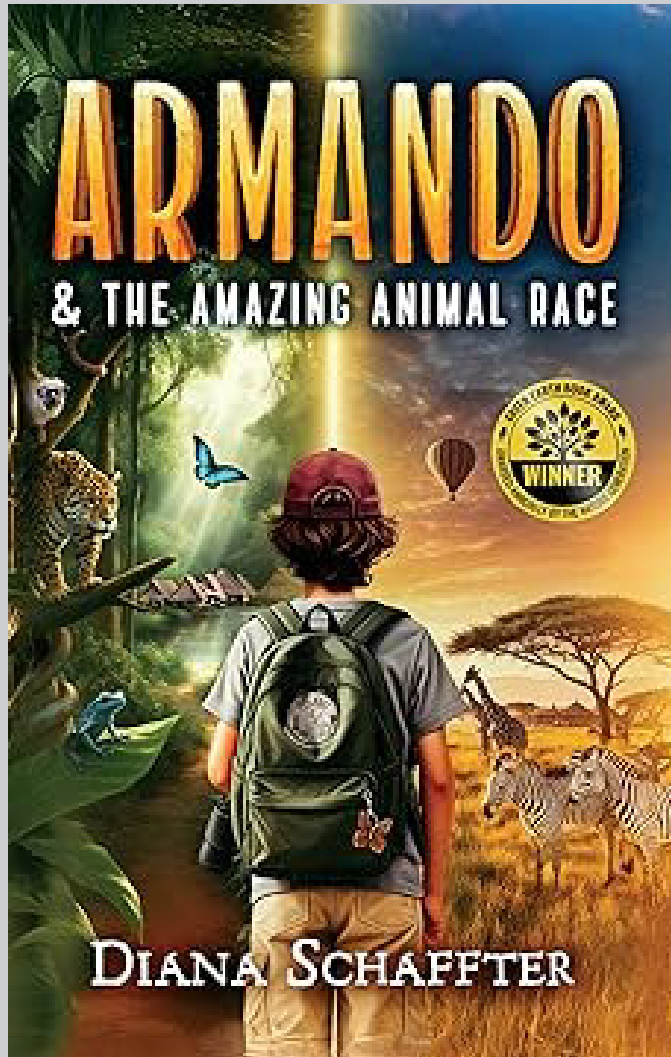


ARMANDO & THE AMAZING ANIMAL RACE

The Art of Storytelling for Environmental & Peace Education



Join author and educator Diana Schaffter to discover the backstory of Armando & the Amazing Animal Race, an international prize-winning eco-adventure and mystery written for ages 8 to 14 but enjoyed by all ages. Follow Armando's journey of inner growth, courage, and new perspectives as he encounters threatened environments and extraordinary animals.

Drawing on her field research from Southern India and Russia to the Judean Desert and the Brazilian Amazon, Diana will share how the story design, key messages, and insights into the emerging capacities of young readers came together to create a page-turning adventure to inspire environmental stewardship and peace. She will also describe how the book was pre-tested with young readers around the world.

Recent Awards for Armando & the Amazing Animal Race:

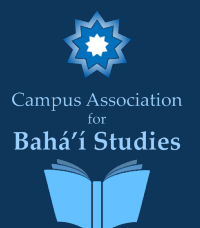
- 2026 Green Earth Book Award: for children's literature that best conveys the message of environmental stewardship.
- 2026 Independent Book Publishers Award: Gold Award for Middle Grade Fiction (8-12 Years)



Sunday, May 31, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Location: University of Victoria Multifaith Center
West Campus Gate, next to Finnerty Gardens, Parking Lot 6

**Free Parking on Sundays*



Diana Schaffter has lived in Asia and Eastern Europe for 42 years, including Thailand, Vietnam, Romania, India, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, and North Korea. She has worked in international education as an elementary teacher in international schools, founded two preschools, and served as an educational consultant to Ministries of Education. Her work brings together storytelling, personal international travel, and classroom experience to engage young readers in environmental and peace education.