

**PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Irvine, California, United States

December 30, 2025

**River Paw Press Announces the Results of the 2025 Silent River Poetry Prize**

River Paw Press is honored to announce the winners of the **2025 Silent River Poetry Prize**, recognizing poetry chapbooks marked by depth, literary excellence, and quiet strength.

**Judges:** The **2025 Silent River Poetry Prize** was judged by **Candice Louisa Daquin** and **Kalpna Singh-Chitnis**.



**Winner — One Thousand Origami Paper Cranes Fly Away — Martin Willitts Jr.**

Martin Willitts Jr. is the longtime editor of *The Comstock Review* and an award-winning poet whose work has received numerous national and international honors, including the Dylan Thomas International Poetry Contest and multiple Rattle Ekphrastic Challenge awards. He is the author of more than two dozen chapbooks and full-length collections, widely respected for his sustained literary contribution.

**Prize and Recognition:** The Winner receives a total prize value of **\$500**, including a cash honorarium, a Certificate of Excellence, and a standard marketing package. The winning chapbook will also be published by River Paw Press.



**Finalist — *Hutsulka* — Nicole Yurcaba**

Nicole Yurcaba is a Ukrainian American poet, professor, and book reviewer whose work engages deeply with history, identity, and cultural memory.

**Recognition:** The Finalist receives a **Certificate of Distinction** and formal recognition through the official press release and social media announcements.



**Semi-Finalist — *Dead Boys I Have Known* — Joanna Grant**

Joanna Grant has lived and worked internationally, teaching college courses to deployed American service members. Her poetry and prose have appeared widely, reflecting a global perspective shaped by travel and service.

**Recognition:** The Semi-Finalist receives a **Certificate of Merit** and formal recognition through the official press release and social media announcements.

## **Publication**

Publication under the **Silent River Poetry Prize** is awarded exclusively to the winning chapbook. River Paw Press retains full editorial discretion to extend publication to a finalist or semi-finalist title in exceptional cases, based solely on literary merit and alignment with the press's publishing vision. Such consideration is not automatic and remains independent of prize designation.

In 2025, in recognition of the exceptional strength of the selected manuscripts, River Paw Press is pleased to offer publication to the Finalist and Semi-Finalist chapbooks as well. All three chapbooks will be published by River Paw Press in Spring 2026.

We congratulate the winners and thank all poets who submitted their work and contributed to the success of the 2025 Silent River Poetry Prize.

## **CONTACT**

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