



**20th Heinz Award Recognizes *New Yorker* Cartoonist Roz Chast,
Whose Groundbreaking Graphic Memoir Brings Wit and Pathos
to Depiction of End-of-Life Care**

*Pioneering Cartoonist Honored for Her Unflinching Look at the Humor
and Complexities of Modern Life*

PITTSBURGH, April 23, 2015—In her 2014 graphic memoir “Can’t We Talk about Something More Pleasant?,” cartoonist and only child Roz Chast chronicles caring for her elderly parents in the final years of their lives with quivery drawings and hand-written text—and with searing honesty and wrenching humor.

Today, the Heinz Family Foundation named Ms. Chast the recipient of the 20th Heinz Award in the Arts and Humanities category. The recipient in each category receives an unrestricted cash award of \$250,000.

Ms. Chast, a best-selling and prolific illustrator and cartoonist, is known for finding humor in the anxieties, insecurities and neuroses of everyday modern life. More than 1,200 of Ms. Chast’s cartoons have graced the pages of *The New Yorker*, dating back to 1978 when she was a recent college graduate. One of the first female cartoonists to be published there—and one of the youngest—Ms. Chast brought a unique style markedly different than anything the magazine published previously.

Since then, her illustrations have appeared in *Scientific American*, *Harvard Business Review*, *Mother Jones*, *Redbook* and a variety of other outlets. She has also published multiple collections of her own cartoons and illustrated several children’s books.

“Roz Chast’s work is accessible, thought-provoking and filled with humanity. Her courageous, honest account of navigating her parents’ later years blended humor, artistry and heart-felt emotion. Through that work she shed new light on our society’s complicated relationship with aging while simultaneously defining a new genre of graphic memoir,” said Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation. “She is a cartoonist, illustrator and writer whose mastery lies in helping us to laugh at our human foibles, to see that we are not alone in our struggles, and to frame the challenges we face in fresh new ways.”

In “Can’t We Talk about Something More Pleasant?,” Ms. Chast details the realities of end-of-life care—from facing the tragic effects of dementia to dealing with the high costs of elder care to managing her own personal feelings of guilt, exhaustion and love. The book provides an unflinching look at the increasingly common struggles faced by adult children caring for their parents in their final years. It was a finalist for the nonfiction 2014 National Book Award and, in March 2015, won the National Book Critics Circle Award for autobiography, the first graphic novel to ever do so.

“‘Can’t We Talk about Something More Pleasant?’ was the most personal work I’ve ever done, documenting the very emotional experience I went through with my parents,” said Ms. Chast. “I believe we can all do a better job in this country of taking care of our elderly. And, when we talk about a problem instead of avoiding it, we can help solve it.”

Established to honor the memory of the late U.S. Senator John Heinz, the 20th Heinz Awards this year recognize those who have made significant contributions in five distinct areas of great importance to Senator Heinz: Arts and Humanities; Environment; Human Condition; Public Policy; and Technology, the Economy and Employment.

In addition to Roz Chast, the 20th Heinz Awards honored the following individuals:

- **Environment: Frederica Perera, DrPH, Ph.D., New York, N.Y.**
Dr. Perera, environmental health researcher at Columbia University, is being recognized for her pioneering research and advocacy efforts on the effects of air pollutants on the health of children in the pre- and postnatal periods.
- **Human Condition: (co-recipients) William McNulty and Jacob Wood, Team Rubicon, Los Angeles, Calif.**
Messrs. McNulty and Wood, founders of Team Rubicon, are being recognized for their leadership in creating a purposeful way for returning veterans to continue their service by engaging them in lifesaving global disaster relief efforts.
- **Public Policy: Aaron Wolf, Ph.D., Corvallis, Ore.**
Dr. Aaron Wolf, geoscientist and professor at Oregon State University, is being recognized for spearheading a transformative approach to water disputes emphasizing cooperation over conflict.
- **Technology, the Economy and Employment: Sangeeta Bhatia, M.D., Ph.D., Cambridge, Mass.**
Dr. Bhatia, bioengineer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), is being recognized for her seminal work in tissue engineering, including the first cultivation of liver cells outside the human body.

Winners will receive their awards at a ceremony in Pittsburgh on May 13, 2015.

Now in its 20th year, the Heinz Awards has recognized 123 individuals and awarded more than \$21 million to the honorees. For more information about awardees visit <http://heinzawards.net/2015>.

EDITORS/REPORTERS: To obtain photos of Roz Chast or any of the other recipients, please contact Abby Manishor at amanishor@burness.com or 917-539-3308.

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About the Heinz Awards

Established by Teresa Heinz in 1993 to honor the memory of her late husband, U.S. Senator John Heinz, the Heinz Awards celebrates the accomplishments and spirit of the Senator by recognizing the extraordinary achievements of individuals in the areas of greatest importance to him. The awards, administered by the Heinz Family Foundation, recognize individuals for their contributions in the areas of Arts and Humanities; Environment; Human Condition; Public Policy; and Technology, the Economy and Employment. Nominations are submitted by invited experts, who serve anonymously, and are reviewed by an independent panel of jurors appointed by the Heinz Family Foundation. The jury makes recommendations to the Board of Directors, which subsequently selects the Award recipients. For more information on the Heinz Awards, visit heinzawards.net.

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