



2015 Yearend Letter from Rusty

The big news this year is that Hong's life will be dramatized on the world-wide radio program Unshackled! Hong's story will be released to over 3000 radio stations beginning January 24th, in just a few days. Literally millions of people will learn about our wonderful Hong! Info attached tells you how you can listen to the on-air program, or more conveniently on line; also links to Hong's blog and scholarships in her name.

This came about when I heard a story on Unshackled in July about a lady from China who happened to be from the city where Hong went to college and taught English for six years before coming to the states. My first thought was to get a copy of that program in Chinese to send to Hong's mother in China.

That didn't work out since it wouldn't be translated into Chinese for another year, but one thing led to another, and the director of the Unshackled program, after learning about Hong and her tragic death from my tribute letter to Hong last year, decided she wanted to do a program on Hong's life in China...and coming to the U.S. Family and friends were with me in Chicago in October for two recording sessions.

As promised at Hong's funeral and memorial services, I joined Hong's sister Pushan and her family for a trip to China in April to visit Hong's mother Fan Qi to celebrate her 90th birthday. It was truly a wonderful trip and as easy for me as traveling with Hong since Pushan did all the planning and arranging. Mama was recovering from a hospital stay but was and continues to do well even in her 90s as she seems to have much of Hong's boundless energy.

Grandson Caleb stayed with me a month before family joined him late in June for his wedding to Kaytie in Witchita, Kansas. Before that, I enjoyed a few days fishing with growing up friend Ed who remarked when the fish were biting particularly well: "Wouldn't Hong enjoy being here for this "catching" experience!" Hong didn't enjoy fishing so much as she enjoyed catching. I also went to my Coleman High School reunion in July. I was surprised how many "old" people were there. I'm with Bob Newhart who in denial often excluded himself by saying, "no, not me". Being with Hong and her university/student environment no doubt kept me thinking young; and long ago I joined an Aussie friend in counting backward from a certain age, but by now that is getting ridiculous.

Chris and his family were with me at Christmas; and our family Christmas was at Ken's December 26th. We actually had three Christmases counting being at Caleb and Kaytie's first home in Eau Claire; then my home Christmas day. A Chinese lady, a visiting scholar at UW Stout, and her son and mother joined us Christmas Day. Family agreed their visit was the highlight of our day...a great reminder that **CHRIST**mas is about **J**esus, **O**thers and only then **Y**ou...which spells real **JOY!**

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Helpful Bible verses:

- I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved... John 10:9 (not the door of my church, or any church, but the door which is Jesus!)
- For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8,9
- For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23
- For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23
- But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8
- For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Romans 10:13

HONG ROST LIFE STORY TO BE DRAMATIZED

The life story of Hong Rost, to some family, mentor or colleague, but to all a friend, will be dramatized live on the radio program "Unshackled" in two segments airing the weeks of January 24th – January 30th and January 31st – February 6th, 2016.

Hong's life story is ultimately a love story; a story of her love for others and their love in return.

"UNSHACKLED!" is broadcast around the world more than 15,000 times each week on over 3,000 radio outlets. In addition to the English broadcast, it is translated and re-dramatized in *Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Romanian, Polish, Korean, Japanese, Farsi, Albanian, Greek, Macedonian, Turkish, Portuguese, and Mandarin.*

Literally millions of people around the world will learn about our wonderful Hong!

Go to www.unshackled.org and click "Radio Log" to find a station and broadcast time specifically for Hong's programs; or

Click "Listen Online" during the weeks noted for "this week's true life story"; or later "2016 Archive" to conveniently select Hong's programs and listen after the above dates. 2016 Archive link: www.unshackled.org/listen_16e.html

Hong is sadly missed since her tragic auto accident June 19, 2014, but lives on in the hearts of many; and is remembered in her blog and scholarships...

Her life... <https://globaledblog.wordpress.com/>

UW Stout... <http://www.uwstout.edu/oie/scholarships/rost.cfm>

UW La Crosse <http://www.uwlfoundation.org/content/s/hong-rost-fund>

Please pass this on to others. If you are reading in print and would like it electronically, email me at

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Many thanks, Rusty Rost