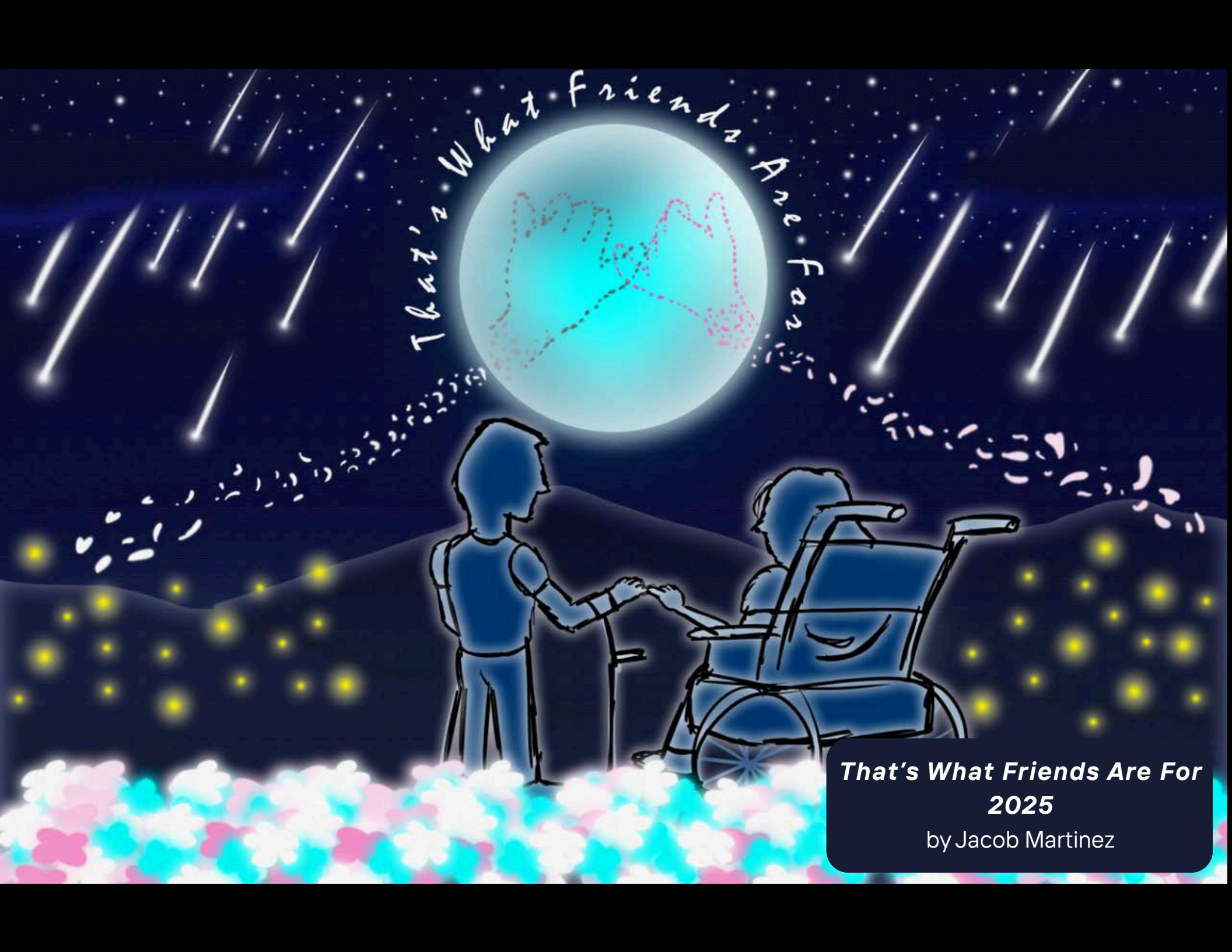


# Texas Disability Employment Awareness Calendar

2026





That's What Friends Are For

**That's What Friends Are For  
2025**  
by Jacob Martinez

# JANUARY

*What Friends A*

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4 World Braille Day	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20	21	22	23 Ed Roberts Day	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



"The inspiration for my artwork came from a cartoon where a girl in a wheelchair is unable to travel to an island. Her friend promises to bring her to the island to see the flowers. She smiles with joy."



