

**P R O U T**  
PROGRESSIVE UTILIZATION THEORY

## Prout Alliance

[www.proutalliance.org](http://www.proutalliance.org)



**The Prout Alliance Quarterly  
Newsletter:**

**PA CONNECTION  
March 2023**

*“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



Photo credit: istock

Contents:

Steering Committee Report

Reports from Working Groups/Committees/PRI

Upcoming Events, Training, Publications

Prout's Decentralized Economy Article

---

## Prout Alliance Administration 3/23

### STEERING COMMITTEE:

[steering@proutalliance.org](mailto:steering@proutalliance.org)

Nina Shapiro: Chair, Newsletter Editor

Dada Maheshvarananda: Prout Research Institute Director

Mark Friedman: Secretary

John Linkhart: Treasurer

Prakash LauferL Wild Apricot Lead Administrator/Database Manager

Nada Khader

Alex Jackimovicz

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Howard Nemon, Chair

[membership@proutalliance.org](mailto:membership@proutalliance.org)

### NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:

Beth Wortzel, Chair

[nominations@proutalliance.org](mailto:nominations@proutalliance.org)

### WORKING GROUPS:

Materials Group: Nathalie Schafer Chair Pro Temp

[proutmaterials@proutalliance.org](mailto:proutmaterials@proutalliance.org)

Education Work Group: Mark Friedman, Liaison

[education@proutalliance.org](mailto:education@proutalliance.org)

Deep Activism Work Group: Alex Jackimovicz, Liaison

[alexjackimovicz@gmail.com](mailto:alexjackimovicz@gmail.com)

Overcoming Racism and Casteism: Prakash Laufer, Liaison

[prakash.laufer@gmail.com](mailto:prakash.laufer@gmail.com)

Prout Alliance Outreach Working Group: Nada Khader, Liaison

---

## Steering Committee Report:

Dear Friends and Members of Prout Alliance:

Welcome to our first newsletter in 2023! Prout Alliance has started off the new year on a very strong footing! We recently hosted our first quarterly meeting with members which was organized as a direct result of a request made by our membership at our Annual Meeting.

The Steering Committee has been collaborating with our working teams to fine tune our membership policy, tweak our website, promote our monthly webinars which have been so stimulating and well attended, as well as start planning our 2023 Annual Meeting which will take place at the Ananda Girisuta Master Unit in Marshall, North Carolina, the future home of the Prout Alliance which will be housed at the Prout Research Institute! Please do save the dates on your calendars - the second weekend in October 2023.

I have very much enjoyed working with the members of this Steering Committee over the past few years. We have worked very well as a team and have brought out each other's strengths and instilled a culture of cooperation in our modus operandi. Due to term limits, I am stepping down as Chair of the Steering Committee at the end of February and will need to step down from the Steering Committee at the Annual Meeting. We are in very good hands. Devaki has kindly offered to fill the role of Chair of the Steering Committee and has already been diligent with agenda setting, meeting facilitation and note-taking in the event that our Secretary is absent, and she has very graciously been putting together this quarterly newsletter so that all of us can stay connected and learn about what other Prout Alliance members are doing! Thank you, Devaki!

I will be transitioning in my new role as a member of the newly formed Prout Alliance Outreach Committee and am looking forward to working with other members as we connect with like-minded groups, network with others who have leanings towards Neo-Humanism, Universalism, Spiritual Outlook, and promote our progressive values as we collectively build our power to transform ourselves and our planet!

Enjoy this edition of the newsletter, and please do not hesitate to reach out to the Steering Committee at [Steering@proutalliance.org](mailto:Steering@proutalliance.org) with any questions, comments or concerns. We love to hear from you.

Submitted by Nada Khader, Outgoing Chair

---

## Prout Research Institute Report:

The construction of the new building is 50% complete with the roof now covering the whole building. We are racing to finish by the Prout Alliance October annual meeting which will be held in Asheville, North Carolina.

