

## DECEMBER ROCK PARTY

by Sharon Marburger

In addition to Jim and me, thirteen people attended the Rock Party on December 17, 2022. As usual, we enjoyed some good food, conversation, and fellowship.

Jim took a group of people downstairs to do some lapidary work. Wooly entertained those who remained upstairs with stories of his trip to India, showing off his fantastic purchases.

Since it was almost Christmas, I thought it would be fun to have gifts for attendees. After eating, I offered numbers to those who wanted to play a game I discovered in a magazine. Each person selected a number from a bowl, determining the order of play. A couple days before the Rock Party, I made a ball using Saran Wrap, incorporating prizes as I went. Included were small slabs, tumbled stones, crystals, a rock painting, and other specimens. I didn't count how many prizes I wrapped, but there were a lot, having the "grand prize" in the center. The object of the game was to have each person, in turn according to the number they drew, unwrap the ball, claiming prizes as they were uncovered while the next person in line rolled the dice, trying to roll doubles. Once doubles were rolled, the person unwrapping passed the ball to the roller, and the next person in line took the dice. This process continued until the ball was completely unwrapped. The ball made several passes around the table, offering each person the opportunity to unroll multiple times. Never having played this game before, I wasn't sure how long the game would take or how spread out the prizes would be. I had three "booby" prizes (shown in the picture above) in case anyone didn't unwrap a prize. There was a lot of laughter and coaching on how to unwrap the ball. It ended up that everyone received at least one prize from the ball. I offered the "booby" prizes to the three people who received only one prize, so everyone went home with at least two items. I believe it was Arvid Olson who unwrapped the "grand prize" of a nice, solid, polished geode half. It appeared that the game was a success since there were lots of smiles, laughter, and sparkling eyes.

Those doing lapidary had a good time, too. Arvid worked some lapis; Evan slabbed stones and worked on some cabochon projects; Donnette and Mike toured our rock shop, discussing various specimens on display and locations in Wyoming for collecting, taking home a polished stromatolite and a polished turritella agate; and Allen selected slab boxes to take upstairs to Tammy so she could select and purchase slabs to add to her painting inventory.

Overall, I think everyone had a good time.

