

# Hannah Mayne to receive George Joseph Cooper Scholarship, June 9

By Benita Baker

Hannah Mayne will be the 2010 recipient of the George Joseph Cooper Scholarship from the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation.

This scholarship, valued this year at \$12,457, recognizes a member of the Ottawa Jewish community between the ages of 18 and 30, "who has displayed leadership qualities, academic excellence and an interest in the Jewish community. The scholarship award is to be used for formal education or apprenticeship in the artistic, literary or social sciences."

Mayne more than satisfies the scholarship requirements. Only 24 years old, her résumé is already filled with a long list of awards, education and leadership experiences. She graduated *summa cum laude* from York University and was the first Canadian student to be conferred with York's new international bachelor of arts (honours) degree in anthropology.

Mayne attended Monash University in Australia as an exchange student, studied Yiddish language and culture at Vilnius University in Lithuania and New York University, and spent a year at Midreshet Lindenbaum in Israel learning about traditional Jewish text and philosophy. As an undergraduate, she twice presented research papers at academic conferences.

A self-described "aspiring anthropologist and research scholar," Mayne will begin an MA/PhD program in anthropology at the University of Florida in the fall. Her specialty is Jewish Studies, with a particular emphasis on multiculturalism and cultural identity in Israel.

An extensive traveller, Mayne has spent time in 13 countries, including Argentina, Denmark, France, Nepal, Philippines and Singapore, and speaks French, Hebrew, Yiddish, Spanish and Indonesian.

Mayne's travel experiences are not those of a typical tourist. She is currently in Chania, on the Greek island of Crete, volunteering at a restored 17th Century synagogue, teaching in Chania's tiny Jewish community, and learning about Greece and Greek Jewry. (Editor's note: See Mayne's report from Chania in the May 10 issue of the *Bulletin*.)

She participated on an Aboriginal women's health project in rural northern Australia, taught English in a Muslim public school in northern Malaysia, studied dance at the royal palace in Indonesia and worked with an Israeli NGO in Nepal.

"I am honoured and so grateful," said Mayne, via email from Greece, when asked about winning the George Joseph Cooper Scholarship.

Born and raised in Ottawa, Mayne's involvement in the Jewish community began in high school. She founded and led the Lisgar Collegiate Institute Jewish Students Club, at-



**Hannah Mayne will receive the G.S. Cooper Scholarship, June 9, at the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation annual general meeting.**

tended Akiva Evening School and was a member of USY and NCSY. While still in high school, she worked as a mashgiach for the Ottawa Vaad Hakashrut.

At York University, Mayne was actively involved with Hillel of Greater Toronto and was a liaison for Jewish students living on the York campus. She also sat on a number of the schools' associations and academic committees, including stints as the student representative on the fine arts curriculum and faculty promotion/tenure committees.

"Both my parents have had a strong influence on my values and world views," said Mayne about her father, University of Ottawa professor Seymour Mayne, and her mother, film maker and artist Sharon Katz.

"I credit their open, liberal attitudes, creativity, and intellectual-engagement for shaping the ways I think and experience the world around me. They encourage the curiosity and independence which are necessary ingredients in my studies and adventures."

The George Joseph Cooper Scholarship joins a long list of awards and accolades that Mayne has earned, which include 10 academic bursaries or scholarships, a Bronfman Youth Fellowship, which she received as a teenager, and five times on the dean's honour roll.

George Joseph Cooper was an Ottawa native and a long-standing member of Congregation Beth Shalom. Upon his death in 2004, the career public servant left a bequest to the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation to establish the scholarship fund in his name.

Mayne will be back from Greece to accept the scholarship at the annual general meeting of the Foundation, Wednesday, June 9, 7:30 pm in the Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building. For information about the meeting, contact Francine Paulin at [fpaulin@ojcf.ca](mailto:fpaulin@ojcf.ca) or 613-798-4696, ext. 252.