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Arts, Briefly

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A \$40 Million Thank You

Joan H. Weill is going out with a bang. After her 14 years as chairwoman of the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation and 20 years on its board, the company on



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Thursday evening planned to announce that more than \$40 million had been raised in honor of her retirement. The gift, led by **Sanford I. Weill**, Mrs. Weill's husband, inaugurates the Campaign for Ailey's Future to support the

expansion of the company's building — with additional rehearsal studios and educational space — and the extension of its artistic and educational programs. Mr. Weill has pledged more than \$16 million to date and will continue to match additional large gifts to the campaign through the end of this year's opening-night gala benefit on Dec. 3. He will also match gifts of \$100,000 or more made to the gala, which will honor Mrs. Weill, left.

Other contributors to the campaign include the Elaine P. Wynn & Family Foundation (\$5 million) and **Ronald O. Perelman** (\$3 million) and **Daria L. and Eric J. Wallach** (\$3 million). On Thursday, the Ailey board also was to confirm a new chairwoman, Ms. Wallach, managing partner of the investment management firm Lord, Abnett & Company. She is the current president of the Ailey foundation. The new president

will be **Debra L. Lee**, the chairwoman and chief executive of BET Networks. They will take on the positions Jan. 1, when Mrs. Weill will become chairwoman emerita. **ROBIN POGREBIN**