

fact as that money comes in as revenue it flows back out to pay for the big government machine New Jersey has

In New Jersey, turning off the lights on county government can yield an annual savings of \$12 billion. That substantial savings - more than 5

udent was can meet or exceed the level of services provided by the counties, and for substantially less taxpayer money. Too many people have moved out of our

Assemblyman Robert A. M... covers parts of Bergen and Passaic counties.

'Ragtime' actors perform like professionals

(Continued from Page 10)
sure. They commanded all the necessary resolution, summoned maturity and poise far beyond their years, and blew doors down with their singing, dancing acting. Their ease of talent emanating outward was an absolute delight to witness
found myself getting goosebumps on or four occasions. They shone brightly often do, as they need to, but it hit me, so did the supporting cast. That, my friends, is what makes this action so unparalleled.

that line as if it mattered, without shirking or over-shadowing, a shining sliver of a whole. They nailed that one line, that spin or reaction look, as if it mattered, and because of their effort, it did. Each strut, each about or flick of a wrist mattered. Even the students who didn't have a single spoken line, or never made it to the front had such a clear understanding of their value in the show, such unwavering self-

respect for their task at hand and the work of their peers, that I was overcome with respect for them.

It's not easy to take a back seat to the leads. And yet, they made it look easy, important. Each and every performer dazzled from top to bottom, from the back to the front. And because of that commitment, and clear understanding of their value as part of a whole, there were no stu-

dents on stage - only performers. There were no teenagers up there opening night - only professionals.

In short, the Columbia High School production of "Ragtime" was amazing. Go see it.

V.C. Chickering is a Maplewood resident. You can read more of V.C. Chickering's writing at vickicki.blogspot.com.



Photo Courtesy of Maplewood Jewish Center
JUDAISM'S FUTURE - On Saturday, Feb. 28, Rabbi Manis Friedman addresses the Maplewood Jewish Center as to 'the future of Judaism.'

The News Record, March 19 2015 Page 11

...roduction numbers, there wasn't a slouch, a phoning-in by any one or dancer on the stage. Every single performer, regardless of whether they were in the row or the far corner of the back was committed 110 percent to the movement, their attitude and posture. It was the bit players in the crowd folks and backup dancers, actually made the show what it was: a gem. I never saw any of them chat with his neighbor or giggle into her hand, or saw a single performer slide into the posture of a sullen teenager, disaffected or miffed. I saw a stage full of professional performers crushing it - regardless of age or experience, they were all in "Ragtime" place, in that erstwhile place, and because of their commitment, I was there, too.

The by-product of all of this egoless commitment on stage was, I also realized, a moment. There were students who had one moment, and yet they delivered