

Prout Alliance Quarterly Newsletter March 2022 - First Issue

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The Prout Alliance Quarterly Newsletter:
PA CONNECTION
March 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, ROLES AND FUNCTION 2021-22

STEERING COMMITTEE:

Steering@proutalliance.org

Nada Khader, Steering Committee Chair, Membership Committee Liaison

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

Mark Friedman, Steering Committee Secretary, Education Work Group Liaison

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

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

Nina Shapiro, Steering Committee Member, Networking Work Group Liaison, Newsletter Editor

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Membership@@proutalliance.org

Howard Nemon, Committee Chair

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:

nominations@proutalliance.org

Beth Wortzel, Committee Chair

WORK GROUPS:

Natalie Schafer, Materials Work Group Chair

proutmaterials@proutalliance.org

Nina Shapiro, Networking Work Group Chair

networking@proutalliance.org

Mark Friedman, Education Work Group Chair

education@proutalliance.org

Steering Committee Report:

The Prout Alliance Steering Committee has worked consistently and diligently for the past six months. We have legally incorporated Prout Alliance and we have received our Federal Tax ID number for the organization. We are working on opening up a bank account. We will soon be initiating the process for securing 501c3 status for PA. We have created a database system using WildApricot that helps us manage membership information, annual dues and donor history, event planning and volunteer engagement as well as increase our transparency. Our website is integrated with WildApricot and our future bank account will also be linked to our new database. We are committed to sending out an update every quarter to all of our membership regarding the progress of our working groups.

Submitted by Nada Khadar, Steering Committee Chair

Secretary Report:

The Prout Alliance has been incorporated as a non-profit in Minnesota and has been registered with the IRS. This allows us to open a bank account and function otherwise as a legal entity. We are working on bylaws and obtaining tax-exempt status.

As we complete our migration to the Wild Apricot communications platform, Steering Committee minutes and other notices will be available there for all members.

Submitted by Mark Friedman, Steering Committee Secretary

Good News Report

PROUT RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PRI):

In 1988 Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar gave instructions that a Prout Research Institute should be established in each country to study how the Progressive Utilization Theory (Prout) can be translated into practical policies to address current crises and to educate people about this. The Prout Research Institute, Inc. is now a legal nonprofit corporation in North Carolina. It is located on the campus of the Neohumanist College of Asheville and registered at the future location of the building: PRI, 272 Wellness Way, Marshall, NC 28753-0763. We have opened a bank account in the local credit union. Our Board of Directors has met: Shriraksha Mohan (Oregon), Vicepresident Jody Wright (Didi Devanistha, Massachusetts), Craig Runde (Candrashekhara, Florida), Treasurer Howard Nemon (Hiranmaya, North Carolina), Michael Zimmerman (Pranava, Tennessee), Secretary Mark Friedman (Mahadeva, California), and President Dada Maheshvarananda. We have applied for 501(c)(3) nonprofit status with the IRS. Until it is approved, donations requiring a tax exempt receipt can be made to the Neohumanist College of Asheville (connected to Benevity).

A larger Advisory Committee is being formed of other Proutists who will advise and contribute to the PRI's vision and programs.

One acre has been cleared. The sanitation permit has been approved by the county inspector. The French Broad Electric Company is installing a line to the site, and a water pipe will be laid from the college well. The road has been widened and covered with fresh gravel. Anasuya has completed the architectural plan and a civil engineer has made the foundation plan. Solar panels and a geothermal heating and cooling pump will be installed. Attached are the pictures of the complete building and the smaller design for the first stage. If you would like to join the Advisory Committee or invest in this project to make a better world, please contact Dada Maheshvarananda at maheshvarananda@gmail.com or tel. 336-567-6912.

Submitted by Dada Maheshvarananda





Nominations Committee Report:

The Prout Alliance Nominations Committee was formed in the Summer of 2021 and is comprised of Beth Wortzel (Chair), Andy Douglas and Prateek Kumar.

