

An online auction and fundraiser for the Oklahoma Israel Exchange is open. You can register at tulsaworld.com/okieauction to take part in the event. The OKIE Auction will culminate with a Fund Fête at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center near 71st Street and Lewis Avenue. The evening includes a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres from Just Catering by Orr, Israeli wine and live entertainment. Items in the online auction include Tony Lama boots, a Stetson hat, a bi-plane ride over Tulsa, dining and travel packages, jewelry, shopping sprees, and more. Online bidding ends Dec. 7. All proceeds from both auctions will benefit OKIE's programs. The Oklahoma Israel Exchange is celebrating almost 20 years of promoting joint programs and projects in commerce, culture, education and agriculture. During the gala, Tulsan David Bernstein will receive OKIE'S Light, Leadership and Legacy Award. A founding member of the exchange, he was executive director of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa during the years prior to OKIE's incorporation as a statewide nonprofit in 1997. He is currently its director of community relations. OKIE was endorsed in 1992 after then-Gov. David Walters and a group of Oklahoma community leaders traveled to Israel on a fact-finding mission. One of its most recent successes is a joint Oklahoma-based company, NanoMed Targeting Systems Inc., which combines Israeli business and Oklahoma technology to develop and market a novel medical device to treat atrial fibrillation. The device is in clinical trials. Other key OKIE initiatives include a partnership with the America-Israel Friendship League that coordinates a Youth Ambassador Student Exchange bringing Israeli teens to Oklahoma and sending Oklahoma teens to Israel, shared expertise in water quality technologies and agricultural initiatives, and the Young Artists Competition, which is open to young Oklahoma musicians, with a 10-day recital tour in Israel for the winner. For more information or to purchase tickets or access the online auction, visit tulsaworld.com/okisrael or call 405-848-3132. Original

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