***We See Things Differently  
2020***  
by Dinah Rodriguez

# FEBRUARY

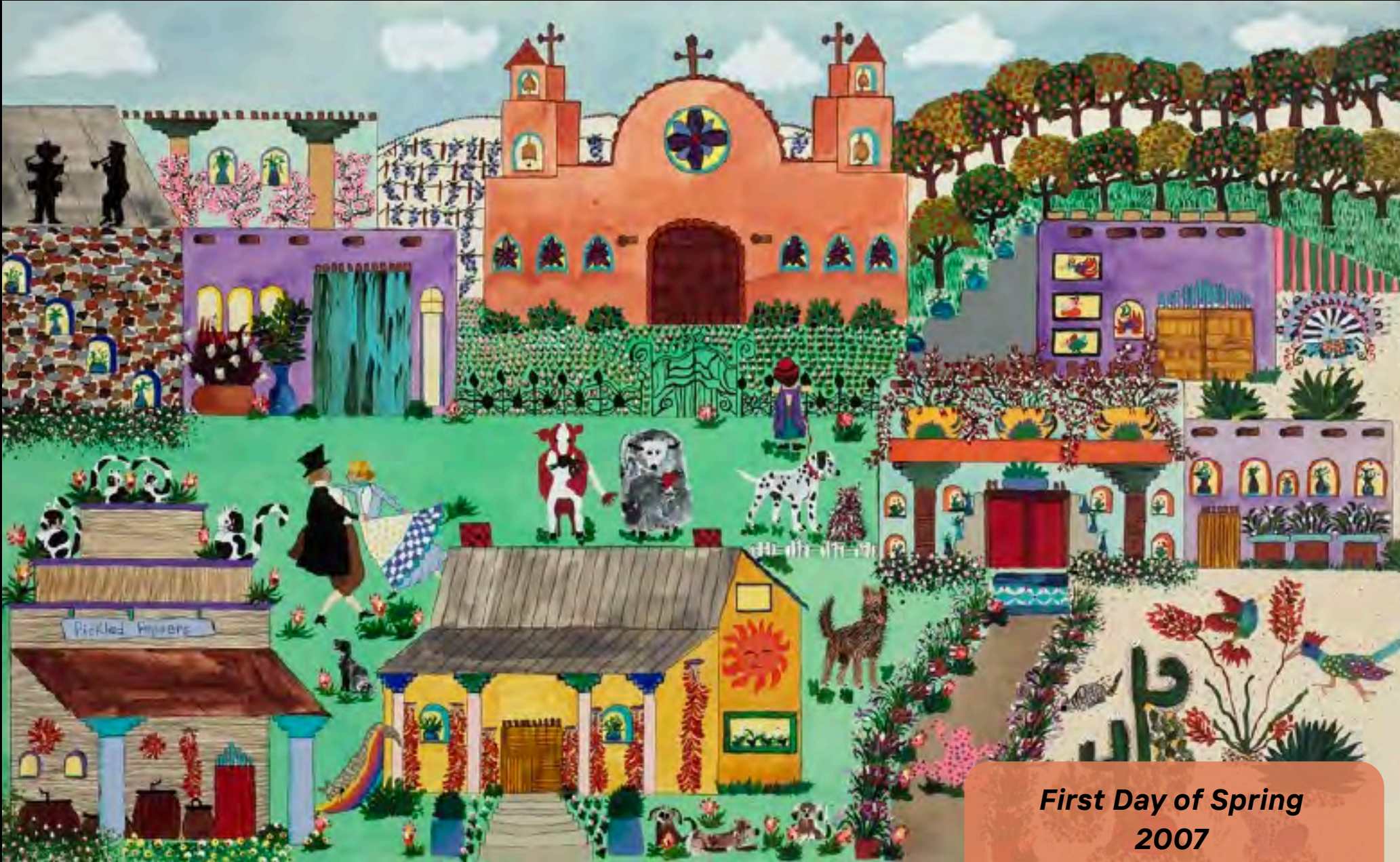
2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 President's Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



"Although we may have a disability and see things differently, we are capable and valuable. We love what we are gifted to do, and there is no stopping us from succeeding."

