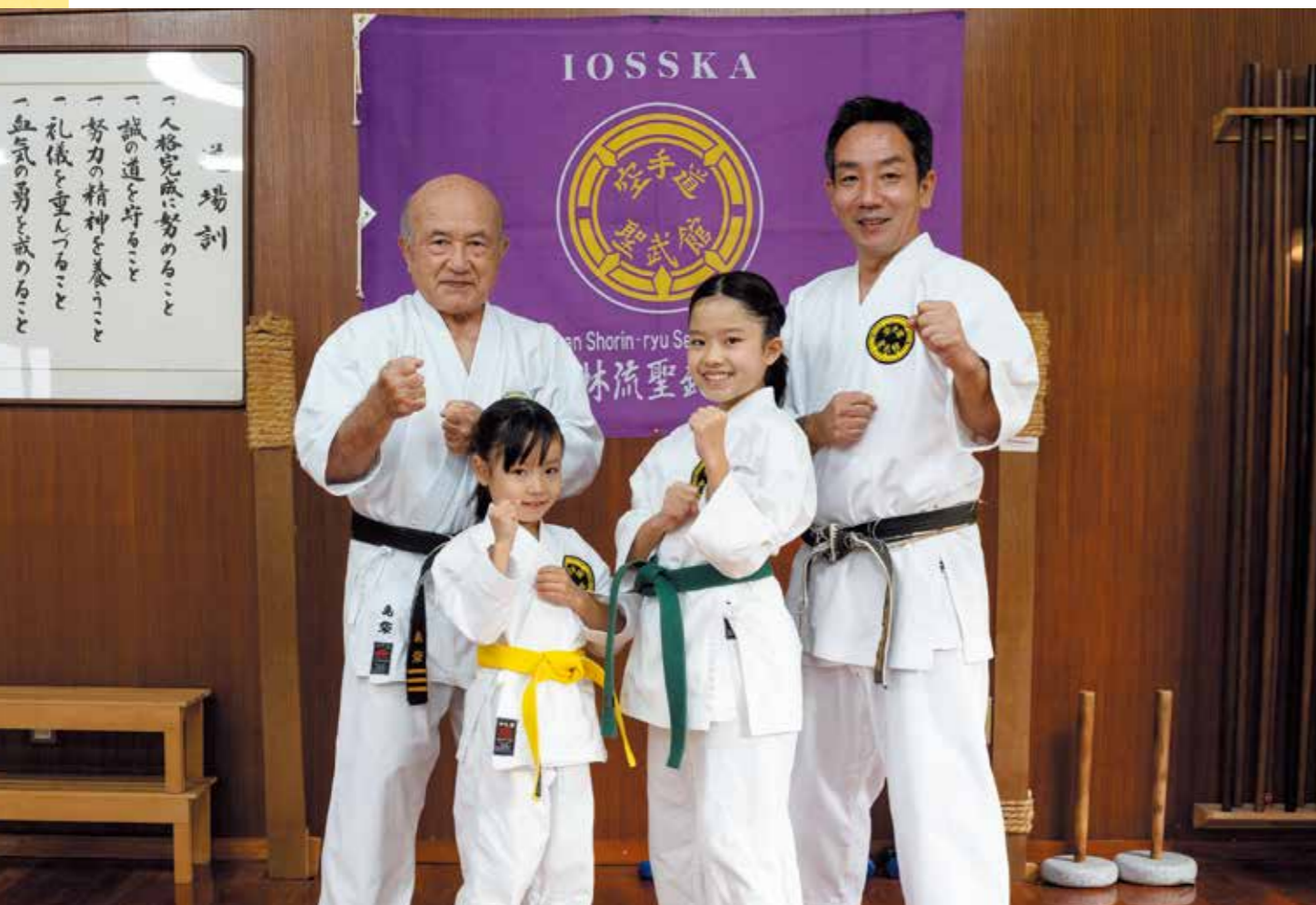




# 町民インタビュー *Voices of our citizens*

町内で広く活躍している個人にスポットを当て、北谷町との「かかわり・魅力・これからの目標と展望」について、写真を交えて紹介します。北谷町の暮らしについて、ありのままの声を反映させました。

Focusing on vibrant and active local townspeople, here we introduce their "relationships, charms, future goals and prospects" with Chatan Town, through their own words and photographs.



## 空手をもっと身近に、そして世界に！

島袋 善保さん／善俊さん／由彩さん／日南彩さん

(国際沖縄少林流聖武館本部道場)

空手道場「国際沖縄少林流聖武館」を創設して61年が経ちました。ご存知の通り、空手は沖縄発祥の武道で、沖縄が世界に誇れる伝統文化だと思っています。これまで日本国内だけでなく、北米、欧州、アジアなど約20カ国で空手の普及指導活動を行い、毎年世界中から訪れる空手愛好家の受け入れもしています。グローバル化が進む社会でももちろん良い面もたくさんありますが、伝統文化が間違っただけで伝わってしまうこともあるのが残念です。もともとあった文化が正しく伝わるように意識していきたいです。

現在私たちは道場で指導を行うだけでなく、敬老会に招待してもらい演舞を披露したり、空手を地域の生涯スポーツとして広める活動もしています。沖縄の文化や心を、少林流の伝統空手を通して多くの人たちに伝えていきたいです。まずは、空手が町の中学校の必修科目になったら嬉しいですね。



## Bringing Karate closer to our citizens, and to the world!

Mr. Zenpo Shimabukuro / Mr. Zenshun / Ms. Yua / Ms. Hinami (International Okinawa Shorin-ryu Seibukan Main Dojo)

It's been 61 years since our karate dojo "International Okinawa Shorin-ryu Seibukan" was established. As you may or may not know, karate is a martial art that originated in Okinawa, and is a traditional culture that we Okinawans can proud to be the world. So far, we have done karate education not only in Japan, but also in North America, Europe, Asia, and around 20 other countries. There are many positive aspects to globalization, but it is a pity that traditional culture is sometimes misrepresented and passed on incorrectly. I try to be conscious in that regard so our original culture is correctly translated.

