

June 2022 Prout Alliance Quarterly Newsletter

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Prout Alliance
www.proutalliance.org



**The Prout Alliance Quarterly Newsletter:
PA CONNECTION**

June 2022

“You must have a flaming moral purpose so that greed, oppression and exploitation shrivel before the fire in you.”

P.R. Sarkar, Supreme Expression II, 148

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PROUT ALLIANCE STRUCTURE, FUNCTION AND ROLES 2021-2022

STEERING COMMITTEE:

Steering@proutalliance.org

Nada Khader, Steering Committee Chair, Nominations Committee Liaison

Dada Maheshvarananda, Steering Committee, Prout Research Institute
Founder/Director

Mark Friedman, Steering Committee Secretary, Education Work Group
Liaison

John Linkhart, Steering Committee, Finance Secretary, Membership
Committee Liaison

Prakash Laufer, Steering Committee, Wild Apricot Lead
Administrator/Database Manager

Nina Shapiro, Steering Committee, Networking Group Liaison,
PA Connection Newsletter Editor

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Membership@@proutalliance.org

Howard Nemon, Committee Chair

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:

nominations@proutalliance.org

Beth Wortzel, Committee Chair

WORKING GROUPS:

Natalie Schafer, Materials Work Group Chair

proutmaterials@proutalliance.org

Nina Shapiro, Networking Group Chair

Mark Friedman, Education Work Group Chair
education@proutalliance.org

Steering Committee Report:

The Prout Alliance Steering Committee continues to meet every two weeks, and we post the minutes of our meetings on WildApricot. We have legally incorporated Prout Alliance and we have received our Federal Tax ID number for the organization. We have opened up our own bank account and have begun the process for securing 501c3 status for Prout Alliance.

We have also paid a deposit to secure the Ananda Viplava Master Unit as the site of our Annual Meeting which will take place this year October 7th to 9th with the option to participate virtually. The weekend will include Prout Alliance business including Planning and Goal Setting, Work Group and Committee Reports, Steering Committee election results with general membership having a chance to interact with the newly elected Steering Committee members.

The Steering Committee strongly encourages every member of Prout Alliance to become familiar with using our new database system that helps us manage membership information, annual dues, donor history, event planning and volunteer engagement as well as increase our transparency. Our website is now integrated with WildApricot along with our new bank account. We are committed to sending out an update every quarter to all of our membership regarding the progress of our working groups.

Please note that as part of the Path of Bliss Summer Retreat, Prout Alliance is organizing two Prout centered presentations for the general Margii Community on Sunday, July 3rd both in the morning as well as the afternoon. Details are included in this newsletter.

We look forward to being in touch,

Nada Khader, Steering Committee Chair

Good News Report:

News Flash:

As the PA Connection was about to be published, the IRS approved PA's 501c3 status retroactive to the application date of 1/26/22! The Steering Committee gratefully acknowledges and thanks Craig Runde for his professional assistance with securing that important status for PA.

Prout Focused Day at Path of Bliss Retreat on 7/3/22:

We know that many of our members will be attending the Path of Bliss summer retreat scheduled for July 1st through July 4th. Prout Alliance members will be offering two presentations on Sunday, July 3rd in the morning and also in the afternoon. Please mark your calendars today and register at <https://www.pathofbliss.com/> to attend these Prout Alliance presentations!

Implementing Prout: Moving from Theory into Action

Sunday morning, July 3rd as part of the Summer Retreat

One of the most frequently asked questions when we introduce Prout is: "Where is there an example of Prout being implemented?". Join us for this lively, interactive workshop with leading Proutists from across the United States and from India where we will hear about progress being made in moving Prout from theory into action.

Vidyadhara will present his experience with the initiative "Seedlings for Sovereignty", a Prout Alliance food justice project which involves growing seedlings at the Ananda Viplava Master Unit in Cairo, New York and distributing them through partnering food pantries, local nonprofits, markets and food activists in Greene and Columbia counties in New York State. We do this work to guarantee the basic necessities of life, including universal access to fresh, high quality, local produce.

