NEWSLETTER

FALL TERM 2026



A Message from our Director

Dear Members,

A Legacy That Continues....

Recently, we held our first awards event since Jane's passing. Some events stay with you long after they are over. For me, this was one of those. A month on, I find myself reflecting on what was a very special, but also difficult, occasion. After more than a decade, it was our first Roots & Shoots awards in the UAE without Jane.

Coming together to celebrate her life and recognise the achievements of schools and individuals making a real difference was particularly poignant.

Jane and I first visited the UAE in 2011, and over the years it became a very special part of our journey. In January 2024, we opened our first office at Terra, another important milestone.

Every January, despite her gruelling 300 day travel schedule, Jane was there for our Awards. She was the highlight of the occasion, bringing her energy, passion and inspiration. To so many people, she was simply the Icon.

This time, her absence was deeply felt throughout the evening. I missed having her beside me. But as I looked around the room, at the schools, individuals and friends who had come together, I was reminded that so much of what we were celebrating existed because of Jane. Her legacy was everywhere, brought to life in so many ways, including a special art exhibition reflecting her life and work.

Every article in this newsletter is part of that legacy.

I feel immensely proud that we held the event and continued something that meant so much to her. Her legacy is not simply something to remember; it is something we must continue to take forward.

Jane was the Icon. She always will be. And while nothing will ever quite be the same without her, it is now our duty and responsibility to ensure that her vision, dedication, passion and inspiration live on.

As Leonardo DiCaprio shared in his emotional eulogy at her Washington Memorial:
"May we all honor her by carrying forward that same fierce belief that we can do better, that we must do better, and that we have a responsibility to protect this beautiful natural world we all share."

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season,



Tara Golshan
Executive Director

Her Legacy, Our Promise

On 24 September 2026, Roots & Shoots UAE hosted its first Legacy Event, “Her Legacy, Our Promise,” at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. Held nearly one year after Dr. Jane Goodall’s passing, the evening celebrated her extraordinary life and reaffirmed our commitment to carrying her vision forward.
The event opened with “Voices of Her Legacy,” a heartfelt video tribute, followed by reflections from Tara Golshan, Executive Director of Roots & Shoots UAE, on her 20-year journey alongside Dr. Jane.

Distinguished guests included H.E. Geraldine McCafferty, British Ambassador to the UAE; Professor Nathalie Martial-Braz, Chancellor of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi; and Sheena Khan, Head of Environmental Programmes at Terra, representing Expo City Dubai. Marjan Faraidooni, Chief of Education and Culture at Expo City Dubai, also shared a special video message. (watch it here)

The evening honoured the Top 10 Roots & Shoots Schools of 2026 and presented Special Recognition Awards to Anita Saul, Mel Pubil, Barbara Lang-Lenton, and Arabella Willing for their outstanding individual contributions.

More than a tribute, the evening was a promise to continue Dr. Jane’s mission for people, animals and the environment.

Her legacy lives on. Our promise continues.















What Makes a Changemaker?

During our "Her Legacy, Our Promise" event, we celebrated 15 inspiring nominees for the Young Changemaker Award 2026, recognising their contributions to people, animals and the environment.

Turning challenges into opportunities: Advika Shalini Vijay recycled over 6,000 kg of paper, Majed Al Rumaihi transformed e-waste into art, and Ronak Al Baloushi promoted recycling and greener schools.

Innovating for change: Anushree Velankar, Devavruth Sujith and Adel Eshan Abdul Rahiman developed creative technological solutions to environmental and community challenges.

Inspiring action: Amir Ali Farid Jangjoo advocated for primate conservation; Maryam Ahmed championed pollinators; Abhiram Krishna promoted international climate action and Wid Hamad Mansoor Alawar inspired through education and leadership.

Leading by example: Noor Omar Binbraik and Divya Kumar Sheetlani advanced school sustainability, while Miriam Saliba and Numaira Iram promoted marine conservation

Your Turn to Make a Difference

Find something you care about, take action and inspire others. Every small step can create meaningful change.

Muhammad Adeel Ahmad
Young Changemaker of 2026
Abu Dhabi Homeschoolers Association

Proving that age is no barrier to making a difference, Muhammad has demonstrated remarkable dedication to nature, animals, and his community. From creating a thriving pollinator garden and rescuing stray cats to developing Pawsitive Pals, a pet-care website, his actions reflect genuine compassion. He has also organised neighbourhood clean-ups, led biodiversity workshops, and volunteered to teach coding and robotics to younger students, inspiring others to create positive change.



