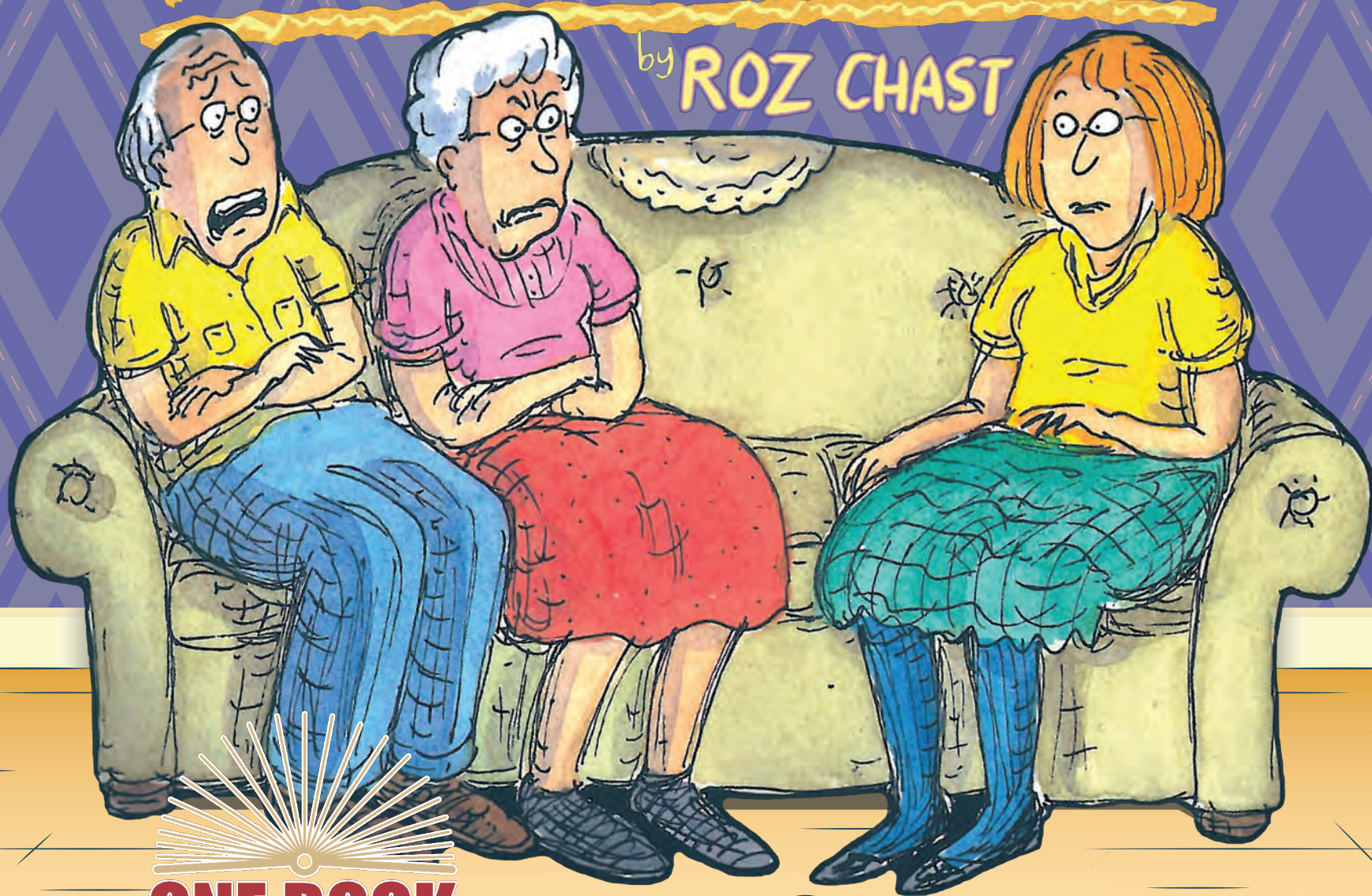



OFFICIAL 2015 ONE BOOK SELECTION

Can't we talk about something more **PLEASANT?**

by **ROZ CHAST**




ONE BOOK
ONE MESA COUNTY

THE DAILY
SENTINEL
GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO



Mesa County
PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

KKCO 11 NEWS
KNOW MORE.



