
PA Connection: Prout Alliance's Quarterly Newsletter September 2022

1 message

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Prout Alliance

www.proutalliance.org



The Prout Alliance Quarterly Newsletter:

PA CONNECTION September 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, Nominating 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

Nina Shapiro, Steering Committee Member, Networking Work Group
Liaison, PA Connection 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 few months. We have legally incorporated Prout Alliance, and we are now a 501c3 nonprofit recognized by the IRS. Donations to Prout Alliance are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

We recently set up a fiscal sponsorship arrangement with ProutSisters which is a global network of Prout women. We are currently managing their funds using our newly created organizational bank account. 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 bank account is linked to our new database.

The Steering Committee recently had an excellent visioning session with Sohail Inayatullah, UNESCO Chair of Futures Studies, after which we developed a draft of Prout Alliance Vision and Mission Statements, which we were pleased to be able to share with all of you recently. We very much appreciated all the feedback that we received. We will be formalizing the adoption of our Statements at our Annual Meeting in October with a vote from all general members.

Our focus for the past few meetings has been on developing plans for our Annual Meeting of Members which will take place October 7th through 9th in person at the Ananda Viplava Center with the option of joining us virtually. We hope as many of you as possible will join us then, and in the interim, we hope you will enjoy this latest version of

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Submitted by Nada Khader, Steering Committee Chair

Secretary Report:

Steering Committee meeting minutes have been made available to Prout Alliance members on Wild Apricot.

Organizational bylaws are being written.

Submitted by Mark Friedman, Steering Committee Secretary

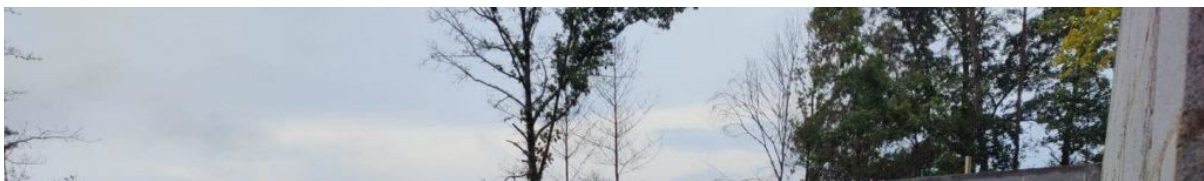
Good News Report:

Prout Research Institute:

PRI Advisory Committee Members Matt Oppenheim and Allan Rosen have developed a Land Acknowledgement Project to recognize the Cherokee Nation, the original inhabitants and stewards of the land where PRI has established its base. Our immediate purpose is to craft an appropriate Land Acknowledgement Statement (LAS) for the PRI website and other relevant PRI material. This is also intended to model for Proutists and others the best practices for acknowledging the colonization of the land of indigenous peoples, the harm once done and still occurring, the history, culture, and contributions of the indigenous people, and creating an action plan to redress the harms done. Further, we are hopeful this process will inspire other organizations we are members of to create their own LAS. We have compiled a list of recommended reading materials, with links to articles, how-to resources, and actual Land Acknowledgement Statements [here](#).

Construction of the building continues with the foundation now complete. You can support our fundraising campaign [here](#).

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 are approved, the Nominations Committee sends out the approved names to the general membership for their consideration and then the Nominations Committee will conduct the election of Steering Committee members using a secure online platform, created by one of our members, which was designed to insure that a member can only vote one time. The Chair of the Nominations Committee will announce the composition of the new Steering Committee on the final day of the Annual Meeting in October.

Submitted by Nada Khader, Nominations Committee Liaison

Materials Group Report:

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

It has been a quiet summer for the Materials WG. I was out for surgery and for various other reasons we have not met since June.

Before the summer break, Avaniish noticed the lack of mission/vision statements on the website, which has now been addressed by the Steering Committee.

The Materials WG will also review the excellent work by the SC. Final approval will be at the October Prout meeting.

Wilder Nicholson is working on the website design and will be presenting his work in progress to the Materials WG at our next meeting on August 18. Supporting Wilder in this work are Prakash, Avinash, and Didi Devanishta.

Submitted by Natalie Schafer, Materials Committee Chair

Treasurer's Report/Membership Update:

The perennial dilemma: what to share first - the good news or the bad news? Let's start with the not so good and thereby finish on a positive note.

PA is attempting to grow its membership as more people (both actively engaged and supporting) are necessary to address the work at hand as the need for Prout and Neohumanism solutions is growing within society and the environment. Unfortunately, the PA membership base is growing slowly. In fact, some previously active members have not yet renewed for 2022.

This segues to a concern that people may be having difficulties with the new WildApricot system PA adopted to facilitate and support various business functions to include membership dues and donation processing.

If that has been your experience, please contact the SC at steering@proutalliance.org at your earliest convenience so we can provide some assistance for you which also helps identify system functionality that may need improvement.

On the other hand, if you have been a PA member or supporter in the past and are electing not to renew your membership for some other reason, please let us know why - which can help PA address issues that may inhibit its growth and increasing effectiveness within society.

Now some good news:

As mentioned in a previous Newsletter, PA is now incorporated as a non-profit organization; has received IRS approval as a 501c3 organization so donations are now tax deductible; and has opened a commercial bank account. PA has also adopted WildApricot as a management system as well as QuickBooks for accounting support. So, the investment in basic infrastructure necessary to be an active and effective organization has been made.

