

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

Citizens Commission  
March 27, 2019 1:57 pm

Name	Bruce Watson
Address	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
Phone	<div></div>
Email	<div></div>
Citizenship Affirmation	I am a U.S. Citizen
Residency Affirmation	I am a resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Statement of Intent	I intend to comply with and advance the policy established by this Act.

Statement of Interest	<p>Last spring, I joined the campaign to get Proposition 2 on the ballot. I gathered 100+ signatures and was thrilled by voter approval last November. My interest was fueled by my conviction that money is corrupting American politics.</p> <p>As a college student, I followed Watergate with patriotic fervor, convinced that the reforms it engendered would lead to a broadened democracy. I have since been discouraged as, from Buckley v. Valeo onward, money has been conflated with "free speech," scuttling even minor attempts to limit campaign spending. The ultimate insult came in 2010 when the Supreme Court ruled on Citizens' United v. FEC, opening the floodgates to corporate contributions and overturning a century-old law banning them.</p> <p>Polls show that 80 percent of Republicans and 83 percent of Democrats oppose Citizens United. In a nation whose parties concur only in their mutual contempt, that startling bi-partisanship bodes well for a Constitutional amendment repealing the decision. I am eager to lend my time and talent to that effort.</p> <p>As a journalist with a M.A. in American history from UMass, I have written for Smithsonian, American Heritage, Yankee, and many other publications. I have also written four books on American history, published by Viking. These include "Sacco and Vanzetti," "Freedom Summer, and "Bread and Roses."</p> <p>I am now semi-retired and have time to work on this vital issue. I hope my skills in reearch and writing can help the Citizens Commission.</p>
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<b>Résumé or Summary of Qualifications Upload</b>	<a href="https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3282862/71887710/489161818/71887710_cv.docx">https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3282862/71887710/489161818/71887710_cv.docx</a>
<b>Political Party Affiliation, if any, over the previous five years</b>	Democratic
<b>City or Town where you reside</b>	ABINGTON
<b>Employment Status</b>	Employed
<b>Occupation</b>	freelance writer
<b>Employer</b>	Seven Stories Press -- current book contract

## BRUCE WATSON



## WRITING EXPERIENCE

July 1998 to present     **FREELANCE WRITER:** Wrote five books, two e-books, and numerous feature articles, humorous essays, and book reviews for *Smithsonian*, *American Heritage*, *Reader's Digest*, the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, Boston Globe, San Francisco Chronicle, and other publications.

## EDUCATION

### UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST, MA

M.A. in American History, 1995

M.Ed. in Elementary Education, specializing in Math, Science, and Instructional Technology, 1990

### CALIFORNIA STATE UNIV., SAN FRANCISCO

Elementary Education credential, 1981.

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

B.A. in Journalism with high honors, 1976.

### POMONA COLLEGE, CLAREMONT, CA

creative writing, attended 1971-73.

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS:

*Light: A Radiant History from Creation to the Quantum Age*, Bloomsbury, February 2016

*Freedom Summer: The Savage Season That Made Mississippi Burn and Made America a Democracy*, Viking, June 2010.

*Sacco and Vanzetti: The Men, The Murders, and The Judgment of Mankind*, Viking, August 2007.

*Bread and Roses: Mills, Migrants, and The Struggle for the American Dream*, Viking, August 2005.

*The Man Who Changed How Boys and Toys Were Made*, Viking, October 2002.

Reviews of all of the above (from New York Times, Washington Post, The Nation, The New Yorker, The Economist, and other publications available upon request or in online newspaper archives.

### E-BOOKS:

*Jon Stewart: Beyond the Moments of Zen*, New Word City, Fall 2012

*Stephen Colbert: Beyond Truthiness*, New Word City, Spring 2014

**ARTICLES:**

"Book Review: Books About Martin Luther King," San Francisco Chronicle, January 11, 2013.

"Book Review: *Private Empire: Exxon Mobil and American Power*, San Francisco Chronicle, April 29, 2012.

"Book Review: Watergate: A Novel," San Francisco Chronicle, February 20, 2012.

"Book Review: *Tolstoy: A Russian Life*," San Francisco Chronicle, December 4, 2011.

"Presence of Mind: Crossing the Color Line," Smithsonian, October 2011.

"Book Review: *American Anthrax*, San Francisco Chronicle, Sept 11, 2011.

"Book Review: *1493*, San Francisco Chronicle, August 14, 2011.

"Book Review: *The Greater Journey*, San Francisco Chronicle, May 21, 2011.

"The President and the Lunatic," American Heritage, Spring 2011.