(see photo of interior building construction in progress below)

### Land Acknowledgement

We have made a Land Acknowledgement Statement that begins:

*"We acknowledge that the Prout Research Institute (PRI) was built upon the ancestral land of the Cherokee People or Aniyunwiya in the Cherokee Language. For thousands of years, the Cherokee evolved a culture and language in sacred harmony with all creation."*

See the full statement [here](#).

Submitted by Dada Maheshvarananda

Director of [Prout Research Institute](#) in Asheville, NC, USA





Interior photo of Prout Research Institute under construction

---

## Materials Group Report:

The PA Materials Team is finishing up the design of a greatly improved website for the Prout Alliance. Many thanks to Wilder Nicholson for his ongoing work on this project.

View it at [www.proutalliance.org](http://www.proutalliance.org)

The team is now brainstorming ideas on the direction of the Materials Team in 2023 and is seeking a new chairperson to fill the role of the outgoing chair.

Submitted by Natalie Schafer, Materials Liaison/Committee Chair Pro Temp

---

## Membership Committee Report:

The Prout Alliance Membership Committee has worked for the past few months to develop a membership system to welcome new members to Prout Alliance. The committee worked on defining the tiers of membership, preparing membership application forms, and setting up a membership web page.

The committee is also working on creating a mentorship program for the orientation of new members. This will enable new members to take an active role in Prout Alliance Workgroups.

Link : <https://proutalliance.org/participate/>

Submitted by Shriraksha Mohan

---

## Secretary's Report:

Our first Quarterly Member Meeting was held February 8. We reviewed our current activities, as well as progress on goals we identified at our annual meeting last October. Some highlights:

- The new Outreach Workgroup has met and organized itself to contact like-minded people and prospective organizational allies.
- The Deep Activism Workgroup has international participation and is studying effective activism to achieve systemic change.

- Our website has been updated and is on track for continuous improvement.
- Producing more podcasts is in the works.
- A goal was set to develop a system for financing new projects.

Steering Committee minutes as well as Notes from the recent Quarterly Member Meeting are available on our Wild Apricot site.

Submitted by Mark Friedman, Secretary

---

## Treasurer's Report:

### Need For a Finance Committee

PA is at the point in its organizational development and evolution where it needs a standing Finance Committee (FC) which can provide financial analysis, advice, and oversight of PA's budget. The FC's responsibility would be to ensure that PA has the financial resources it needs to sustain and expand PA's efforts to educate people about Prout and Neohumanism as well as funding projects demonstrating the practical application of their related core principles. It would work in cooperation and coordination with the PA Treasurer and PA's fiscal agent. It would also work with the MC (Membership Committee) by helping coordinate matching fund offers to leverage membership campaign income by encouraging existing members to renew and new people to join as Supporting Members. Another FC responsibility would be to develop and oversee the grant funding cycle for demonstration projects.

The SC tries will recruit a suitable candidate to serve as Chair of the Finance Committee, who in turn invites others to serve on the Committee. Once willing colleagues have been recruited, their names are submitted to the SC for final approval. Upon approval the FC is encouraged to go about their work and remain in contact with the SC by way of an assigned liaison.

The SC invites people willing to serve as the FC Chair to contact them at [steering@proutalliance.org](mailto:steering@proutalliance.org)

Submitted by John Linkhart PA Treasurer



---

## Deep Activism Group Report:

Deep Activism is a new system and model for understanding activism, its challenges, and how there is a more nuanced and deeper path than traditional paths of activism, authored by Alex Jackimovicz with inspiration from the works of PR Sarkar and Arne Naess. This model can be applied to various types of movement work, personal development training related to organizing and activism, and working in alliances with a range of diverse people and priorities successfully.

The Deep Activism Study Circle is series of discussions which focuses on the new materials of Deep Activism applied to Proutist topics, and is ongoing. Our meetings generally have 6-10 people in attendance and we meet via online Zoom conference for two one-hour sessions per month.