PA's current bank balance is \$3,811.14. Of those funds, \$500.00 is committed as a final payment on a project currently underway to upgrade the PA website to improve its outreach efforts to serve its Vision and Mission.

Matching Funds Offer to be Extended Through 10/31/22:

As a final positive note, PA has a dollar-for-dollar funding match currently in place for dues and donations up to a total of \$2,000.00. This anonymous donation can help grow PA membership but will only be available for a while longer. So, if you haven't already renewed your membership or are in a position to contribute more support, please do so now so you can take advantage of the funding match and double your support for PA.

Please encourage others you know to also join PA.

If you or someone you encourage to join PA finds the dues to be a financial hardship, then please request a dues waiver by contacting Howard Nemon, the PA Membership Committee Chair at hnemon@gmail.com.

Submitted by John Linkhart, Prout Alliance Treasurer



ProutSisters Annual Convention 2022 -

Women, Wealth and War

ProutSisters convened a very successful Annual Convention on Sunday, July 17th with a theme this year of "Women, Wealth and War". Over a hundred women from more than 20 countries in Asia, Europe, North and South America as well as the Middle East registered for our gathering. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Ivana Milovejic, a researcher and an educator with a professional background in sociology, gender, peace and futures studies. Originally from former-Yugoslavia she now resides at the Sunshine Coast, Australia, where she is an Adjunct Professor. Dr Milojević is the author of over 60 journal articles and has taught at several universities around the globe.

Following Dr. Milovejic was Nicola Tareha (Didi Ananda Nirmala) who qualified as a teacher in the 1980's specializing in Peace Studies and the Developing World. She acquired additional qualifications in Nursing, Emergency Management and Indigenous Studies (notably, "Maori Development" and "Aboriginal People, Spirituality and Reconciliation"). She carefully prepared a very substantial presentation on the wealth cap and placing limits on private wealth accumulation as well as Prout solutions to war and conflicts.

We also hosted a diverse and lively panel with women from conflict zones in Afghanistan, Tigray/Ethiopia, Israel/Palestine, Syria, Ukraine and Croatia. We concluded with a very moving art share that included storytelling, music and poetry shares.

The recording is available upon request to khader.nada@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE: PA Annual Meeting

October 7-9, 2022

Details and registration information to follow soon

Keynote Speaker, Mark Freidman

will present on:

A Proutist in Democratic Clothing

Mark Friedman has been a Proutist for fifty years and has worked to integrate Proutist principles and the teaching of P.R. Sarkar into a long career in public service. He currently serves as the CEO of the Eden Health District which focuses on pandemic response. He serves on many community non-profit boards including the PROUT Research Institute, the Oakland Promise, Supplybank.org, and the large public hospital Alameda Health System. He is also the Chair of the Board of the East Bay Community Foundation with a \$500 million endowment and the mission to create a just East Bay, centered in Oakland, California.

Mark's political career includes three terms as Mayor of El Cerrito, California and serving as an elected delegate for Barack Obama to the Democratic National Convention in 2008, exactly 40 years after he was beaten by the police outside the Democratic convention in Chicago while protesting the war in Vietnam. He was appointed by former Governor Jerry Brown to chair the California State Advisory Council on Early Learning and Care.

Mark's presentation will center on the challenges and opportunities for **A Proutist in Democratic Clothing** to steer society towards the eventual establishment of Prout as the guiding force for social, environmental, economic, and political change. The talk will offer ample space for frank discussions about where Proutists can be effective and where they risk getting co-opted by a corrupt and largely bankrupt system of pseudo democracy.





Education Work Group Report:

Monthly Education Series:

The Education Workgroup continues to schedule high quality monthly Zoom presentations by experts in their fields, on topics important to Proutists and other activists.

Recent topics included:

- Social Media for Prout
- The U.S. Healthcare Mess and What All Proutists Should Know
- Organics Recycling, Soil Health and Plastic Pollution
- Prout, the Agrarian Revolution and Seedlings for Sovereignty
- Housing Crisis

Recordings of these presentations and more can be found on the PA Wild Apricot site at <https://proutalliance.wildapricot.org/>.

Click on “Presentations.”

Coming up:

- A Neohumanist Walks Into A prison: Thoughts on Criminal Justice Reform, presented by prison volunteer Andy Douglas.
8 PM EDT/5 PM PDT, September 8th

In October, Mark Friedman, a former City Mayor in the San Francisco Bay area as well as serving in other key positions will discuss the opportunities for furthering Prout ideals through elected office and how to be effective working with elected officials.

The November presentation will be about Food Security, followed In December by a panel discussion on Climate Change. Other seminars are already in the planning stages for 2023.

Please take advantage of these excellent presentations by recognized content experts. BTW, even if you can't attend a seminar, sign-up for it anyway as all events are recorded and if you registered for one you will automatically receive the recording – whether you attended or not.

And finally, please share any suggestions you may have for topics you would like to have addressed in the Seminar series, or better yet, let us know if you have an area of expertise on which you would be willing to do a one-hour seminar in the Monthly Series.

Submitted by Mark Freidman, Education Work Group Chair

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