"Book Review: *Colonel Roosevelt*," San Francisco Chronicle, December 5, 2010.

"Book Review: *American Dreams*," San Francisco Chronicle, July 4, 2010.

"Freedom Summer's Youthful Revolution," American Heritage, Summer 2010.

"Book Review: *The Eyes of Willie McGee*," Los Angeles Times, May 16, 2010.

"World's Unlikeliest Bestseller," (Guinness Book of World Records), Smithsonian, August 2005.

"Big!" (Pop artist James Rosenquist), Smithsonian, January 2004.

Three full-length features for Smith Alumnae Quarterly, 2003-4

"George Catlin's Obsession," Smithsonian, December 2002.

"Sounding the Alarm," (Rachel Carson and *Silent Spring*) Smithsonian, December 2002.

"A Rally to Remember," (Italy's Mille Miglia), Smithsonian, May 2002.

"Rising Sun" (New library in Alexandria, Egypt), Smithsonian, April 2002.

"Crackdown!" (The Palmer Raids), Smithsonian, February 2002.

"Tarzan the Eternal," (Edgar Rice Burroughs), Smithsonian, March 2001.

"The Dogs of War," Smithsonian, December 2000.

"The Judge Who Ruled Baseball," (Kenesaw Mountain Landis), Smithsonian, October 2000.

"What's Wrong With This Picture?" (Laguna Beach Festival of the Masters), Smithsonian, November 2000.

- "Welcome to Jungle Jim's," Smithsonian, October 2000.
- "The Amazing Author of Oz," (L. Frank Baum), Smithsonian, June 2000.
- "Squaring the Circle is no Piece of Pi," (Pi) Smithsonian, May 2000.
- "A Unique Home for Cutting-Edge Art," (MassMoCA), Smithsonian, March 2000.
- "You Gotta Remember, Eels are Weird," Smithsonian, February 2000.
- "It's More Than Just a Game," (Army-Navy football), Smithsonian, November 1999.
- "Book Review: *All You Need is Love: The Peace Corps and the Spirit of the 1960s*," Smithsonian, September 1999.
- "Science Makes a Better Lighthouse Lens," Smithsonian, August 1999.
- "Beyond the Blue: The Art of Maxfield Parrish," Smithsonian, July 1999.
- "Hello Boiys! Become an Erector Master Engineer!" Smithsonian, May 1999.
- "Concert for Pencilina and Sewer Flute," Smithsonian, April 1999.
- "Racing to Round Up Readers," Smithsonian, March 1999.
- "Lay it Up!" (curling), Smithsonian, February 1999.
- "Let's Get Dale to Play," (humor) Smithsonian, January 1999.
- "A Wizard's Scribe," (Edison's Electric Pen), Smithsonian, August 1998.
- "Hang 'em First, Try 'em Later," (Judge Roy Bean), Smithsonian, June 1998.
- "When I was Your Age. . ." (humor), Smithsonian, May 1998.
- "Jack London Followed His Muse Into the Wild," Smithsonian, February 1998.
- "This is Not Your Father's Automobile," (Ferraris), Smithsonian, December 1997.
- "Book Review: *How Proust Can Change Your Life*," Smithsonian, October 1997.
- "Keepers of the Word: The National Storytelling Festival," Smithsonian, March 1997.
- "If His Life Were a Short Story, Who'd Ever Believe It?" (O. Henry), Smithsonian, Jan., 1997.
- "Three's a Crowd, They Say, But Not at Coney Island," (History of Coney Island), Smithsonian, Dec. 1996.
- "How to Take On an Ailing Company And Make it Hum," (Gibson Guitars), Smithsonian, Aug. 1996.
- "Making History By Rising to New Heights," (Valmeyer, Illinois rebuilds after Mississippi floods), Smithsonian, June 1996.
- "Weeding Through the Great Books on the Road to Higher Learning," (humor) Smithsonian, April 1996. Reprinted in The National Times, August 1996.

"A Freedom Summer Activist Becomes a Math Revolutionary," (Bob Moses and the Algebra Project) Smithsonian, Feb. 1996.

"My Psychiatrist Tells Me I Have `Sci-fitis',. . . But He is One of Them," (humor) Smithsonian, August, 1995.

"It's Not What You Do That Counts, It's What You Belong To," (American clubs and associations) Smithsonian, April, 1995.

"A Harvest of Traditions," (Berkshire Harvest Festival) Berkshire Magazine, Autumn 1994.

"The New Peace Corps Steppes Out -- in Kazakhstan," Smithsonian, August, 1994.

"The Milkman Cometh," (on last local milkman) Berkshire Magazine, Summer 1994.

