# Assembly Notes
# PARSHAS MIKETZ/SHABBOS CHANUKA5786
## Assembly Theme: Have ambitious dreams - Be resilient and they will come true.

### Dvar Torah

Yosef Hazadik had big dreams, as we saw in last week's Parsha, Vayeshev. He dreamt that he would be a great leader, and that he would rule. In this week's Parsha, Miketz, the dream comes true. He is second to the King in the greatest superpower of the time, Mitzrayim.
We should pay attention to two things. First, that the dreams fulfilment took place more than twenty years later. Second, how many challenges Yosef faced during those years, both at home and then in Mitzrayim. Yosef maintained his tzidkus (righteousness), good behaviour to others and lots of resilience.

The story of Chanukah has many parallels. We were not threatened physically. The Jewish people would be totally accepted if they compromised on Kedusha, if they allowed Greek philosophy to shape their religion. It was a spiritual danger. To fight for Yiddishkeit was a dream. A small army against a superpower that controlled most of that part of the world. There were many challenges and setbacks, and it took over four years. But because they kept at it, the dream came true. The battle was won, the miracle happened and Klal Yisroel survives and thrives, and we have Chanukah!
One of the lessons is: it is good and right to have great ideas and dreams. At the same time, to keep working at it steadily and consistently. Achieving something worthwhile takes time. Also, be ready to face challenges. Don't compromise on your values and your behaviour to Hashem and to others.

We are promised in the Torah that the dream of Moshiach will come true, and hopefully very soon. There are challenges, as we suffered this week in Sydney,Australia but this increases our determination to spread light and very soon to experience Moshiach. We will then see that Golus (exile) is the dream and Geulah is the reality!

### Story of the Rebbe

Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz is the Rav of the Kosel. In his work he meets prominent and influential Jews from all over the world.

Some years ago he got a call from Jerry Grafstein, a long standing Senator in the Canadian Senate, and a prominent businessman.

When Senator Grafstein was turning 80, he made a big event and invited Rabbi Rabinowitz to come to Canada. The Rabbi was very busy at the time and couldn't leave the country. Senator Grafstein asked for a Brocho over the phone. He was starting a new business project with a large investment, to produce newspapers in Japanese and Chinese. The Rabbi asked him why and how a man of 80 would start a new business project worth millions of dollars in foreign countries?

גוט שבת!

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Mr Grafstein told him a story. Every decade birthday he made a big celebration. But he also experienced a personal crisis. What had he achieved? Others had done much more. When he reached the age of fifty, this crisis was much greater and he became unable to function normally.

His wife told him that there is a wise Rabbi in Brooklyn who has helped so many people. Meet him and ask for advice. So he made an appointment and had Yechidus (private audience) with the Rebbe. They discussed various issues but the Rebbe sensed that something was bothering Senator Grafstein. He told the Rebbe about his feelings of not having accomplished what he could have.

The Rebbe asked whether he could identify the greatest Jewish leader in history. He replied that it was Moshe. The Rebbe asked whether he knew at what age Moshe began leading the Jews? He didn't know, so the Rebbe told him that Moshe was 80 when he started to lead the Jewish people.

The Rebbe asked how does an 80 year old take on such a task to lead the Jewish people? The Rebbe answered: it was because Moshe never looked back. He did not ask himself what he had already done. Instead, he asked what more should I be doing? A person who looks forward and asks himself what do I need to do, remains young. When he looks back, he becomes old.

So the Senator told Rabbi Rabinowitz: "Now that I am celebrating my 80th birthday, it is an opportunity to fulfill the guidance from the Rebbe 30 years ago.

Every day is a lifetime. Whether you are 80 years old or 15 years old, you should be asking yourself what should I do now, what can I do, and always look forward.

Good Shabbos
Good Chodesh
A Freilichen Chanukah!

גוט שבת!