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Joan Weill to Step Down as Chair of Alvin Ailey Board

By Robin Pogrebin | October 1, 2014



Joan Weill with students from the Ailey School in 2011. Todd Heisler/The New York Times

Joan H. Weill, a 20-year trustee of the [Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation](#), will step down as chairwoman at the end of the year, the company is to announce on Thursday.

[Under Mrs. Weill](#), who has been chairwoman since 2000, the Ailey organization built a permanent home at the corner of 55th Street and Ninth Avenue, named the Joan Weill Center for Dance, which opened in 2005.

She will be celebrated at the company's opening night gala benefit on Dec. 3. Mrs. Weill's husband, the financier and philanthropist Sanford I. Weill, and the actor Jeffrey Wright will serve as honorary chairs for the benefit performance at New York City Center — where Ailey is the principal dance company.

“The institutions you support are like your children. You have to know when to step back and let them be independent of you,” Mrs. Weill said in a statement. “I look forward to seeing Ailey continue to do great things. I will still be the one applauding loudest.”

The dance company said that, after she steps down, Mrs. Weill will continue to be associated with the foundation under the title of chairman emerita.