Our first step in preparing for Steering Committee elections was to send out an email to all general members in good standing inquiring as to their interest in serving as candidates for the openings on the Prout Alliance Steering Committee. We also reached out directly to some well qualified members to request that they submit their names. Any who responded in the affirmative were then evaluated according to established criteria. These include whether the candidates have a proven track record of working as an effective team player and have at least two years of membership with Prout Alliance including having served on a standing committee or working group.

Once the candidates were approved, the Nominations Committee sent out the approved names to the general membership for their consideration and then conducted the election of Steering Committee members using a secure online platform, created by one of our members, which was designed to insure a member can only vote one time. The Chair of the Nominations Committee announced the composition of the new Steering Committee on the final day of the Annual Meeting.

Submitted by Beth Wortzel, Nominations Committee Liaison

Materials Group Report:

Coming out of the October 2021 Prout Alliance meeting Allan Rosen agreed to join the PA Materials Workgroup and we are lucky to have him! Continuing members are Dada Maheshvaranda, Didi Devanistha, Shriraksha Mohan, Doris Olivers, Wilder Nicholson, Howard Nemon, and Natalie Schafer. This group formed at the PA meeting in Madison WI and has been meeting since October 2019. We are lucky to have them as well!

February 2022

The main focus of the PA Materials Workgroup for the next few months will be taking a hard look at the PA website and working to improve and update the look of the website as well as refining the content. Several members of the Prout Alliance Materials Workgroup attended the PA educational workshop on how to do research using the electronic edition of the Works of P.R.Sarkar.

Prout has the solutions!

Members of the Prout Alliance Materials Workgroup are looking for allies and media partners to share Proutist ideas with. Hiranmaya sent these links to a solutions oriented journalism site that perhaps we can exchange articles with.

<https://www.solutionsjournalism.org/>

also, to exchange articles with a global network

[About— The Solutions Journalism Exchange](#)

Vidyadhara has been working on Tools to Change the World videos. Shriraksha posted Vidyadhara's TTCTW video on Facebook.

These videos are also on the Prout Alliance channel on YouTube. Just do a Prout Alliance search on YouTube and the channel will come up. There are several other PA videos posted by Vidyadhara on this channel from past PA events.

[See posts, photos and more on Prout Alliance's Facebook Page.](#)

Submitted by Natalie Schafer, Materials Committee Liaison

Prout Alliance Treasurer's Report:

The Steering Committee (SC) Report in this premier edition of the "PA Connection", mentioned acquiring WildApricot to build a strong base for PA for the long term. It provides many useful support functions, such as tracking membership renewals and also making it easy for new people to join PA

(addressed by PA Membership Committee) or for supporters to donate to PA to further its vitally important work. Since some member anniversary dates are coming up in March, a few of you will be receiving reminders, so thank you for renewing your PA membership in a timely manner, and if you have the capacity – additional contributions to support PA would also be much appreciated. If paying dues poses a financial challenge, then a waiver request can be sent to the SC (steering@proutalliance.org).

In 2021 PA was fortunate to have a matching fund membership campaign. Having enjoyed great success last year, it will be repeated this year in conjunction with the ambitious membership drive PAX2-10/22 - to double 2021 Membership of 29 to 58 people by the Annual Mtg in October 2022. All donations to PA made during the 3/1-9/30/22 period will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$1,500.00 (to be funded in \$500.00 increments) - so please take advantage of that opportunity to double your PA contribution. PAX2-10/22 and fund matching progress reports will be shared periodically. Most importantly, encourage others you know to join PA and help make a difference in the course of Human Society.

PA is applying for IRS 501c3 certification and opening a bank account so it can manage its own financial affairs. When that is established, then PA will thank the Prama Institute (PI) and its Board of Directors for providing PA donors with a Fed tax exemption option. In addition to that sponsorship, Howard Nemon also provided key accounting and financial support functions for PA during the critical last couple of years as PA was evolving to become fully independent. So, a very big Thank You! To PI and its supportive Board and to Mr Nemon for your critical support these last two years!