FOR COMPLETE EVENT INFORMATION VISIT GUIDES.MESACOUNTYLIBRARIES.ORG/ONEBOOK



MEET THE
AUTHOR...

ROZ CHAST

Cartoonist Roz Chast is a brilliant interpreter of the everyday. Her cartoons depict neuroses, hilarity, angst and domesticity and are loaded with words, objects and patterns. More than 1,000 of them have been printed in *The New Yorker* since 1978, and she has published nine collections of her work.

Roz Chast is known for her cast of recurring characters—generally hapless but relatively cheerful “everyfolk.” In her cartoons, she addresses the issues of our time: guilt, anxiety, aging, families, friends, money, real estate and, as she would say, “much, much more!”

The editor of *The New Yorker*, David Remnick, has called her “the magazine’s only certifiable genius.” She collaborated with Steve Martin on the children’s book *The Alphabet from A to Y with Bonus Letter Z!*

Her children’s book, *Too Busy Marco*, was published in 2010 and was followed by the sequel, *Marco Goes to School*, in 2012. Her books for adults include *The Party*,

After You Left; *Theories of Everything: Selected, Collected, and Health-Inspected Cartoons*, a 25 year retrospective; and *What I Hate*:

From A to Z. She has illustrated a book with songwriter Stephen Merritt called *101 Two-Letter Words* about the two-letter words allowed in the game Scrabble.

Chast grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y. She received a BFA in 1977 from Rhode Island School of Design with studies in graphic design and painting, but returned to the cartooning which she had begun in high school.

Less than two years out of college, she was added to the 40 or so artists under contract to *The New Yorker*, which has continually published her work for 33 years, from black and white cartoons to color spreads, back pages and covers.

In addition, she has provided cartoons and editorial illustrations for almost 50 magazines and journals from *Scientific American* to the *Harvard Business Review* to *Mother Jones*. She has lectured widely and received several prestigious awards, including honorary degrees from Pratt Institute and the Art Institute of Boston. In 2013 she was inducted as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Roz Chast lives in Connecticut with her family and several parrots.

...AND NOW THE BOOK

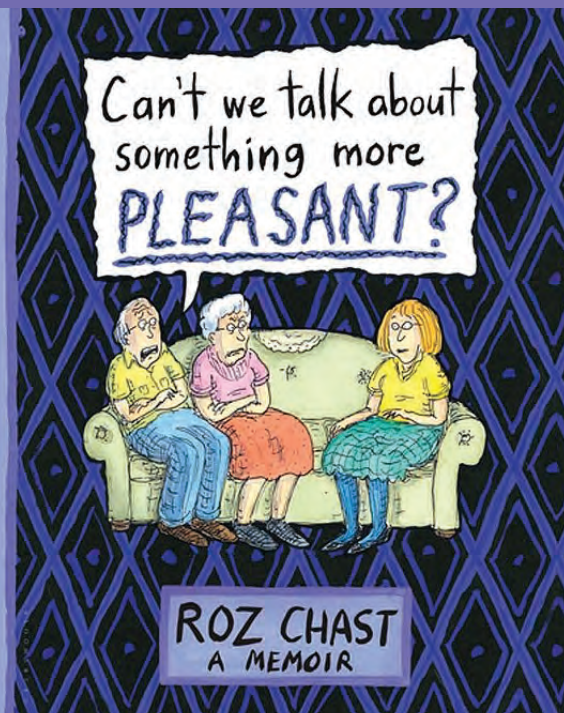
For her first memoir, cartoonist Roz Chast shares the story of her aging parents in a way only she can. Using her signature wit and artistic style, Chast details the final years of her parents’ lives through a combination of brilliant four-color cartoons, family photos, and documents.

Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant? deals with the life-altering loss of elderly parents, but Chast does not drown us in sorrows. Instead she allows us into her family’s lives, and we get to experience the ups and downs that come with a family dealing with an issue nobody wants to talk about: the fragility of old age.

The story starts when Roz’s mother, Elizabeth, falls from a ladder while trying to dig out an item from the family junk closet. The accident leaves Roz as the family matriarch, who must now take responsibility of caring for her parents. As the story evolves, we see an only child cope with family logistics, medical arrangements, and expenses the best she can.