We were happy to have Dada Maheshvarananda of the Prout Research Institute, Asheville, present an introductory talk on Prout activism to a substantial audience in one session. Since last Fall, we have covered a survey of nearly one-quarter of the primary topics. We are finishing up the topic themed around the “Inner Work of the Organizer”. Soon we’ll have two months of coverage on “The Shallow vs. the Deep”, shallow reform activism vs. systemic change-based strategies.

Our focus over the next few months will be:

- How to navigate personal growth work with activism
- Re-orienting activism for ‘deep’ system-change work rather than conventional activist traditions of putting nearly all energy into shallow reforms
- Unpacking limitations and inconsistencies with contemporary activist work
- Looking at ways to strengthen, expand, and multiply activist efforts beyond the traditional paradigm of standing up for justice.

- 

For more information about our Proutist affinity group meetings, please contact Alex at [alex.jackimovicz@gmail.com](mailto:alex.jackimovicz@gmail.com)

---

## Prout Alliance Educational Committee Report:

We are happy to announce that PA has provided more than one year of successive monthly seminars on topics of interest for Proutists and other socio-economic activists!

They are presented by recognized content experts who are well-versed in the subject matter they are sharing with seminar attendees. The opportunity for people to engage in conversations with the presenters has also been a highlight of the presentations and much appreciated by people attending the seminars.

The most recent seminar, on 2/9/23 was: “Ecological, Cooperative and Intentional Communities” and was hosted by J. Peter Fleury, a successful Landscape architect, who has also assisted with the design of such communities in the US as well as in many other countries in the world.

Coming up 3/9/23 is a Seminar entitled “The Place of World Government and a World Constitution in the Philosophy of Prout” with Craig Runde, also known as Chandra Shekhara. (see below for information about his new book)

On 4/13/23 the Seminar will be on “Deep Activism” by Alex Jackimovicz.

On 5/11/23 the Seminar will be on “Casteism and Racism” with Prakash Laufer.

Other Seminars are being scheduled on into 2023, so please watch for the announcements. Both the March and April events are already posted for active Registration, so please consider signing up for them.

We invite suggestions about topics you would like to see covered, or even topics on which you would be willing to do a seminar presentation yourself. Contact us at: [steering@proutalliance.org](mailto:steering@proutalliance.org)

To register for educational events go to [ProutAlliance.org/events](https://ProutAlliance.org/events).

Submitted by John Linkhart

---



A Proposal for a  
**World Constitution**

Based on the Works of  
**Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar**

**Chandra Shekhara**

New Publication:

**A Proposal for A World Constitution -**

## **Based on the Works of Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar.**

by Chandra Shekhara and co-published by the Prout Research Institute of Asheville and the P.R. Sarkar Institute

This epic work presents an in-depth look at Shrii Sarkar's ideas on world government and world constitutional issues. The book's purpose is to give readers a clearer understanding of Shrii Sarkar's approach to the creation and operation of a world government. It is structured in the form of a constitution together with commentary. The book focuses on the mature phases of the evolution of world government and includes more than 500 footnotes.

The author has been a follower of Shrii Sarkar since 1971. He attended law school and was inspired by Shrii Sarkar to write a world constitution.

Submitted by Dada Maheshvarananda

---

# Prout's Decentralized Economics:

## Some Points to Consider

Compiled by Nina Shapiro

from Small Group Discussion

Prout Design Seminar 2023

Prout Institute

Capitalism requires centralization of the economy to control profits and promotes exploitation of the many by the few who control power. Capitalism also depends upon endless growth in order to perpetuate itself. This practice is not sustainable and is responsible for the degradation of life on earth.

Prout promotes a decentralized economy. The means of production would begin at the lowest level possible, Block Level (County), ensuring that motives for success of the economic unit be the driving force, rather than outside profit motives.

Members of the local unit are those with vested interests in that local area; individuals and businesses that are rooted in the community. Prout's decentralized economy will encourage local people to work in and contribute to the economy of the local area.

