The Life within Self

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suppressed. In reaction, the NNLC emerged with a commitment to hearing the voices of many, rather than succumb to the practice of allowing one voice to dictate and dominate discussions about how to conceive of and address problems. For Garvin, freedom and democracy were and should continue to be a struggle. Garvin helped create the NNLC as a place where people could argue ideologically and, in this, have friendship and comradery. It was coming together from a place of solidarity and equality to find justice, especially in argument and debate, that foments effective democracy.

After five years of work, the NNLC dissolved in 1956 under political pressure from the U.S. government. This powerful movement, with many of its leaders sharing membership in the CP, was deemed unrepresentative of American ideals. Attorney General Brownell made the call to request that the NNLC be reviewed by the Subversive Activities Control Board. Ultimately, the NNLC decided to disband rather than be found guilty for fighting for freedom. In 1972, Garvin commented that the goals of NNLC were carried forth by Student Non-Violence Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Black Panther Party. She said she could see the work coming to fruition in the coalitions forming the Women's Liberation and the Anti-War movements, for which the NNLC had planted the seeds.

CONCLUSION
Garvin's intellectualism and activism problematized and sought to address many of the same concerns that drive contemporary intersectional theory. Her early work focused on the class-based dynamics that corrupt corporate capitalism and the labor organizations that must find a way to operate within those political-economic dynamics. She furthered an understanding of these complex dynamics by introducing the failure of labor unions to take the voice of African American laborers into consideration. Her final project to centralize the voices emerging from the special circumstances faced by African American working women in particular fully reveals an early modern thinker who understood the interlocking nature of race, class, and gender that has become central to contemporary intersectional thinking. Vicki Garvin continued to uproot the interconnected oppression of people and groups in her years spent living in Nigeria, Ghana, and China. Her life’s work, as well as the work of countless Black women throughout history, provides a gateway to true practices of democracy and freedom.

As the Executive Secretary of the Greater New York chapter of the NNLC and the National Vice President of NNLC, Garvin understood that the unity required for the organization’s work was nothing like a repressive, forced loyalty to institutions serving powerful interests.

THE LIFE WITHIN SELF
Idalys Torres

I've always been so intrigued by people and the way they think and function. I created this piece as I wanted to recognize the complexity to each person. We're made up of many different aspects, yet we manage to become such cohesive beings. Originally a mixed media piece on canvas, I later edited it in Adobe Photoshop for my 2D Art class.