De rigueur with Treasurer Reports is - of course, a reference to the numbers! PA ended 2021 with a balance of \$4,113.36. As of 2/18/22: 1/1/22 Balance forward of \$4,113.36 plus Income of \$0.00 (dues renewals start in March) less Expenses \$1,334.00 left a balance of \$2,779.36. Pending expenses totaling \$535 will reduce the available funds to \$2,244.36. Details follow.

Date Item Amount Balance

1/1/22 Balance forward:	\$4,113.36	\$4,133.36
1/12/22 WildApricot*	\$1,224.00	\$2,869.36
2/16/22 Incorporation Filing	\$90.00	\$2,779.36
Pending Final Loomio License	\$150.00	\$2,629.36
Pending 501c3 Fee	\$275.00	\$2,354.00
Pending Web & Domain Fees	\$110.00	\$2,244.36

Notes: * WildApricot Fee was paid for two years for a 15% savings and can handle up to 250 people – current count is 135 which includes members and contacts.

Questions about PA finances may be forwarded to the Steering Committee at: steering@proutalliance.org

Submitted 2/18/22 by John Linkhart, Prout Alliance Treasurer

Membership Committee Report:

The PA Membership Committee has been meeting monthly since November, 2021. Its members consist of Hiranmaya, Shiraksha, Ananta, Prakash, and Suprabhata. The committee initially worked to standardize the membership application. However, given the membership requirements that had been approved by the General Assembly, they realized that it would be helpful to establish two tiers of membership - supporting and active. The former would make a small yearly membership contribution, fill out a simple, sign-up form, and receive materials and supports to help them understand better Prout and how they can get involved. The active members would contribute annual fees, have voting rights, and participate in organizational work through committees and teams.

In recent meetings, the membership committee has become familiar with Wild Apricot, which is the software that PA has adopted for membership management. They are also developing a list of benefits for both types of members and compiling resources to be shared with new members. For this purpose, they hope to collaborate with PA's Educational Materials Team and the Education Team.

Submitted by Howard Namon, Membership Committee Liaison



PA Annual Meeting October, 2021

Survey Questionnaire Results:

Key:

Green received the most vote

Yellow received the second most votes

Red received the third most votes

Total number of responses= 15

Q1: What Did You Like Best?

Reconnecting with other GA members 6

Planning the way forward 3

Good News 3

Keynote Address (James Quilligan) 2

Relaxed/positive atmosphere 1

Total 15

Q2: What Did You Like Least?

Missing in-person camaraderie 5

Lack of ability to interact 1

Lack of clarity of schedule/process 1

Keynote Address (James Quilligan) 1

Not enough time 3

Lack of focused facilitation at times 1

Not sure 1

Dislike Zoom meetings 1

Had to miss some of it 1

Total 15

Q3: Suggestions for Next Time:

More time for sharing w others 2

Discuss PA Development/ Plans 1

PROUT Education 1

Involve GA in prep work ahead of mtg 2

Share agenda visually for tracking 1

Copy Zoom chat room content 1

Meet more often than annually 1

Easier access/more clarity re. Schedule 1

More info about working groups 1

More than 1 facilitator to stay on topic 1

Have more people attend 1

Longer sessions w break in between 1

“Good meeting overall. Thanks” 1

Total 15

Tallied and submitted by Nina Shapiro and John Linkhart

Prout Alliance Educational Committee Presents:

Know your Area, Make A Plan and Serve the People:

A Proutist Perspective on Community Organizing

With Nada Khader

March 9, 2022 8:00-9:00 PM ET

Nada Khader (Nirainjana) has served as the Director of WESPAC Foundation since 2001. WESPAC was recently recognized by the City of White Plains as a leading force in Westchester County, New York, for peace and justice work for the past five decades. Nada has been a student of Prout, the Progressive Utilization Theory, for more than thirty years. Prout is a vision of a just and peaceful world with an economy that works for all people and is based on local self-reliance, cooperation, guaranteeing all people and living beings the minimum necessities of life and ending poverty.