- Dinah Rodriguez, 2020 artist



*First Day of Spring*  
**2007**

by Cassandra Langdon

# MARCH

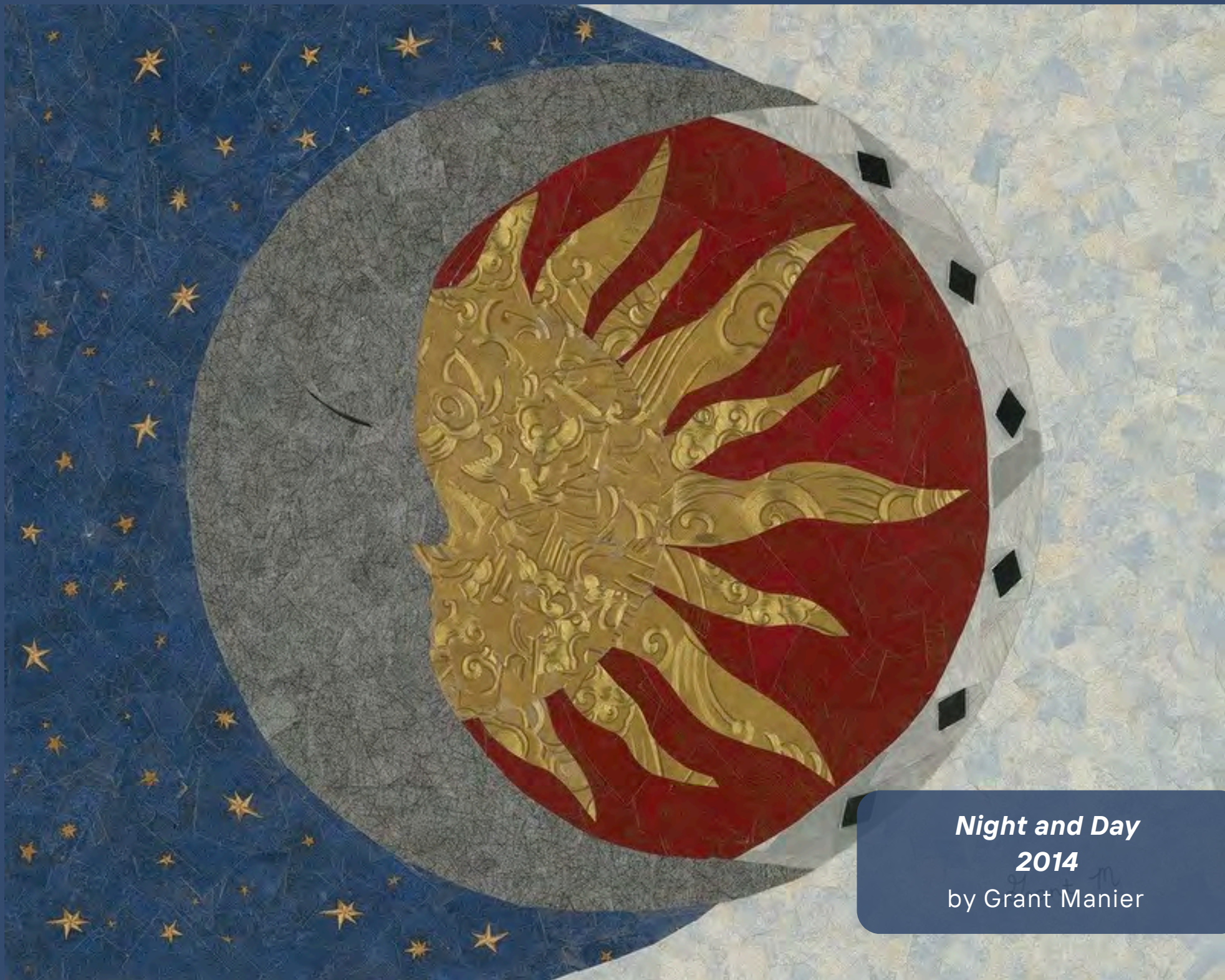
2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month	2 Texas Independence Day	3 Election Day	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21 World Down Syndrome Day
22 National Rehabilitation Counselor Appreciation Day	23	24	25	26	27	28 Blinded Veterans Day
29	30	31 Cesar Chavez Day	Brain Injury Awareness Month			