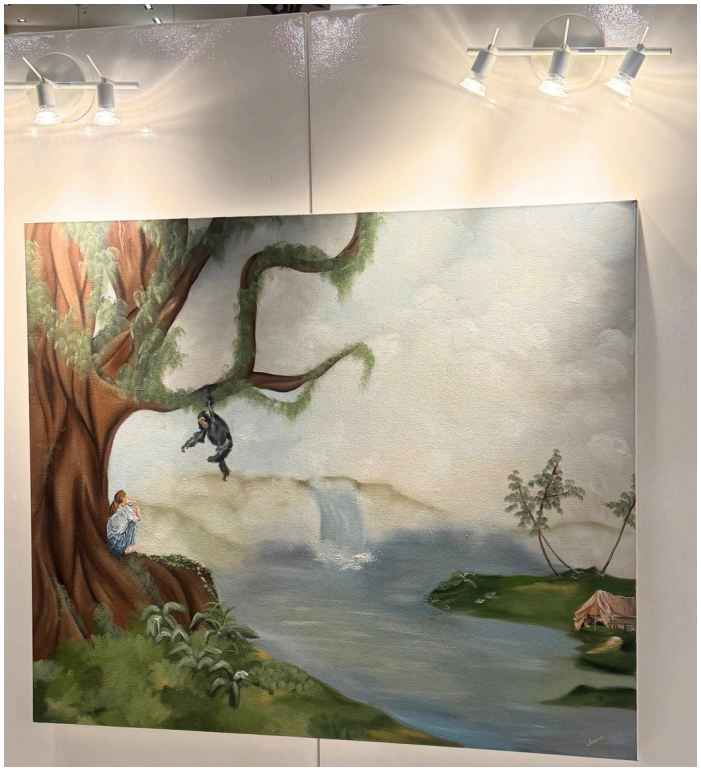
Art for Change

Our “Her Legacy, Our Promise” event featured a special art exhibition celebrating Dr. Jane Goodall’s extraordinary life and legacy. Each piece, generously donated by talented students and professional artists, reflected her enduring inspiration and message of hope.

Several artworks found new homes, with proceeds supporting Roots & Shoots UAE’s mission. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the artists who contributed their creativity and generosity to this meaningful initiative.

Missed the exhibition? More artworks will soon be available for direct purchase through our website, offering another opportunity to support young changemakers.

Art that inspires. A legacy that lives on.



A Legacy in Words



Our new tribute book celebrates Dr. Jane Goodall’s extraordinary life and lasting legacy through heartfelt stories, memories and reflections from individuals from all walks of life. Each page honours the inspiration she continues to bring to future generations to come.

By purchasing a copy, you help support Roots & Shoots UAE programmes and carry Dr. Jane’s legacy forward.

To purchase your copy, email isra@janegoodall.ae.



Creating a Buzz for Biodiversity!

The Jane Goodall Pollinator Garden at Terra continues to flourish, growing from around 2,000 bees to over 30,000 and demonstrating the incredible impact of creating spaces where nature can thrive.

Building on this commitment to biodiversity, Expo City Dubai is working towards bringing beehives to 100 schools across the UAE, inspiring students to discover the vital role of pollinators in protecting our planet.

Small wings. Big impact.

Discover the New & Improved Bahri Marine Programme!

Explore. Protect. Discover.

Discover the UAE's marine ecosystems through exciting, hands-on experiences for students and families!

Roots of Tomorrow – Mangrove Planting: Restore coastal habitats.

Bahri Waves of Change – Mangrove Clean-Up: Protect mangroves from pollution.

Bahri Paddle & Plant – Kayaking & Mangrove Planting: Paddle, explore, and restore.

Bahri Paddle & Discover – Mangrove Monitoring & Kayaking: Explore and monitor mangrove ecosystems.

Bahri Sea Turtle Guardians – Turtle Feeding: Learn about sea turtle conservation.

Ready to make a difference? Contact **isra@janegoodall.ae** for dates, registration, and group bookings







A Seat in Jane's Circle

Give your students a unique opportunity to hear personal stories and memories of Dr. Jane Goodall from Tara Golshan, Executive Director of Roots & Shoots UAE, who worked alongside her for over 20 years. An interactive session where students can ask questions, connect, and be inspired to make a difference.

Interested? Contact isra@janegoodall.ae for more details and bookings.

We'd Love to Connect with Your School!

We want to hear from you! Whether your Roots & Shoots members are working on exciting projects, exploring new ideas, or looking for guidance, we'd love to connect.

Invite us to your school for an interactive session where we can discover your students' initiatives, exchange ideas, answer questions, and explore how Roots & Shoots UAE can support your young changemakers.

Let's turn great ideas into meaningful action!

Get in touch with our Schools Liaison & Outreach Officer, Isra Ibrahim, at isra@janegoodall.ae to arrange a school visit.

AROUND THE GLOBE

WORLD FOOD DAY





Celebrating World Food Day (16 October), Roots & Shoots groups are growing a sustainable future! In **South Africa**, three food gardens benefit 120 children; **in Ecuador**, restored greenhouses provide farming training to 24 people; and in **Uganda**, students grow food and share gardening skills with their communities.

JGI GLOBAL COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER




This October, Jane Goodall Institute offices from around the world had the chance to come together as part of our work to continue Dr. Jane Goodall's vision.

The Jane Goodall Institute is a global network of offices in 30+ countries as well as Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots programmes in many more. This meeting was a valuable opportunity to reflect on Jane's legacy and our shared commitment to ensuring her work continues today. We collaborated with other country offices, shared ideas and resources and strengthened our connections around the world.

Dr. Jane Goodall believed that every individual has the power to make a difference, and that when we come together, we have an even bigger impact. We are so proud to be a part of the JGI community!

AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

Peace begins with us! Our Roots & Shoots schools brought Dr. Jane's message of compassion and hope to life through creativity and action.

Rawafed Private School | Art for Peace

Students celebrated International Day of Peace with artworks promoting peace and unity.

GEMS Winchester School, Abu Dhabi | A Little Bit of Jane in Our Hearts

Students organised a tribute to Dr. Jane, sharing initiatives for people, animals and the environment.

JSS Private School | 500+ Messages of Peace

Over 500 students displayed messages of peace on paper doves along their school fence.