Commodities produced will largely be sold in local markets, and money will be circulated locally. There is also the possibility of barter or trade with other self-sufficient economic units (SEU's).

### Discussion Questions:

Q1: How would Prout address the pharmaceutical industry and balance that with the needs for medications in the population?

- Using the 3 Tier system, the local economic unit(s) (SEU's) would be responsible for production of medicines, as far as practical, mainly in the form of cooperatives, using locally derived organic compounds.
- Federation-level management would likely be responsible for distribution of medication, and production in cases where local production is not feasible/practical.
- Oversight of pharmaceuticals in Prout would not be by the AMA, or some other profit driven organization, but by the principles that medical care being a basic human right. Revitalization and maintenance of the physical/emotional and spiritual health of society would be the primary driving force, not profit.

- University-based research and development of new medicines/approaches would continue, largely at the Regional level; information sharing would be freely accessible in PROUT; intellectual property will be shared globally, thus allowing for coordinated cooperation of medical formulas.
- Prout would promote a healthier lifestyle based on eating locally grown organic foods, thus minimizing the need for medication in many instances, and regular practice of meditation and yoga/exercise would further diminish many illnesses as well as the need for pharmaceutical interventions.
- Prout encourages herbal and homeopathic formulations and other alternative health care approaches, such as acupuncture, massage, and other natural health, thus further decreasing the need for production of pharmaceuticals.
- Because Prout is a decentralized economy with emphasis on the collective welfare, there would not be the need for some of the for-profit industries that flourish under capitalism, like the pharmaceutical industry.
- Barter and trade with other SEU's is allowed, as needed, where raw materials for compounds may only be available in certain areas, but the emphasis is on finding suitable raw materials locally.
- Medicinal needs would be provided by Key Industries in some cases
- Distribution would be different based on the specific requirements of the product (refrigeration, etc).

Q2: According to Prout local people should determine the quantum of minimum requirements and the basic policies connected with their own economic well-being. Who will do that? Will the 'powers that be' allow any of this?

- Production will be based on fulfilling basic necessities and will be managed largely by cooperatives, or worker-owned businesses.
- Prout Cooperatives will develop into a guild system, in which cooperatives with similar production items will band together locally (e.g. Tillamook dairy production cooperatives in Oregon)
- Social Cycle: Power has tended to be driven by money, ideas, force, resources and vision w practical approach. The social cycles are demonstrative of this, and human her/history bears this out. It is a matter of power and who can and will lead. Moral leadership is needed

now and must guide the transition as capitalism collapses/further decays and the next social cycle emerges.

- Prout's emphasis on decentralization will require examples in action in order to gain acceptance in the population. Even small examples can have a powerful effect.
- It can be seen that on some level the MAGA (Make America Great Again) movement was driven in part by people feeling disenfranchised by the political system and lack of economic opportunities. Some politicians took advantage of that in order to gain power using false promises of change.
- It can be noted, however, that even in the Republican controlled climate in 2017, there was a Congressional Act passed promoting small businesses to become employee owned. The seeds for local economy have begun to be planted. The United States has a history of being agrarian; instead of family owned farms there can be cooperative farming.
- Prout's decentralized economics will provide opportunities for people from all walks of life and all communities, and help to heal the cultural and political divide in this country caused by historical racism, classism and poverty.
- Catastrophes create opportunities: Times of tremendous turbulence and disasters can create openings for new ways of existing in the world. Crises tend to bring out the cooperative humanity in each of us for survival purposes. (See Disasterology, Dr. Samantha Montano, PhD)
- Prout as a system will only appeal to a small percentage of the population at first, but as examples of Prout in action are seen as positive, sustainable and practical, it will take hold and increase exponentially globally.
- People are often more ready for change than we realize. We ought to talk about Prout principles and practices with everyone we encounter.

Submitted by Nina Shapiro



Photo credit: Dreamstime