

BFFs

like comfortable shoes, Wordle in two,
soothing worry stones, speed dials,
roomy shoulder bags, catchy tunes,
mixers for any drink, complements
to any meal, nightcaps

ever-ready mine sweepers, sunny days,
baker's dozens, winning tickets,
genies in bottles, gravity, duct tape,
home cooking, pie

smiles
strings of salient similes
24K gold

—Darrell Petska

Darrell Petska, a retired university engineering editor, is a 2021 and 2022 Pushcart Prize nominee. His work has appeared in *First Literary Review-East*, *3rd Wednesday*, *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *Orchards Poetry Journal*, and widely elsewhere (conservancies.wordpress.com). Father of five and grandfather of six, he lives near Madison, Wisconsin, with his wife of more than 50 years.