Cassie hopes her art brings smiles to all who see it and that they find something new each time. After being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, she took time off from painting, only to realize her brushes were her best medicine.

- Cassandra Langdon, 2007 artist



*Night and Day*  
**2014**  
by Grant Manier

# APRIL

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Fair Housing Month	Autism Acceptance Month		Good Friday	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Easter						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		San Jacinto Day				
26	27	28	29	30		



"I wish to teach the world about the amazing gifts that people with disabilities have within them. Having autism has not stopped me. It has given me the opportunity to inspire others to believe in themselves. It's not what we can't do but what we can do that makes the difference."

- Grant Manier, 2014 artist

Grant M



***Arise, Shine!***  
**2017**

by Nancy June Wood

# MAY

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Older Texans Month	1 Mental Health Awareness Month	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Global Accessibility Awareness Day	22	23
24/31	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30



*"Arise, Shine!" embodies awareness of mental health conditions. After treatment, I built a new life full of joy and positive relationships. Making art is a constant inspiration. Every time I viewed the completed work, I felt confident and empowered. I hope it will have the same effect on others."*

*- Nancy June Wood, 2017 artist*



***Invitation to Wonder***  
**2004**  
by Jean Riley

# JUNE

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20
Helen Keller DeafBlind Awareness Week 21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Helen Keller Day
28	29	30				



Artist and disability advocate, Jean Riley, who was born with cerebral palsy, used creative expression and paved a path of independence for others. "I often think of the joy I would have missed had I not given art a try. I would never have discovered what a wonderful gift had been given to me."

- Jean Riley, 2004 artist



**Otis-se**  
**(rhymes with Matisse)**  
**2010**  
by Beverly Fuqua

# JULY

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Americans with Disabilities Act Anniversary	27	28	29	30	31	



"Since becoming a person who uses a wheelchair, my artwork has gravitated to animals, especially my service dog, Otis. They never judge the shell we live in. Otis inspires me every day, and creating art with him brings joy, purpose, and the reminder that love always finds a way."

