



Jamira Burley is on the Daily News' People's Editorial Board.

STEVEN M. FALK / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

— which works with 75 other nonprofits and neighborhood groups — following an internship after graduating from the University of Richmond.

She watched numerous teens and young adults get their first jobs through a summer employment program run by the coalition.

"I remember one guy who got a summer job through one of [the coalition's] banking partners. Later he became a senior vice president at the bank," she said.

Sewell said she was also proud of the coalition's efforts to ensure that contractors owned by minorities, women and disabled people get contracts at city developments, including the Convention Center expansion.

Sewell recently left her post at the Urban Affairs Coalition for an event-planning job with the American Cancer Society, in Cherry Hill, N.J. But she remains deeply involved in the city, serving on the board of the Bread and Roses Community Fund and as the treasurer for Teenshop.

— David Gambacorta

Jamira Burley
Coordinator for National Peace Alliance, Police Advisory Commission member

Growing up in some of Philadel-



Christopher Wink founded Technically Philly.

phia's most dangerous neighborhoods inspired Burley's passion for combating youth violence and advocating for education reform.

"I didn't wake up one morning and decide to do this," said the 23-year-old Temple University student. "I grew up in an environment where violence and murder was common."

Burley, a member of the *Daily News*' People's Editorial Board, is the first of her 16 siblings to graduate from high school and attend college. Both her parents and all 10 of her older brothers have been in jail, she said.

While she attended Overbrook High School, the murder of her older brother led her to begin her push for peace.

She established the Panther Peace Corps at Overbrook, which later led to a position with the school district as a student leadership coordinator. Burley is now coordinator for the National Peace Alliance and a mayor's appointee to the Philadelphia Police Advisory Commission.

She hopes to be a role model for her five younger siblings, who range in age from 7 to 18.

"In my family, for a long time, getting arrested was a right of passage," she said. "I try to get past that and make them realize there are opportunities."

— Morgan Zalot

► Christopher Wink Co-founder, Technically Philly

It was not that long ago that Wink, 27, was an aspiring journalist emailing reporters around Philadelphia for advice.

Reporters were soon emailing Wink and his buddies, Sean Blanda and Brian James Kirk, asking for advice on how to best integrate technology in their work.

Wink helped found Technically Philly two years ago to pay more attention to the city's online technology industry.

"It seemed like a very real community that wasn't getting the attention it deserved," he said.

Two years later, the business is profitable enough to provide full-time employment for the trio, who are about to hire a freelance writer.

Wink, a native of northwest New Jersey who lives in Fishtown, says he didn't plan on launching a business but found he had to if he wanted to stay here.

"We wanted to be at the *Daily News* or at the *Inquirer*," Wink said. "We came out [of college] and there was no work. If we wanted to be in Philadelphia we had to stay in Philadelphia and build something or we would never get here again."

The group stays busy all year long, culminating in April with Philly Tech Week. Wink is focused much of the time on using



Michelle Freeman publishes "Flying Kite" online magazine.

ELIZABETH ROBERTSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

technology to increase transparency in local government.

Wendy Warren, editor at Philly.com, calls Wink a "classic connector" who forges links between start-up companies, grant-making organizations, major corporations, city government and the local media.

— Chris Brennan

► Michelle Freeman "Flying Kite" publisher

How Freeman, 28, finds time to sleep is anybody's guess.

The South Philly resident publishes *Flying Kite*, a weekly online magazine that highlights the people, places and businesses that are putting the Philadelphia region on — gasp — the cutting edge.

She runs her own business, Michelle A. Freeman Marketing & Events, which creates marketing programs for the Office of the City Representative, among other clients.

She sits on the board of Girls Rock Philly, a nonprofit that mentors young women and teaches them to play musical instruments.

She's on the board of Young Involved Philadelphia, which is building up the city's next generation of civic leaders.

She's also on the board of the Spiral Q Puppet Theater, a nonprofit that connects art with social justice.

"I was raised Catholic, and my dad was really involved with the Knights of Columbus. He got me involved with community service," said the Northeast Philly native.

Freeman, who helped create the nonprofit Campus Philly while a student at Drexel, said she — like many people who have grown up in Philly — once toyed with the idea of seeing if the grass would be greener in another big city.

"I realized I love this city," she said. "It's a small city. Your work can be really impactful. I just want to do whatever I can to help the city grow."

— David Gambacorta

They're changing things here

10 young, effective leaders

TOP-10 LISTS drive people crazy. You want to start an argument that'll last for days, mention to a pal your picks for the top-10 movies of all time. Or best albums.

But a good list gets people talking, gets people thinking.

So today, as Young Involved Philadelphia prepares to wrap up the "State of Young Philly" — a two-week series of brainstorming workshops — the People's Paper offers a list of 10 up-and-comers who are playing vital roles in shaping the city's future.

► Sophie Bryan Chief of staff to City Councilman Bill Green

Green spent much of his first term tormenting Mayor Nutter about the city's budget and policies. But it was Bryan who scored the first big win on Nutter.

Bryan, 37, led a legal challenge to Nutter's plan to trim the budget by shuttering some libraries. Bryan successfully argued in court that Nutter needed Council approval for the plan.

The West Philadelphia native said she was focused at Harvard — undergrad and law school — on public service. That her mother was a career librarian was plenty of motivation in her first big City Hall dust-up.

Bryan spent a year at a law firm after graduating before heading to Delaware to work for the U.S. Attorney's Office. She came home to work at Community Legal Services, focusing on civil cases about housing. In a very un-Philadelphia way of landing a City Hall job, Bryan applied via Green's website.



POWER

"It's amazing, right?" she asked. "What a ridiculous way of getting a job." Green, who has Bryan focused on the city budget and ways to reduce the business-privilege tax, counts himself lucky she clicked on that job link.

"The best thing I ever did was put that button on my website," Green said.

— Chris Brennan

► Tumar Alexander Mayor Nutter's deputy chief of staff

Tumar Alexander was just a teenager when the proverbial lightbulb flickered above his head. He realized what he wanted to do with his life: politics.

Politics? Yeah, politics.

"I was the president of the stu-



Sophie Bryan, who heads Councilman Bill Green's staff, and **Tumar Alexander**, chief of staff, are making an impact in city government.

dent council at William Penn High School," said Alexander, 36. "I got the political bug. I realized that you could make a difference each and every day in the city you're living in."

He volunteered for John Street during the former mayor's successful 1999 campaign. That campaign included Alexander being charged with making terroristic threats after an altercation outside of GOP mayoral candidate Sam Katz's campaign office. He received six months' probation, entered a program for first-time offenders and was suspended without pay from his city job for a week.

After that bump in the road, Alexander later got a job in the city Managing Director's Office. While there, Alexander worked on community programs, including Street's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative.

Alexander's profile has risen under Mayor Nutter, who recent-

ly named him to deputy chief of staff, a post that has him serving as the mayor's liaison to City Council. A North Philly resident, Alexander also serves on the advisory board of KIPP, the college-prep charter-school network, and the Young Friends Committee of Project HOME.

— David Gambacorta

► Sean Agnew Music promoter

Agnew, 34, wasn't the first person in Philly to put on concerts in nontraditional venues.

"I attended those shows when I was younger and those meant a lot to me," said Agnew, founder of R5 Productions. "Those shows stuck out to me more, and those shows don't exist outside of Philadelphia. It was a really unique scene."

The difference between Agnew

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