Chast’s talents as a cartoonist, and most important, a storyteller, are on full display, and the resulting narrative is filled with both laughs and tears, and to Chast’s credit, leaves us feeling both comforted and empowered.

**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER!!
2014 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST!!**



PICK UP YOUR COPY OF CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT SOMETHING MORE PLEASANT? TODAY!

Get it in print at Mesa County Libraries. All you need is a library card, available at no charge at your nearest library location.





"Boy, this insert sure is informative! Make sure and turn to the back page for Kids' events."

BONUS PROGRAMS! (JUST FOR YOU!)



MOVIE SERIES

JAN 25 ★ FEB 1 ★ FEB 8 ★ FEB 15

CARTOONING DOCUMENTARIES

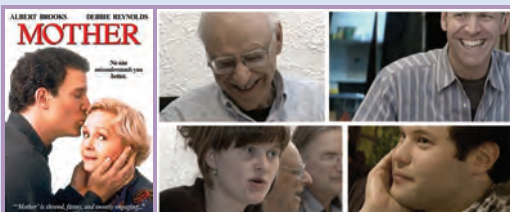
1:30 P.M., SUNDAY, FEB. 1, CENTRAL LIBRARY

Watch documentaries about the fascinating, rejection-laden world of creating cartoons and being a cartoonist. The several short documentaries featured delve into the creative process of Roz Chast and other cartoonists, present thoughts from *The New Yorker* cartoon editor Bob Mankoff, and offer a look ahead at a film in development featuring Roz Chast. All the documentaries will be introduced by commentary from Dr. Barry Laga, professor of English at Colorado Mesa University, who teaches Introduction to Film classes.

"MOTHER"

1:30 P.M., SUNDAY, FEB. 15, AVALON THEATRE

This 1996 movie starring Albert Brooks and Debbie Reynolds takes a truthful, amusing look at the adult mother-son dynamic. John Henderson (Brooks) is a successful writer in the midst of his second divorce. In an effort to understand his issues with women, John moves back in with his mother (Reynolds), occupying the same bedroom he had as a child.



Based on Paco Roca's comic of the same title, *Wrinkles* is an animated feature-length film for an adult audience. *Wrinkles* portrays the friendship between Emilio and Miguel, two aged gentlemen shut away in a care home. Martin Sheen and Matthew Modine star in this humorous and tender tale about growing older and facing new life challenges.

"WRINKLES"

1:30 P.M., SUNDAY, FEB. 8, CENTRAL LIBRARY

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Book discussions are hosted by One Book committee members and are open to the public at no charge. Share your thoughts about *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* and the issues it raises, or just listen to learn more about the book.

- PALISADE BRANCH ~ 10 A.M., SATURDAY, JAN 24
- CENTRAL LIBRARY ~ 6 P.M., WEDNESDAY, FEB 4
- DE BEQUE BRANCH ~ 11 A.M., SATURDAY, FEB 7
- ORCHARD MESA BRANCH ~ 2 P.M., SATURDAY, FEB 7
- CLIFTON BRANCH ~ 1 P.M., TUESDAY, FEB 10
- FRUITA BRANCH ~ 10 A.M., SATURDAY, FEB 14
- COLLBRAN BRANCH ~ 7 P.M., THURSDAY, FEB 19

EVENT SCHEDULE

ALL EVENTS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT NO CHARGE

JAN 22 ~ UNDERSTANDING THE FAMILY YOU HAVE

6 p.m., Thursday, Central Library Community Room

Have you ever wished you were an only child? Or one of seven? Stressful times are hard on families, small and large. Family dynamics are complicated, but we can understand them better with the help of our panel: Lyn Allen, Ph.D., psychologist; Brenda Wilhelm, Ph.D., sociologist; and Kayren Goss, long-time nurse for the elderly.

JAN 25 ~ MOVIE SERIES

1:30 p.m., Sunday, Central Library Community Room

Explore the themes of *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* through film. Visit the One Book website or your local branch for movie description and title.