- Beverly Fuqua, 2010 artist



***Me and My Bike  
2011***

by Patricia Hiebeler

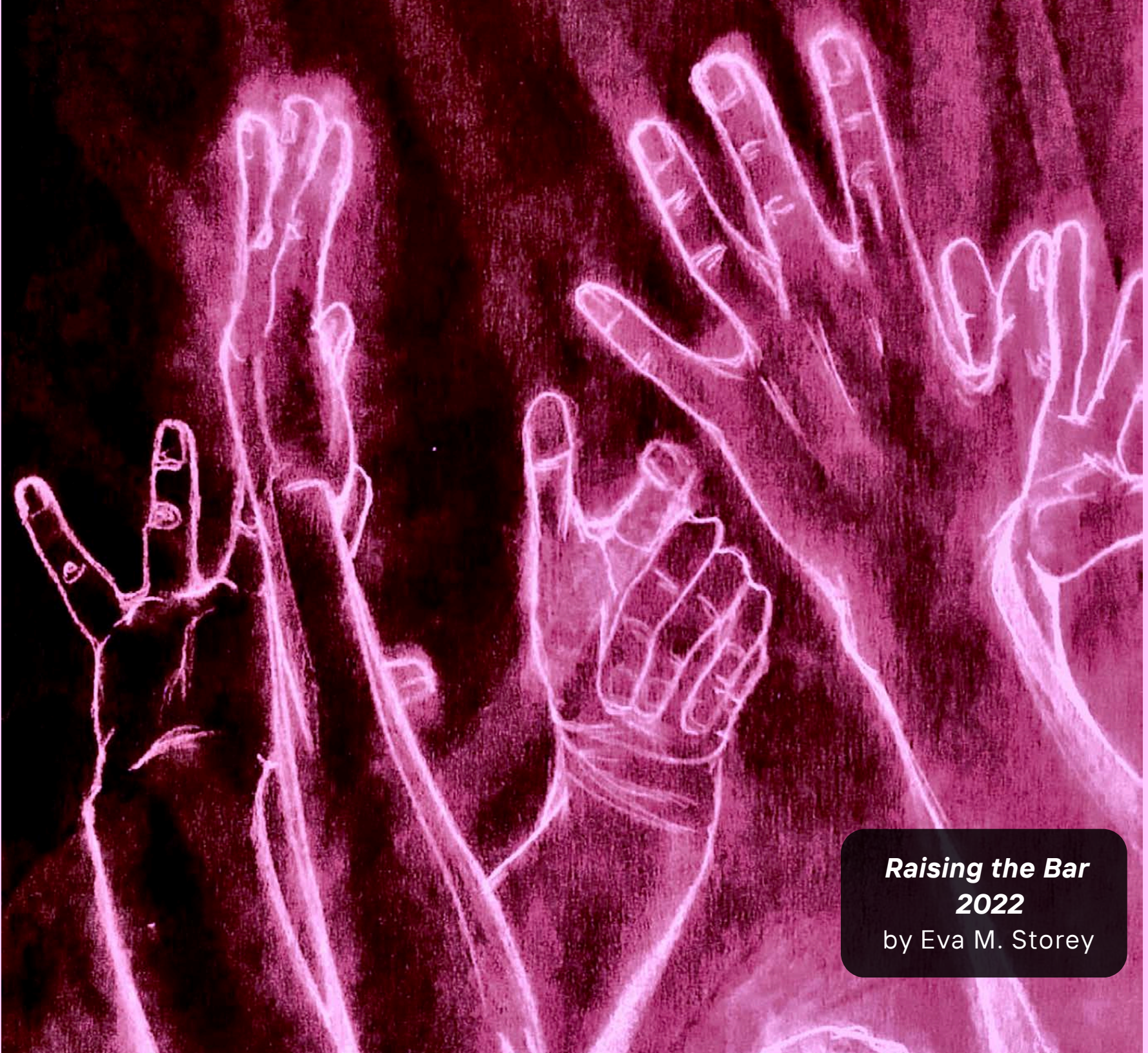
# AUGUST

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29
				LBJ's Birthday		



"At first glance, my painting appears to be simply a little boy playing on a summer day. But the reality, like that of some disabilities, might be invisible at first glance. The obstacles he faces are getting on a big too big, down hill with a flat tire towards a locked gate. Now the picture comes into focus and the true story appears."  
- Patricia Hiebeler, 2011 artist



***Raising the Bar***  
**2022**

by Eva M. Storey

# SEPTEMBER

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Deaf Awareness Month	Emergency Preparedness Month 1	2	3	4	5
6 Direct Support Professionals Week	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Deaf Awareness Week	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



"Raising The Bar illustrates an expression of hardworking individuals in the disability community who are proud to be part of the workforce. Those who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing have always inspired me. The show of hands in 'Raising the Bar' reflects the voices of these individuals, whether in various forms of Sign Language or other foreign languages."

