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 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, Abbett & 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