***“The past cannot be changed. The future is yet in your power.”*
Mary Pickford**

As we think about the future, *Atid* takes on different meanings according to our stage in life. It also hints at different rewards and different times for receiving those rewards.

As a child, the future is the next five minutes. The child is often so busy that he /she does not think about the actual future and may only think about the immediate rewards to be given ---toys, trips, clothes, or even food.

As a young adult in school or just starting out in a career, one might tend to not think about the future in financial or practical terms-- like insurance, IRAs, or savings, and instead focus on promotion to the next grade, graduation, first jobs, relocation, apartments, and proximity to family or friends.

As a young parent, we are very involved with the daily tasks of raising a child. As our children grow, however, the future might come into more into focus during this stage as we set up college funds, insurance, and maybe a will.

But for many, the real reality of the future hits during the middle-aged and senior years when one becomes a grandparent. We start to ask ourselves important questions: What task will we leave unfinished? Is it possible to ensure that the task will be completed beyond our lifetime? What lessons will we teach your grandchildren? What legacy will we leave them?

And today, as we reflect on this journey into the future, we know that those of us who have spent numerous years supporting our beloved organization, Women’s League for Conservative Judaism, do not want all of our dedication and hard work to stop abruptly once we are no longer able to continue our volunteer commitment. We know most assuredly that we very much want to leave a legacy for the future as Mathilde Schechter and those other wonderful women who founded this organization in 1918 did for us. We are especially moved that our Women’s League for Conservative Judaism and Torah Fund chose the theme, *Atid*, for 2018-2019. The future is ingrained in our souls as Jewish women.

1. What are we noticing about the way in which we handle the future throughout the different stages of our lives?
2. How do we ensure that there is some closure for those tasks?
3. How do WLCJ and Torah Fund help to ensure that closure?
4. What will you do to ensure the future, *Atid*, in our organization?
5. What will you do to ensure the future, *Atid*, in your family?

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