- Eva M. Storey, 2022 artist



**Cowboy Sunset**  
**2013**  
by John Bramblitt

JB

# OCTOBER

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Disability History Awareness	Down Syndrome Awareness Month	Dyslexia Awareness Month	Disability Employment Awareness Month 1	2	3 Rosh Hashanah
4	5	6 World Cerebral Palsy Day	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 White Cane Safety Awareness Day	16	17 Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



John feels that art is what helped him get his life back after he lost his sight and that everyone, with a disability or not, should have access to art and all of the benefits that it brings to a person's life.

- John Bramblitt, 2013 artist



***The True Essence of Strength  
and Freedom  
2015***

by Astrid Wienken

# NOVEMBER

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Epilepsy Awareness Month	2	3 Election Day	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29	30	National Family Caregivers Month				



"With MS, it is a common thing to feel isolated. Being able to share my art with others diminishes that feeling. I love horses, as they stand for freedom, power and strength. Being able to express myself through paintings is my savior. Always believe in yourself, stand tall and you will prevail."

- Astrid Wienken, 2015 artist



**Butterfly**  
**2016**  
by Denise Tidwell

# DECEMBER

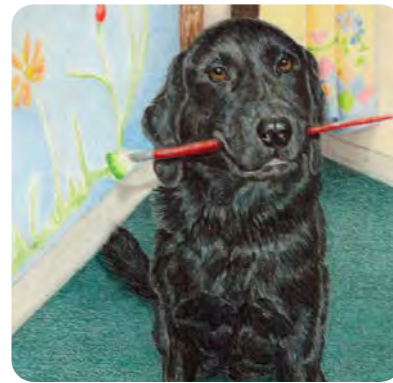
2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	
27	28	29	30	31		
				New Year's Eve		



The young girl in the portrait is signing "butterfly" in American Sign Language. Denise, who is Deaf, says, "We, the people with disabilities, have gone through many stages of growing pains, adapting to a non-disabled world, and experiencing the miraculous success. Born with severe hearing loss, I can relate to a butterfly's metamorphosis."

- Denise Tidwell, 2016 artist



Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Relay Texas: 800-735-2989 (TTY) and 711 (Voice). [Twc.texas.gov](https://www.twc.texas.gov)  
For more information visit <https://www.gov.texas.gov/organization/disabilities>

*The Texas Disability Employment Awareness Calendar is produced through a partnership between the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities and the Texas Workforce Commission, through the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. The partnership is dedicated to advancing employment opportunities for Texans with disabilities and encouraging employers to discover the benefits of hiring people with disabilities in any workplace. Together, we aim to amplify the message of inclusion by showcasing employer innovation, recognizing exemplary efforts through the Lex Frieden Employment Awards, and sharing best practices that promote accessible, inclusive workplaces. Through collaborative events like the Texas HireAbility Employer Forum, we bring together stakeholders, advocates, and leaders to educate, inspire, and empower employers to embrace disability inclusion and expand economic opportunities for all.*

These activities are financed under the TWC Federal Vocational Rehabilitation grant. For the Federal fiscal year 2025 (October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025), TWC anticipates expending \$350,922,000 in Federal Vocational Rehabilitation funds. Funds appropriated by the State pay a minimum of 21.3% of the total costs (\$94,976,348) under the Vocational Rehabilitation program. Revised June 2025.

For purposes of the Supported Employment program, the Vocational Rehabilitation agency receives 94.7 percent of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For the 2025 Federal fiscal year, the total amount of grant funds awarded are \$678,556. The remaining 5.3 percent (\$37,698) are funded by Texas State Appropriations. Revised June 2025.

For purposes of the Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are Blind program, the Vocational Rehabilitation agency receives 90 percent of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For the 2025 Federal fiscal year, the total amount of grant funds awarded are \$2,246,003. The remaining 10 percent (\$249,556) are funded by Texas State Appropriations. Revised June 2025.



*"The inspiration for my painting, "In Our Hands" came from the dynamics involved in a healthy coral reef such as the Flower Gardens we have in the Gulf. Just like in our lives, it takes the interaction of many diverse and living things - in a multitude of colors, shapes, sizes and functions - to make the whole community successful and thrive."*

**- Kathyna Hatla, 2021 artist**