



**めざすは平成21年の新潟国体への出場**

バスケットボールを始めたのは勤務先の関東で交通事故に遭い入院していたころです。病院の体育館でたまたま練習を見に行ったのがきっかけでした。何度か見学するうちに一緒にやらないかと誘われ、それで「やってみようかな」という気持ちになりました。事故でかなり気分が落ち込んでいましたが、チームで一緒に練習するうちに、多くの友人もでき、これからの人生に対する勇気もわいてきました。その後、南魚沼に戻り障害者スポーツを支援する親睦団体「チャレンジ会」に入り、水泳も始めるようになりました。平泳ぎ、

# 素晴らしい自然が支えてくれる

HEART [こころ] 2

ふるさとでスポーツと陶芸に燃える



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キタムラ造花・生花店  
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「北村 洋成」



**老いも若きも祭りの成功を祈って**

私の好きな言葉に「ロウソクは我が身を削り人を照らす」があります。この言葉を聞いた時に「ああ、これは青年団の活動と同じだな」と思いました。「浦佐毘沙門堂裸押合大祭」(平成17年国指定無形民

俗文化財)は終了後、3月の引き継ぎを終えたら、翌月から一年がかりで準備に取り掛かります。その活動の中心となるのが浦佐多聞青年団です。OBである私も大祭委員会の一員として、寺院方や各所轄団体と連携しながら活動しています。茶髪やピアスを付



**ふるさとの自然にこだわっていきたい**

障害者スポーツの後を追うように始めたのが陶芸です。平成9年に瀬沼陶彩氏に師事し、以降作陶活動を続けています。平成12年には自宅に陶工房「山毘(さんび)」を開設し、念願の窯を開くことができました。途中何度も壁に

背泳ぎに続いて現在はクロールに挑戦しています。きたる平成21年開催予定の新潟国体にぜひ出場できるように練習に励んでいます。

当たり、もう止めようかとも思いましたが、県風展で農林水産大臣賞を受賞するなど、いろいろ賞をいただくことができ、それが大きな励みになりました。幸いにもここ南魚沼の土地は美しい自然に囲まれ、四季の移り変わりもはっきりしています。それぞれの季節の素晴らしいさが思う存分満喫できます。私の作品にも魚沼の風土や自然をテーマにしたものが多くあります。これからも「ふるさと」にこだわり、南魚沼の魅力を伝えられるよう、がんばりたいと思います。

陶芸・障害者スポーツ  
南魚沼市大月  
Kazuo Wakai  
「若井 一男」

Glorious nature encourages us. We devote ourselves to sports and ceramic art in our hometown.

*My goal is to participate in the National Athletic Meet at Niigata in 2009.*

I started playing basketball when I was hospitalized after a traffic accident in the Kanto region where I worked. I happened to see a training session at the gymnasium at the hospital. I had seen their training a few times when I was asked if I wanted to join them. I thought that I might be able to give it a try. Although I was depressed then due to my traffic accident, I made many friends through training on the team, and I could muster up my courage for my life. Afterwards, I came back to Minamiuonuma, joined the Challenge Association, which promotes sports for disabled people, and also started swimming. I am trying to learn free style after mastering the breaststroke and backstroke. I am striving to participate in the National Athletic Meet at Niigata in 2009.

*I would like to focus on nature in my hometown.*

I started ceramic art right after starting sports for disabled people. I started learning ceramic art from Mr. Tosai Senuma in 1997. Since then, I have been creating ceramics. I established the Sanbi ceramic workshop in my home in 2000 and have my own kiln, which I had longed for. I have encountered many challenges and thought of quitting many times. However, I was greatly encouraged by receiving awards such as the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries award at the prefectural exhibition called Kenpu-ten. Luckily, this land in Minamiuonuma is filled with impressive nature, and the characteristics of the four seasons are clear. You can fully enjoy the beauty of each season. Much of my work is the embodiment of the natural features of Minamiuonuma. I would like to keep focusing on my hometown and promote the charms of Minamiuonuma.

# よき伝統を守り未来を拓いていく

HEART [こころ] 1

浦佐毘沙門堂裸押合大祭を全国に発信したい



**皆でアイデアを出し合うことが大切**

南魚沼市については、合併したばかりなので、今のところはまだ「住所が変わった」程度の認識しかありませんが、これからは旧3町の個性がさまざまな形で生かされていくことが大切です。それがまた合併によるメリットになると思います。大和、六日町、塩沢のそれぞれの地域の住民が心をオープンにして、これまで暮らしてきたまちのよいところ、欠けているところを話し合い、互いに知恵をしほりアイデアを出していかなければなりません。住民全員が参加するまちづくり。その意味でも、もつと祭りの知名度を上げていきたいと考えています。何といっても「まち」の大切な文化遺産ですから。

We preserve good traditions while opening the way to the future. We would like to promote the Urasabishamondo-hadaka-oshiai grand festival to all of Japan.

*Everyone from the young to the elderly wish for the success of the festival*

One of my favorite sentences is "Candles light others by shortening their own lives." When I heard these words, I thought that this is the same concept as the activities of youth organizations. When the Urasabishamondo-hadaka-oshiai grand festival (designated as an intangible cultural property by the Japanese government in 2005) is finished, we turn everything over in March to those who will be running the festival for the next year, starting preparation in April. The preparation process takes a whole year. The Urasatamon youth organization plays the central role in the preparation. I used to belong to the youth organization and now serve on the grand festival committee. We work with representatives of the temple and related organizations. Young people with their hair dyed brown and pierced ears also follow the instructions of older members and elderly people, working hard for the success of the festival, sacrificing their business hours and leisure time with their families. The sweat and tears they shed during the preparation will keep shining forever as precious memories.

*It is important that everybody generates and exchanges ideas with each other.*

Since the organization of Minamiuonuma City just started recently, I have not recognized any changes beyond my address. However, it will be very important for the city to utilize the characteristics of the former three towns, creating merits from integration. All citizens in the Yamato, Muikamachi, and Shiozawa areas should open their minds, discussing the good characteristics and values of their hometowns, and go beyond to also discuss what is needed, think hard, and generate ideas. The city should be built by the participation of every citizen. We would also like to boost the publicity of the festival, because it is a precious cultural asset of our city.



大ローソクの伝統を守る父 北村 計さん  
Preserving traditional big candles  
Kei Kitamura