Babita Avdhesh will be joining us from Uttar Pradesh, India. She is a senior Margii who was recently inspired with Planetary Leadership Training and Tools to Change the World. She has embarked upon Proutist projects in a rural community 50 kilometers from her home that generate both income as well as employment opportunities for the villagers, including a solar processing unit, a farmers' cooperative and a women's sewing cooperative.

We will also hear from Dada Maheshvarananda who is leading efforts to establish the Prout Research Institute in Marshall, North Carolina. The purpose of the Prout Research Institute is to develop Prout projects and policies, raise consciousness, and train people in Prout theory and practice.

Spreading the Ideas of Prout around the World

Sunday afternoon, July 3rd

The planet and people around the world are facing multiple crises from war, climate extremism, pandemics, enormous wealth disparity and inequality. P.R. Sarkar created the Progressive Utilization Theory as a way for all of us to repair the harms that have been committed by exploitative systems and work towards implementing a rational and just socio-economic system that works for all people and that restores our dignity.

Join us for this interactive presentation with three leading Proutists to explore what all of us can do to amplify Prout messaging both locally and around the world.

Ramesh will show how Systems Change Alliance is successfully connecting individuals, groups and organizations working in the environment, society and the economy to collaborate and implement positive systemic change. Chandra Shekhara will share his current work which involves drafting a world constitution based on the works of Prabhat Rainjan Sarkar.

Seedlings For Sovereignty Project Progress Report:

In the past several weeks, Wilder has been working hard at the Ananda Viplava ecovillage in Greene County, New York, to implement the Seedlings for Sovereignty food justice initiative that is a collaboration with Prout Alliance, the Ananda Viplava Community and WESPAC Foundation. He has 450 grow bags and about 3500 seedlings ready to go! He will begin distributing the seedlings in the coming weeks to three food pantries in Greene County, two local grocery stores, a local progressive farm called Sweet Freedom Farm <https://www.sweetfreedomfarm.org/> where the founder of the farm, Jalal Sabur is also the founder of food justice work at WESPAC Foundation, and a farm stand in the works for on location distributions.

Here are two video clips to give a better sense of the project: <https://youtu.be/E666JIK94Zs> and https://youtu.be/JCzc_N5BrOU
Enjoy!

Our logo and website are finally ready to publicize:



Prout Research Institute building will have two bedrooms, a large meeting hall, and an upstairs yoga and meditation hall for a total of 2500 square feet plus an unfinished basement. South facing, its rooftop solar panels will provide electricity. In the future, additional guest rooms and bathrooms will be added in the basement and as part of an added wing. The estimated cost will be \$500,000. Jane Coddington, the mother of Dada Maheshvarananda, made the first generous contribution of \$100,000. An additional \$31,000 has been raised so far.

Benevity is a charitable donation-management company that has approved PRI as a charity. If an employee of any one of the hundreds of large corporations that are Benevity customers donates to PRI, his or her employer will match their donation.

The foundation of the building is now being laid.

The research and education of the PRI go far beyond the building site. Economist Mike Zimmerman has written a ground-breaking report that will soon be available for download from the PRI website titled "A Prout Economic Perspective on Money: the Bullion Price Anchor, Job Guarantee, and Green New Deal." Scholar Craig Runde is preparing a World Constitution, getting feedback from 64 Proutists around the world. Advisory Committee members Matt Oppenheim and Allan Rosen are preparing a "Land Acknowledgement Project" recognizing the original Cherokee inhabitants of the PRI land. "Spiritually Speaking" continues to train people how to explain Prout to the public. Tools to Change the World groups continue to raise people's consciousness about Prout around the world.

Prius car in the PRI parking lot



PRI basement has been dug



Materials Group Report:

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The PA Materials Workgroup consists of Dada Maheshvarananda, Jody Wright, Shriraksha Mohan, Allen Rosen, Howard Nemon, Doris Olivers, Wilder Nicholson, and Natalie Schafer. Prakash Laufer is our website support.

