The Journal News \equiv

Life&Style



Kari Weis with a Daughters of the American Revolution genealogy book at the Chappaqua Public.

FRANK BECERRA JR./THE JOURNAL NEWS

Digging Chappaqua genealogist hunts through family trees the past

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Ellen Johanson Cosgrove was sparked to dig back into her ancestral roots for two reasons: Her interest had been piqued by TV shows that trace individuals' family trees and her desire to join a local chapter of the national Daughters of the American Revolution, a not-for-profit, non-politicaloriented service organization

To enter the DAR, you must prove you're a direct (via your grandparents) lineal decadence from someone who was a patriot of the Revolution. Any woman age 18 or older — regardless of race, religion or ethnic background — is eligible to join.

"It was exciting to know that my ancestry stretches back to people who were fighting for this country's freedom and formation," says Cosgove, of Chappaqua. That's when she turned to Kari Weis, a

Chappaqua resident who's a member of the westchester County Genealog ciety and the registrar of the DAR'S Hudson River Patriots, Southern Westchester

Weis, a professional genealogist who limits her research to the U.S., helps people unearth their pasts using sources such as data bases, town clerks, court records, newspapers articles, ships' manifests, living relatives, census records, Web sites, genealogical organizations, and birth and

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"... my ancestry stretches back to people who were fighting for this country's freedom."

ELLEN JOHANSON COSGROVE

Happy New Year! Where to ring in 2016

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New Year's Eve will be here faster than you can count backwards from ten and the time to make plans is now. Luckily, the Lower Hudson Valley boasts plenty of ways to celebrate the occasion for just about any taste. Whether you're looking to recreate the NYC ball drop closer to home, celebrate early and get the kids to bed or catch some quality entertainment before midnight strikes, here are just some of your options.

WHO NEEDS NYC?

Sure, the Times Square celebration may be the most well-known, but we've got our own outdoor celebrations, complete with midnight ball drops and firework

» Billed as the largest New Year's Eve event in the NY Metro area outside of the city, the **White Plains** New Year's Eve Family Spectacular returns for the 16th time this year. Kicking off at 10 p.m., Main and Court Streets will be closed for the celebration. Expect revelry, live music from tribute band Larger Than Life,

a DJ, ball drop, confetti and a spectacular midnight fireworks display. For partiers 21 and over, Heineken USA is offering free rides home to residential Westchester locations departing from the Safe Rides stand at the corner of East Post Road and Mamaroneck Ave. between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m.

» Peekskill's New Year's Eve celebration returns for a second year following the success of last year's inaugural ball drop. Beginning at 9 p.m., the roads surrounding junction of S. Division St. and South St. will be

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