JAN 27 ~ YOUR BODY, BRAIN, AND WELL-BEING

6 p.m., Tuesday, Central Library Community Room

Being older is the opposite of being dead. Get some new ideas on rejuvenating yourself after retirement from Dr. Rick Walker, retired internist; Pat Solbach, guide for Powderhorn's Young at Heart program; Judy Tirpack, Bookcliff Bridge Club; and Diane Barger, RSVP Volunteer Coordinator.

FEB 1 ~ MOVIE SERIES: CARTOONING DOCUMENTARIES

1:30 p.m., Sunday, Central Library Community Room

See description at left.

FEB 3 ~ TELL YOUR OWN STORY IN A CARTOON

6 p.m., Tuesday, Central Library Community Room

Blueswade Cartoons illustrator Bryan Wade and local artists/cartoonists Ramana Konantz and Rebecca Woods show you how to translate your ideas to cartoons. Get tips from the pros on how to lay out a cartoon strip, and try it yourself in this hands-on class.

FEB 5 ~ ART AND JOURNALING TO HEAL THE HEART

6 p.m., Thursday, Central Library Community Room

Ease the burdens of your life by practicing some creative therapy. Paintbrush and pen can be useful tools, as we learn from our experts: Joni Beckner, art therapist, ArtLight Therapy and Studios; and Lyn Fraser, teacher, writer, and hospice chaplain.

FEB 8 ~ MOVIE SERIES: "WRINKLES"

1:30 p.m., Sunday, Central Library Community Room

See description at left.

FEB 12 ~ WE HAVE TO TALK: THE CONVERSATIONS

THAT SURROUND A PERSON'S LAST YEARS

6 p.m., Thursday, Central Library Community Room

Just like we all know that we need an updated will (but don't have one), we know we have to talk between loved ones about all the issues as a family member's health fails. Here to help us make these talks easier are Janet Seeley, M.D., Ph.D, lecturer and facilitator at Late Life Planning; and Kerri Mosinski, Chief Clinical Officer/Senior Vice President of HopeWest.

FEB 15 ~ CINEMA AT THE AVALON: "MOTHER"

1:30 p.m., Sunday, Avalon Theatre, 7th and Main Street

See description at left.

FEB 17 ~ CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT THE BOOK NOW?

Event Sponsored by *The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*

6 p.m., Tuesday, Central Library Community Room

A cartoon book? Really? And a cartoon book chosen as a National Book Award finalist? Perspectives on *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* come from our literary panelists Dr. William Wright, English professor at CMU; Peter Derk, librarian and graphic novels expert at High Plains Library District in Greeley; Rachel Sauer, journalist at *The Daily Sentinel* and occasional cartoonist; and Mike Blackburn, mortician and past owner of Callahan-Edfast Mortuary.

FEB 21 ~ ROZ CHAST AUTHOR PRESENTATION

7 p.m., Saturday, Avalon Theatre, 7th and Main Street

Hear author and cartoonist Roz Chast talk about *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* There is no charge for this event. Doors open at 6 p.m.



STEERING COMMITTEE

ANGIE ALLEN, CHAIR

LOIS BECKER

DONNA BETTENCOURT

ESTHER BROUGHTON

BETSY BRODAK

LYNN SILIPIGNI CONNAWAY

BETSEY DICK

TJ GERLACH

DAVID GOE

RACHEL HANSON

LAURA METTAUER

JANINE RIDER

BARBARA ROBERTS

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

BARNES & NOBLE

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION

DUFFORD, WALDECK,
MILBURN & KROHN

FRIENDS OF THE
MESA COUNTY LIBRARIES

LORI HENRICKSEN

LINDA WILSON

Contact One Book through Mesa
County Libraries, 970-243-4442, or visit
www.mesacountylibraries.org.



