



Gil Asakawa is a journalist, editor, author and blogger who covers Japan, Japanese American and Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) culture and social justice issues in blogs, articles and social media.

He is a nationally-known speaker, panelist and expert on Japanese American and Asian American history and identity. He's the author of *"Being Japanese American"*, a history of Japanese in America; *"Tabemasho! Let's Eat!"*, a history of Japanese food in America; and a co-author of *"The Toy Book"*, a history of the toys of the Baby Boom generation. He writes a regular column for the Pacific Citizen newspaper, contributes to the Nichi Bei newspaper, and blogs at Nikkeiview.com.

Asakawa was appointed in 2014 by Mayor Michael B. Hancock to Denver's Asian American Pacific Islander Commission. He is past president of the Mile High Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) and was Editorial Board Chair of the Pacific Citizen newspaper and a national board member of JACL.

He volunteered for the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival from 2001-2016. He is a member of the Japan America Society of Colorado, Nikkeijin Kai of Colorado, a member of the Asian American Journalists Association, and the current Chair of the Denver-Takayama Sister City Committee. He is also a founding board member of Colorado Asian Pacific United (CAPU), an organization formed to commemorate Denver's early Chinatown district in Lower Downtown Denver.

On April 29, 2023, The Government of Japan announced their Spring Conferment of Decorations on Foreign Nationals for their outstanding contribution to their respective areas. Asakawa has been awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays for his contribution improving the social status of Japanese Americans in the U.S. and promoting understanding of Japan.