In this interactive presentation, Nada will share her experience with community organizing in her local area, briefly cover current campaigns and review P.R. Sarkar's guidelines on elevating the socio-economic standards of our local area. Participants will have the opportunity to share their own experiences in their local area in break out rooms.

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

Social Media for Prout

With Shiraksha Mohan

April , 2022 8:00-9:00 PM ET

Raksha grew up in India but moved to the US to further her education in Computer Science. Since earning degrees in the field she now works in Oregon as a professional software engineer. She also works as a volunteer with the Prout Alliance Materials Team as well as with the Proutist Universal Social Media Team.

Being acutely aware of the social, economic, political, and environmental issues in both India and the US, Raksha strongly believes systems change is essential for the all-around elevation of humanity and regeneration of the planet. Inspired by the teachings of P.R. Sarkar, she understands that building a strong presence for Prout on the internet is an important way to contribute to creating the socio-economic awareness needed for change. She recognizes that we are living in the midst of an Information Revolution spearheaded by the internet, and social media platforms - Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, etc. So how can people use and leverage social media to ensure Prout reaches every person on the planet?

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

More monthly events will be listed here.

Spiritually Speaking

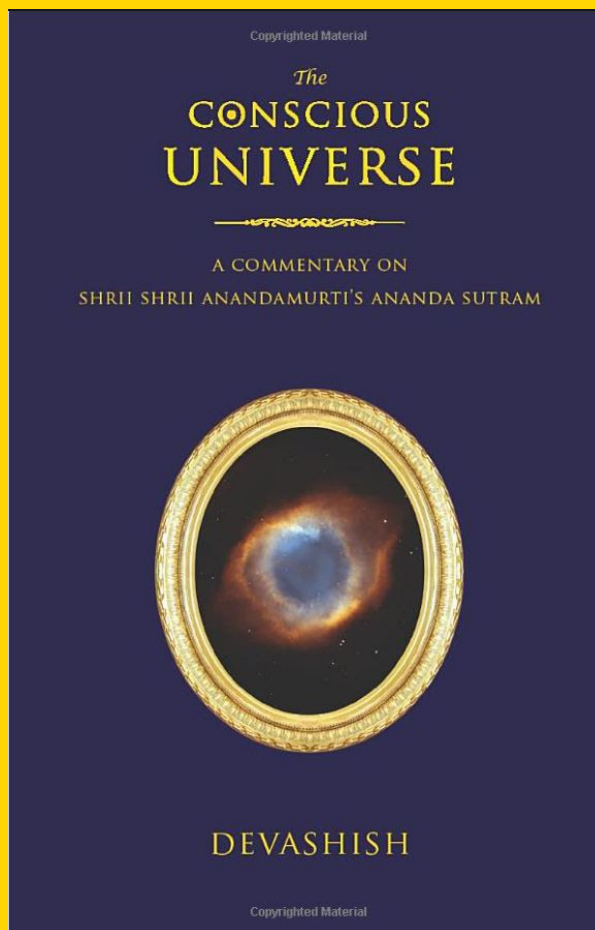
Planetary Leadership Training Public Speaking Club

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_



New book:

The Conscious Universe: A Commentary on Shrii Shrii
Anandamurti's Ananda Sutram

by Devashish

Ananda Sutram is a modern-day exposition of Tantric philosophy composed in 1961. While the first four chapters dealt with spiritual philosophy, the fifth chapter lays the ideological foundation for the construction of a spiritual society and outlines the fundamental principles of Prout. The author explains the most complex philosophical concepts in the clearest way possible. 411 pages.

Available from Amazon.com:

<https://www.amazon.com/Conscious-Universe-Commentary-Anandamurtis-Ananda/dp/1881717860/>

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