arm were also removed.

“What I remember is being absolutely terrified,” Kaiser said.

Kaiser’s mother died 10 days after Kaiser’s 20th birthday in 1975.

Kaiser’s sister, Sylvia, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1989. Sylvia chose to have a radical mastectomy. Even 14 years after their mother died, there was still no cure for this disease. However, breast cancer started to come to people’s attention. There were new drugs, more hope, but there is still no cure.

“Luckily, and it is truly luck, Sylvia’s cancer was caught early,” Kaiser said. “She has no breast, she has the scar across her, but she is still with us and she gets to see her grandchildren grow up.”

Then years later, in September of 1999, Kaiser’s niece, Cathy, was diagnosed with breast cancer. Cathy spent the evening of her birthday doing pre-op screening tests in preparation for a lumpectomy and lymph node dissection, followed by six weeks of radiation.

“This time the treatments for breast cancer were a bit different,” Kaiser said. “There will be a lumpectomy, there are new drugs, but there is still a scar and no cure.”

Since 2006, Kaiser has had two more nieces diagnosed with breast cancer.

“Because of the diligence of my nieces to have their mammograms, because of a radiologist who ‘saw something,’ my nieces are still here,” Kaiser said. “Because of having a say in their treatment, because of new choices, hopefully they will be able to watch their daughters grow and be able to see their grandchildren born. But, there is still no cure.”

That is why Kaiser is taking on The Weekend to End Breast Cancer. Kaiser’s sisters, daughters, nieces, great-nieces, nephew and a very good friend have all committed to the walk.

“We are four generations who have fought breast cancer,” Kaiser said. “Some of us have lost our battle, others have won and some of us are still fighting.”

For Kaiser’s niece, Sept. 26-27, the weekend of the walk is very special to her. It is her 10th year of survival! Ten years ago Cathy was doing her pre-op screening for surgery, and this year she walks as a breast cancer survivor.

“We are walking for the fifth generation and the future generations that we do not want to feel the effects of breast cancer,” Kaiser said. “We do not want those future generations to know our loss, feel our grief or our helplessness.

Their team name is Five Generations:

1st Kaiser’s Grandmother

2nd Kaiser’s Mother

3rd Kaiser’s sister

4th Kaiser’s nieces

And to prevent the 5th…. They walk.