**Mesa County
PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION**

THE DAILY
SENTINEL
GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

**KKCO
11 NEWS**
KNOW MORE.

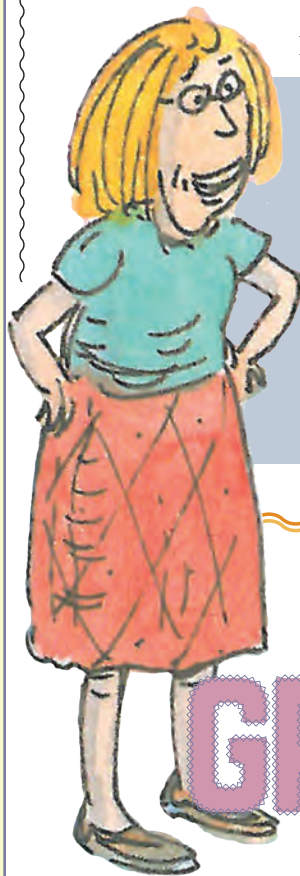
KIDS' EVENTS

NEW THIS YEAR!! ★★

When she's not busy writing critically acclaimed memoirs and illustrating cartoons for *The New Yorker*, One Book author Roz Chast also writes children's books. Two such books center around Marco the parrot, a character inspired by Chast's own pet bird, a blue-streaked lory.

To celebrate Chast's author visit to Grand Junction, Mesa County Libraries are hosting story times and events for kids around the theme "A Parrot In The Family." Central Library staff will read two of Chast's children's books, *Too Busy Marco* and *Marco Goes To School*, during the week leading up to Chast's author presentation at the Avalon Theatre on Feb. 21.

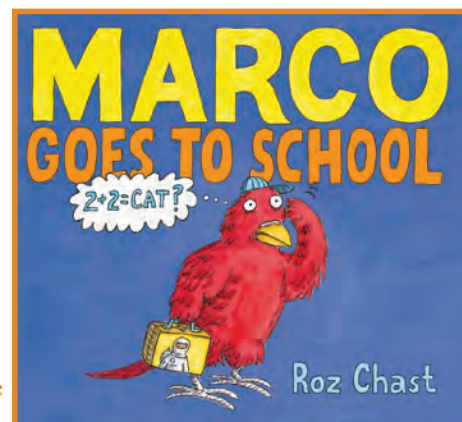
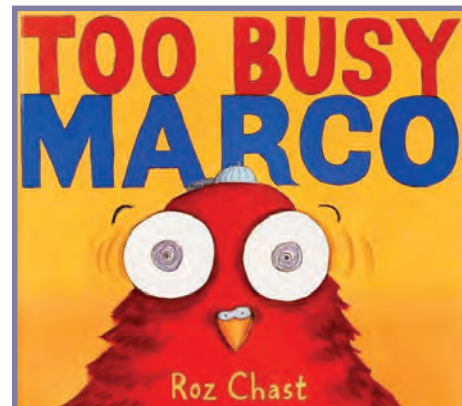
Bring the entire family to the library and celebrate One Book author Roz Chast's work together.



STORY TIMES

- FEBRUARY 17 ~ 10 A.M., TUESDAY
- FEBRUARY 17 ~ 6:30 P.M., TUESDAY
- FEBRUARY 19 ~ 10 A.M., THURSDAY
- FEBRUARY 20 ~ 10 A.M., FRIDAY
- FEBRUARY 21 ~ 10 A.M., SATURDAY

CENTRAL LIBRARY CHILDREN'S AREA



SO WHY DID WE CHOOSE A GRAPHIC MEMOIR?

In its eleventh year the One Book, One Mesa County committee decided to do something it has never done before: select a graphic memoir.

With *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?*, One Book participants can discuss the popular and emotionally engaging graphic novel genre.

As both the writer and an artist, Roz

Chast combines her skills beautifully in a book that transcends genre and is a perfect example of visual literacy. Expressing her thoughts through both words and illustration, Chast creates a stunning impression that lingers.

Graphic novels engage both reluctant and gifted readers and also appeal to new audiences. Graphic novels also don't sacrifice story; rather, they enhance it through visuals.

Chast shares her full creative force with

readers and rewards them at the end of *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* with a raw glimpse into her own emotions. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the last several pages are a heartbreaking tome of a loved one's last breaths.

The One Book committee selects books that enrich the reader experience, expand the community's reading interest, and open the door to new audiences. *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* certainly does the trick.

One last thing...

CARTOON YOURSELF!!

Stop by our photo booth at the Central Library during any official One Book, One Mesa County program and get your picture taken. We will run your picture through a number of filters and turn it into a cartoon which will then be shared on the library's Facebook page or emailed directly to you.



for complete event information visit guides.mesacountylibraries.org/onebook