Currently, we are not only teaching at the dojo, but we also get invited to perform at the Keirokai (Senior Citizens Society), and we are also working to spread karate as a lifelong sport in the local community. My goal is to spread the culture and spirit of Okinawa to many people as possible through traditional Shorin-ryu karate. As a first step, I would be more than happy to see karate taught in our town's junior high schools.

## 北谷町に再び活気を！

國場 勝子さん

(元北谷町民生委員・児童委員協議会会長、人権擁護委員)

宜野湾市役所を退職後、北谷町男女共同参画会議委員、民生委員・児童委員、そして人権擁護委員として15年間町の住民福祉に携わってまいりました。

主任児童委員の任命を受け、地域の学校と連携をとりながら、課題を抱える子どもを見守り、相談にのってきました。担当する中学校の一部の生徒が荒れていた時期は、苦しい思いもしました。私は何もできずに、ただ見ていただけ。ですが、毎日足を運ぶうちに子どもたちが心を開いてくれて、「すぐに結果を求めないことが大事」ということを実感しました。

人権擁護委員としても、様々な相談を受けてきました。笑顔で帰って行くその姿に、安堵の心を感じました。

北谷町はとても住みやすく魅力あふれる町ですが、以前と比べて若者に活気がないように感じています。コロナ禍というのものもあるのかもしれませんが、次世代を担う若者が気軽に立ち寄ることのできる場所が増えたら、もっと町が元気になると思っています。

## Revitalize the energy in Chatan!

Ms. Katsuko Kokuba (Former Chatan Town Citizen Welfare Officer and Chairwoman of Children's Committee Council, Human Rights Volunteer)

After retiring from Ginowan City Office, as a member of the Gender Equality Council, the Welfare and Children's Committee, as well as a member of the Human Rights Commission, I have been involved in the welfare of our town's residents for 15 years. Later appointed as the chairwoman of the Children's Committee, through my position in cooperating with the schools I watched over our marginalized youth and gave them advice on certain issues.

When some of the youth from the junior high school I was in charge of was going through rough times, it was hard to watch, since I could only observe the situation. However, as days passed and my visits became more frequent on a daily basis, the children started to open up to me. I realized that it is important not to seek immediate results.

As a human rights volunteer I was also asked to assist in diverse ways. It was always reassuring to see the smiles return to my fellow townspeople.

Chatan is a very comfortable and attractive town to live in, but I feel that our youth are less active these days. Maybe we can blame it on the corona virus. I do believe that if there are more places for our next generation of youth to easily access and feel welcomed, our town will become an even more energetic place.



## 世界で勝負できる北谷町を、さらに盛り上げたい！

兼城 和彦さん(北谷町飲食業組合組合長)

北谷町を中心に5店舗の飲食店を経営しています。1991年に北谷町浜川で飲食店をスタートさせたことがきっかけとなりました。その頃にアメリカンビレッジ構想が始まり、プロデューサーから「挑戦してみないか？」と声をかけていただき、今の場所にダブルデッカーの2号店としてオープンしました。あれからもう30年以上経ちますが、これだけ長く続けていると3世代で来てくださるお客様もいて、嬉しいですね。そして、この店から巣立って独立していったスタッフも多くて、誇らしい気持ちで一杯です。

町は変化し続けています。まだまだ発展途上ですが、観光客も地元の人も外国人も集まる北谷町は、世界でも勝負できる町です。地域住民のニーズに寄り添い、前向きに取り組もうとする行政のおかげではないでしょうか。町は発展しつつも、美しい海を大切にするとともに北谷町の魅力のひとつです。自然を守りつつ、町全体がひとつのチームとなって、さらに良い町にしていきたいです。

## Make Chatan an even more exciting, global competitor to the world!

Mr. Kazuhiko Kaneshiro (Chief of Chatan Restaurant Association)

We run 5 restaurants mainly in Chatan Town known as the Double Decker group. In 1991, I started a restaurant in Hamagawa here in Chatan. Around that time, the American Village construction project was in the works, and the producer asked me, "Why don't you give it a shot?" That led to the second branch of our Double Decker being opened in our current location. It's been more than 30 years since then, and I'm happy to announce that we've had three generations of customers continue to frequent us for our services. I also have many staff members who left the restaurant to become independent business owners themselves, and I feel very proud of that.

Chatan continues to change. Although we're still developing as a town, Chatan is a place where tourists, locals, and foreigners come together making us a truly international town that can compete on the global stage. I want to thank our local government's willingness to take a proactive approach to meet the needs of local residents. One of the charms of Chatan is that it values and respects the beautiful ocean while developing as a town. I want to view our entire town as one big team, while we preserve nature and make this place an even better town for all of us.

