

**VOICES From THE NEW YORKERS**

**When Tokyo Was Irish**  
by Dan McDonald

It's that time of year again. In Chicago, they dye the river green. Here in New York, the city has hosted a St. Patrick's Day Parade since 1762. For one day a year, everyone is Irish. If you try the corned beef and cabbage, I recommend topping it off with mustard and vinegar. And yes, Guinness does just taste better in Ireland, but still give it a try at the local pub, preferably one with live Irish music.



Much lesser known than these American traditions, but no less fascinating, is the history of the Irish in Japan. The first record of an Irish person visiting the country dates back to 1704, when a lost Dutch East India Company sailor came ashore in Kyushu. In the Meiji period, Irish priests and nuns spread their Catholic faith and taught in the newly opened country. During this time, writers Francis Brinkley and Lafcadio Hearn, both of whom lived in Japan, shared the still exotic wonders of their adopted homeland with the outside world. It wasn't until 1957, however, that Ireland and Japan established diplomatic relations, and another 16 years until the Emerald Isle opened an embassy in Tokyo.

Since 1992, the Irish community and those who love Irish culture in Tokyo have held their own St. Patrick's Day Parade in Omotesando. Complete with bagpipers, marching bands, traditional dancers, and crowds of people decked out in green, the Irish community in this far off land has come a long way since that lost sailor over 300 years ago. Maybe someday they'll get to dye the Sumida River green.

(Dan is a newspaper columnist, editor and Japanese translator. Interested readers can contact him at dan9605@hotmail.com)

# THE JAPAN VOICE

## COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



Mr. Beyer with his wife Wilma and his Akron Swimming team (at Rockefeller Center in 2007)

自覆面の下は教師の顔  
デストロイヤー  
イチバロイン!

**Popular Ex-Pro Wrestler Richard 'The Destroyer' Beyer Dies at 88**

Richard Beyer, a former American pro wrestler who was popular in Japan in the 1960s and 1970s, died at his home in Akron, the outskirts of Buffalo, New York, on March 7th. He was 88.



He used to come to Nassau County, Long Island for the annual high-school swimming competition as a coach for Akron high-school. He was a teacher until 1997. He coached swimming for over 30 years after he retired.

He graduated with a Masters Degree in education at Syracuse University. Then he began his wrestling career. The Destroyer, as the WWA World Heavyweight champion, came to Japan for the first time in 1963. NTV drew a high TV rating for his title match against Rikidozan. He also appeared on TV show called Uwasa No Channel

(NTV) and became very popular in the 70s.

He used to come to Japan every July to attend the wrestling competition for kids in Minato-ku, Tokyo for coaching. He visited affected area of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 at the age of 81 to encourage people who suffered.

20 years ago, I interviewed him at his home in Akron. "I'll show you something interesting, come follow me." He guided me to a room with big closet. He opened the shelf. The shelf was filled with dozens of his white masks folded nicely, with orange stripe of Syracuse University and red, blue, and said "Pro wrestling fit me, and I fit pro wrestling too. If I am born again, I will be a wrestler again." (Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Chikako Iwasaki)

**100 Yen Shop "DAISO" has opened a new shop in Queens**



Beautiful original Minoyaki plate imported from Japan sells for only \$4.50 in the kitchen corner

DAISO opened their first shop in east coast at the first floor of Skyview Center in Flushing, New York (40-24 College Point Blvd) on Friday 8th. Door opened at 10 AM and there was an opening ceremony with Taiko performance. First 100 customers, when you buy something at the shop, got a free gift bag. There also a raffles on that day. Some lucky, winner were able to get iPad mini, Apple watch or gift voucher. On Saturday 9th from 10AM, free gift bag service was held as well. The shop opened at 8AM.

DAISO already has several shops in west coast including Houston. The one in Queens is the very first shop in east coast. Relo Redac, Inc. dealt with the property for this New York shop. It's about 4109 square feet and they have daily use goods, toys, confectionaries, house hold goods and beauty products. Most of the items are 1 dollar 99 cents. For more details daisoglobal.com (Ryoichi Miura / Translated by Chikako Iwasaki)



**Tate Hatoryu NY Dojo to celebrate 5th Anniversary at Japan Society on April 28.**

Tate Hatoryu NY Dojo to celebrate the 5th Anniversary on Sunday April 28th at Japan Society. Kyo Kasumi, TATE Hatoryu NY Producer says that they wouldn't be able to welcome this day without the diligent students, the parents that support them, and the warm support they received from everyone. "We are very thankful for the bottom of our hearts and are very happy to celebrate this 5th anniversary milestone together."

From the elementary school students, professional actors/performers to the students that joined this year, all of them will be there. Each and every person faced their own challenges and overcame their obstacles. That what she said.

Hatoryu NY Dojo's first production short film "First Samurai in New York" was selected by 12 Film Festivals and won four awards last year. Thus, they will create a "Hatoryu Red Carpet" area with a special dress code for the party. <http://www.tate-hatoryuny.com/> VENUE: Japan Society, Auditorium, 333 East 47th St.(b/t 1st & 2nd Aves), 10017: Door Opens at 12:30PM, Showcase Starts at 1:00PM, Reception Party at 2:00PM-4:00PM, Dress code : Cocktail Attire / Cocktail Semiformal Regular Ticket : Adult \$50, Child (6-12 years old) \$40, 5& Under Free. (Ryoichi Miura)



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5% of profit through your purchase will be donated for recovery from Earthquake disaster in Tohoku (directly donated to Ishinomaki City in Miyagi Prefecture).

Apply for **HAIKU Contest!**

Haiku is a poem following the syllabic pattern of 5-7-5.

- Haiku in English may consider the following as a model:  
Across the still lake  
through upcurls of morning mist  
The cry of a loon  
- O. Mabson Southard
- HOW to APPLY  
Website: <http://www.artofhaiku.org>  
E-mail : [HaikuGrandPrix@gmail.com](mailto:HaikuGrandPrix@gmail.com)  
7 Japanese, 7 English and 7 "Under 18 Div." haiku will be selected each month.  
For more detail, go to <http://www.artofhaiku.org>
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And the back numbers, too!!

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