"We Couldn't Run, So We Hoped We Could Hide," (Bomb Shelters) Smithsonian, April 1994. Reprinted in Sacramento Bee, April 1994.

"In the Heyday of Men's Hats, Fashion Began at the Top," (Men's Hats), Smithsonian, March 1994.

"If You Want to Talk to Bruce, Please Hang Up and Write a Letter," (humor) Smithsonian, Dec. 1993.

"Jaysho, Moasi, Dibeh, Ayeshi, Hasclishnih, Beshlo, Shush, Gini," (Navajo Code Talkers of World War II), Smithsonian, August, 1993. Reprinted in Reader's Digest, Dec. 1993.

"The Topic for Today: How Much More Talk Radio Can You Take?" (humor) Smithsonian, July 1993.

"For Awhile, the Luddites Had a Smashing Success," (England's Luddites), Smithsonian, April 1993.

Ten articles on American history (Benjamin Franklin in France, The National Road, the Berlin Wall, The USS Nautilus, and others) for Cobblestone: The History Magazine for Young People, Oct. 1990 to Sept. 1992.

"This Here's all for Foot Tappin' and Grin Winnin'," (bluegrass festivals) Smithsonian, March 1993 (cover story).

"Can the Mailman Solve Our Energy Woes?" (humor), Smithsonian, Nov. 1992.

"No Jury Would Say the Label Didn't Warn Us," (humor), Smithsonian, May 1992.

"Salem's Dark Hour: Did the Devil Make Them Do It?" (Salem Witch Trials), Smithsonian, April 1992.

"Who Was It Wrote the Devil's Dictionary?" (Ambrose Bierce), Smithsonian, March 1992.

"Tom Swift, Nancy Drew and Pals All Had the Same Dad," (Edward Stratemeyer) Smithsonian, Oct. 1991

"How Hypertime Flies Whenyou'reontherun," (humor), Smithsonian, Oct. 1991.

"This Computer Serves from Soup to Nuts," (humor), Smithsonian, Dec. 1990.

"The Wired Classroom: American Education Goes On-Line," Phi Delta Kappan, October 1990.

"Teaching for Conceptual Change: Confronting Children's Experience," (on teaching elementary science), Phi Delta Kappan, May 1990. Shorter versions appeared in Learning and Instructor.

"Off the Air: If Proust Had a Camcorder," Video, March 1990.

"Hello, You Have Reached -- zzzzzzap!" (humor) Boston Globe, Feb. 10, 1990.

"Pilgrimage to Mallden," (parody of *Walden*) Los Angeles Times, June 3, 1989.

"Atacama Desert Provides Adventure for Lovers of Extremes," Boston Globe, January 12, 1988. Reprinted in San Francisco Examiner.

"In Search of a Few Good Notes," (Irish Music) Ireland of the Welcomes, March-April 1983.

"The \$64 Million Fan," (Sports Industry in California) California Business, January 1981.

"Getting the Chair," (short story) Scholastic Scope, Jan. 24, 1980.

"Fille Femme Just Whistles," (travel) Los Angeles Times, August 18, 1979.

"Tilting After Good Books in Cervantes Country," (travel) Los Angeles Times, Sept. 21, 1978.

"Intrigue on Night Train to Belgrade," (travel) Los Angeles Times, June 21, 1978.

## AWARDS

2010 – *Freedom Summer* – Top 100 Books of the Year, San Francisco Chronicle.

2007 – *Sacco and Vanzetti: The Men, The Murders, and The Judgment of Mankind* -- Mystery Writers of America Edgar Award nominee, True Fact/Crime; Washington Post, Top 10 Books of the Year.

2005 – *Bread and Roses: Mills, Migrants, and The Struggle for The American Dream* -- New York Public Library, 25 Books to Remember in 2005:

2003 – Best Science and Nature Writing, "Sounding the Alarm," Smithsonian.

2000 – ASCAP Deems Taylor Music Writing Award, "Concerto for Pencilina and Sewer Flute," Smithsonian.

## WORKSHOPS AND COLLOQUIA

November 2015 -- College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, keynote speaker on *Freedom Summer*, chosen as required summer reading for incoming freshmen.

August 2014 – Miami University of Ohio, keynote speaker on *Freedom Summer*, chosen as required summer reading for incoming freshmen.

August 2011: Louisiana State University, – keynote speaker on *Freedom Summer*, chosen as the LSU Honors College required summer reading for incoming freshmen.

Oct. 2010: Southern Festival of Books, Humanities Tennessee, featured presenter, *Freedom Summer*.

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April 2008: Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, panelist, "Moments That Changed America"