**Rayon Lennon**

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**Education**

* Master of Social Work, Southern Connecticut State University, 2016
* Bachelor of Arts in English, with a concentration in Creative Writing, Southern Connecticut State University, 2009
* Licensed Master of Social Work, Association of Social Work Board, Connecticut, 2017

**Publications**

**Poetry Book**

* *Barrel Children*, *Main Street Rag Publishing House*, March 2016

**Poems**

* “Bolt,” “Heaven Tree,” *The Indianapolis Review*, January 2018
* “Heard,” *Rattle,* Winter 2017
* “The Afterlife of Trees,” *Connecticut River Review*, Fall 2017
* “After a Breakup, I Think of Jamaica,” *Connecticut River Review*, Fall 2017
* “The Ghost of Elms,” *Stepaway Magazine,* Fall 2016
* “Sky Beer,” *Rattle’s* Poet Respond Contest, *Rattle* Online, 2015
* “Gilbert,” *Noctua Review*, 2015
* “Acropolis Diner,” “Strippers,” *The Main Street Rag*, Spring 2015
* “Red Night,” *Stepaway Magazine*, Fall 2014
* “Chapelton, Jamaica,” *Callaloo*, Spring 2014
* “The Exile Flies Home to Trout Hall, Jamaica,” *Callaloo*, Spring 2013
* “400 Years Later,” *Noctua Review*, Fall 2013
* “Seaview Gardens,” “Gil Town,” “Children with William Syndrome Have No Racial Biases,” *African American Review,* Winter 2013
* “Barrel Children,” *The Main Street Rag, Fall 2013*
* “Ferry Street,” *Folio* 2009
* “How I look?” *Folio, 2008*
* “In Trenchtown, Jamaica,” “May Pen,” “Letter to Jamaica,” *Folio, 2007*
* “Sestina to Patricia,” *Folio*, 2006

**Fiction**

* “Croon,” *Folio*, 2009
* “Mona,” *Folio*, 2008
* “God’s Son,” *The Connecticut Review,* Spring 2007
* “Barrel Children,” *Folio*, 2007
* “The Letterer,” *Folio*, 2007
* “Tiny Locks,” *Folio*, 2006

**Writing Awards**

* *Barrel Children*, Finalist for 2017 Connecticut Book Award for best poetry book
* “Heard,” 1st place, Rattle Poetry Prize, September 2017
* “Heard”, Pushcart Prize Nomination, *Rattle*, Fall 2017
* “Sky Beer,” 1st place, *Rattle’s* Poets Respond Contest, August, 2015
* “Gilbert,” 1st place, *Noctua* Review Poetry Contest, Fall 2015
* “400 Years Later,” 1st place, *Noctua* Review Poetry Contest, Fall 2014
* “The Exile Flies Home to Trout Hall, Jamaica,” 1st place, *Folio* Poetry Contest, 2009
* “Chapelton, Jamaica,” 1st place, *Folio* Poetry Contest, 2008
* “Seaview Gardens,” 1st place, *Folio* Poetry Contest, 2007
* “Mona,”*Folio* Fiction Contest, 1st place, 2008
* “Mona,” 1st place, SCSU Fiction Contest, 2008
* “God’s Son,” 1st place, CSU *Connecticut Review* Non-Fiction Contest, 2006
* “Riverman,” 1st place, SCSU Fiction Contest, 2007
* SCSU Poetry Contest, 2nd Place, 2007
* “Croon,” 2nd Place, CSU *Connecticut Review* Fiction Contest, 2008

**Honors**

* **Featured Reader at SCSU MFA Reading Series, Spring 2016**
* **Featured Reader at Free to Spit, Spring 2016**
* **Featured Reader at Poetz Realm, Spring 2016**
* **Reader at Infusion: A Literary Arts Series, Spring 2016**

**Work History**

**Clinical Therapist at the Children’s Center of Hamden, Hamden, CT**

(February 2017-present)

* Provide clinical services to teens with substance use and co-occurring disorders; provide individual, group and family therapies

**Clinician at Clinical and Counseling Services, New Haven, CT**

**(**June 2016-January 2017)

* Provide clinical services to individuals and families from intake to discharge

**Job Coach at New Haven Works, New Haven, CT**

(March 2014-February 2017)

* Manage a caseload of over 300 members; facilitate hiring process by connecting partner and non-partner employers to prescreened, qualified candidates; advise members on how to navigate hiring process

**Employment Specialist at Employment Center at Science Park, New Haven, CT**

(September 2012 to January 2015)

* Managed a caseload of over 350 clients; connected underserved residents to employment opportunities; coordinated and initiated job creation programs; facilitated training programs; assisted clients with resumes and cover letters

**Therapeutic Mentor to Children with Autism at Ben Haven, North Haven, CT**

(October 2013 to October 2014)

* Helped verbal and non-verbal clients with autism increase independence, improve communication, and socially appropriate behaviors; documented activities and changes in client’s behavior

**Therapeutic Mentor at The New Connection, New Haven, CT**

(January 2012 to October 2013)

* Increased understanding and strengthened bond between client with Asperger’s Syndrome and relatives and the larger community

**Shipper/Maintainer at J. K. Harman, New Haven, CT**

(February 2000 to November 2011)

* Prepared, packaged and loaded racks onto truck; kept workshop clean and organized