Prakash Laufer has become the webmaster for the Prout Alliance. He is working to incorporate the membership management tool, Wild Apricot, for sign up and events. We are happy and excited that he will now be working to keep the website updated and optimized. Prakash replaces Dada Vedaprajananda who has worked hard for many years to keep the PA website updated.

Our current focus is updating the PA website. Coming out of several meetings between the PA Materials WG and the PA Steering Committee, a budget has been created to be used towards updating the website and Alan created a GoogleDoc spreadsheet to organize our website reviews.

Submitted by Natalie Schafer, Materials Committee Chair

Treasurer's Report:

- Key Investments: To help establish PA as an independent and fully functioning organization:
 - Incorporated as non-profit organization;
 - Appointed a Fiscal Agent;
 - Opened a PA bank account;
 - Applied for IRS 501c3 certification;
 - Purchased WildApricot as a systems management platform; and,
 - Purchased Quick Books for tracking PA financial matters.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

- On behalf of PA, the SC gratefully thanks the Prama Institute and its Board of Directors as well as Howard Nemon for their much-appreciated interim fiscal sponsorship and support services since October 2019.

Project Funding: The SC initiated a program for funding projects that demonstrate the practical application of Prout. The first one is the Ananda Viplava Ecovillage “Seedlings for Sovereignty” project in the Hudson Valley area. The SC proposes establishing a Grants Committee to develop the guidelines for submitting and equitably evaluating project proposals as well as follow-up coordination and oversight to ensure open and transparent financial activity.

PA Website: The SC authorized the use of funds by the Materials Work Group to up-date the PA website.

Prout Research Institute (PRI): PA is providing some support for the PRI which is becoming a reality under Dada Maheshvarananda’s leadership and with his seemingly boundless enthusiasm and limitless energy.

PA Bank Balance: \$2,357.24 as of 5/20/22

2022 PA Budget: \$9,000.00

- Detailed copies available upon request
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Respectfully submitted by,

John Linkhart

PA Treasurer

Secretary Report

The IRS has approved our application for 501(c).

Work on our bylaws is underway.

Members can find minutes to our Steering Committee meetings at <https://proutalliance.wildapricot.org/>

Submitted by PASC Secretary, Mark Friedman

Prout Alliance Education Workgroup Report

Our monthly online seminar series on contemporary social issues of concern to Proutists continues. Look for new presentations monthly, usually on the second Thursday of the month.

Be sure to sign up for seminars that interest you, even if you have a conflict that evening! Recordings will be sent to all who register.

On April 14 Shiraksha Mohan spoke on the impact of social media on society today, and why it is important for Prout activists to be engaged with social media.

On May 12 Mark Friedman spoke on “The U.S. Health Care Mess: What Every Proutist Should Know” . He detailed injustice and waste in the U.S. health care system, and suggested Proutist alternatives.

Coming up:

June 9, 7 pm Minnesota environmental activist Jane Dow will reveal the pervasive impact of plastics pollution, and discuss how composting can alleviate that crisis along with climate change.

Information for registration will be coming soon at Proutalliance.org

To register for an event go to ProutAlliance.org/events

Submitted by Mark Friedman, Education Workgroup Chair

Spiritually Speaking

Planetary Leadership Training Public Speaking Club

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn and practice how to explain Prout, Neohumanism, and spirituality to the public. Our goal is to describe clearly, to express articulately, and to inspire others. We practice answering frequently asked questions about yoga, meditation, and Prout. We all learn different ways to see and understand these concepts and how to speak in front of others. Join us and grow.

There are two sessions that each meet every other week on Wednesdays at 1:00-2:30 pm EST or on Saturdays at 8:00-9:30 am EST.

Register at:

https://www.planetaryleadershiptraining.com/spirituallyspeaking_



SAVE THE DATE!

PA ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 7-9, 2022

DETAILS/REGISTRATION TO FOLLOW SOON

Attachments area

[Preview YouTube video May 15, 2022, Update on Seedlings for Sovereignty Initiative](#)



[May 15, 2022,
Update on
Seedlings for
Sovereignty
Initiative](#)

[Preview
YouTube video
Vidyadhara
and Friends at
Ananda
Viplava Master
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