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The Stories of Manzanar

In 1942, the United States government ordered more than 110,000 men, women, and children to leave their homes. They were detained in remote, military-style camps – one of which was right here in the Eastern Sierra: the Manzanar War Relocation Center, where Japanese American citizens and resident Japanese aliens were interned during World War II.

Manzanar is a part of our nation’s past that many have tried to sweep under the rug. And yet there are countless stories baked into the dirt beneath the tall white monument that now stands at the Manzanar National Historic Site: stories of the Native Americans who lived there first; stories of the orchards and ranches that once filled the valley; stories of the Japanese Americans who were forced from their homes and imprisoned there, in the vast and unforgiving desert.

On Tuesday August 2nd, Bernadette Johnson, Superintendent of the Manzanar National Historic Site, will share many of these stories when she joins local non-profit Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) for their monthly Brown Bag Lunch speaker series. This free event is open to the public, and will be held in ESLT’s backyard at 250 N. Fowler Street in Bishop from 12 – 1pm. No advance reservations are required.

In honor of Inyo County’s 150th birthday, speakers and guests have joined ESLT all summer long to share and hear informative, entertaining tales about the colorful history of our remote region. Brown Bag Lunch guests are encouraged to bring lunch and sunglasses; to learn more, contact Catherine Tao, ESLT Education Coordinator and AmeriCorps Member, at catherine@eslt.org or [\(760\) 873-4554](tel:7608734554).

Eastern Sierra Land Trust works with willing landowners to protect vital lands in the Eastern Sierra region for their scenic, agricultural, natural, recreational, historic, and watershed values. For more information about ESLT’s conservation work and upcoming events, visit their website: www.eslt.org.

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Images with captions shown below (and attached to email). For additional pictures, please contact Marguerite Merritt, ESLT Communications Director, at marguerite@eslt.org.



Caption: The Manzanar National Historic Site is a stirring reminder of the impact that war, fear, and prejudice can have on our country – and our shared legacy. Photo © Dorothea Lange.



Caption: Bernadette Johnson, Superintendent of the Manzanar National Historic Site, will join Eastern Sierra Land Trust on August 2 to share stories from Manzanar's past. Photo: Mark Kirchner, © 2015 Manzanar Committee.