



## LODGE RESOURCE TEAM

### A Beautiful Tool to Aid the Ascent

***“There is no elevator to success, you have to take the stairs.”***

- Zig Ziglar

Lou B. Winsor Lodge No. 363 has, over the years, taken concrete steps to add sensory elements to its candidate preparation and educational lectures for the degrees it conducts. For example, they added a Chamber of Reflection as an option that the candidate can elect before he proceeds with his Entered Apprentice Degree. Other elements have been added to demonstrate – physically and visually -- elements of the degree, such as a beehive for the Master Mason Degree.

I have had the pleasure of witnessing degrees in many lodges, including several in which stations were set up with props for the educational lecture, each manned with brothers who would read or recite a portion of the educational lecture. It’s not only interesting for the candidate, but for the officers, newer Masons and the visiting brothers as well. Most importantly, it is a favorable approach to learning.

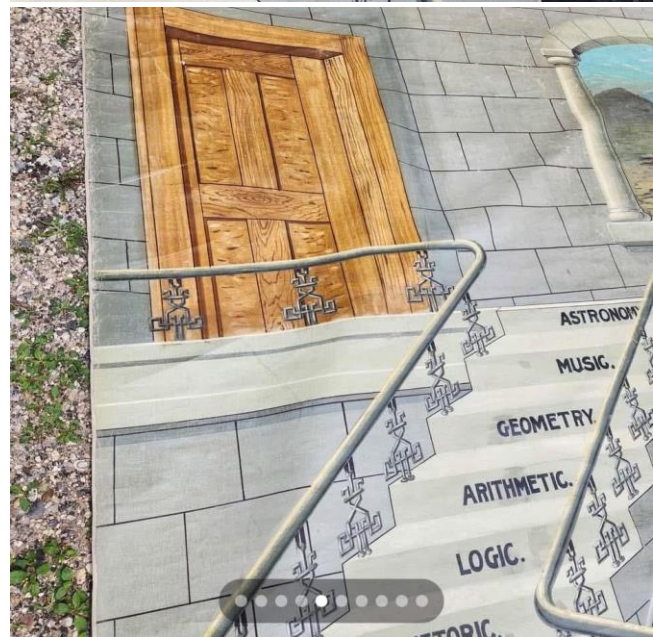
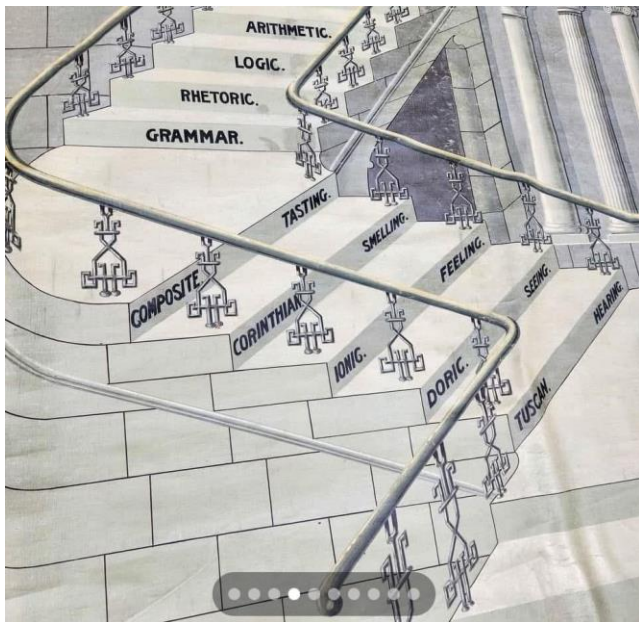
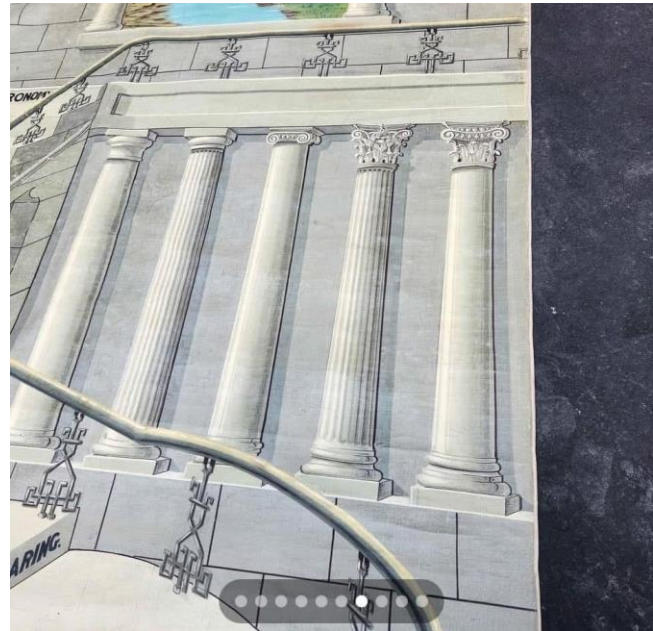
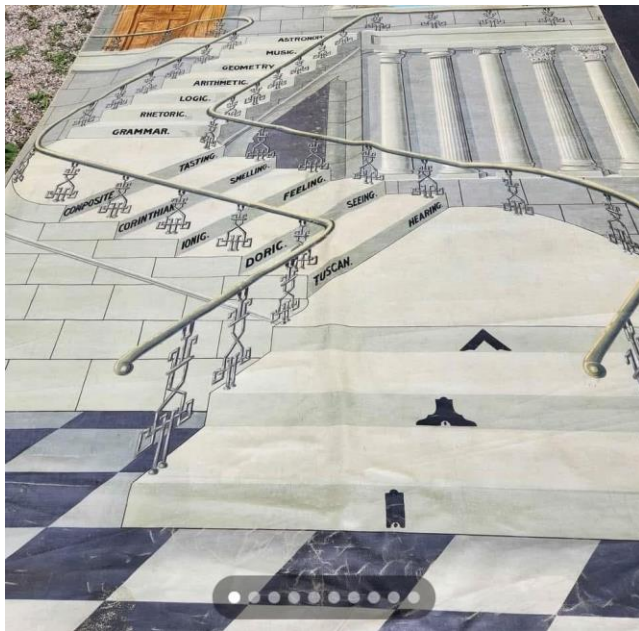
Worshipful Brother Gary Scramling, Secretary of Lou B. Winsor feels strongly that, by involving the senses in the educational process, it helps ensure that the principles and lessons we are attempting to impart will be better remembered. He finds that doing so also provides visual aids to the members performing the degrees and helps them wean themselves off their ritual books. There are a lot of studies to back that up; Maryville University echoes that, “The senses not only play a role in how we experience the world; they’re also linked to memory and retention.”<sup>1</sup>

In a recent Internet search, Brother Gary came across someone from another state who was marketing a 12’ X 18’ hand-painted carpet from the 1800s, designed to be used in the educational lecture for the Fellowcraft Degree. Brother Gary had already seen a Fellowcraft Degree carpet, since Big Rapids Lodge No. 171 -- which recently consolidated into Lou B. Winsor -- had one that the brothers brought with them. Sadly, it is old and worn, and in three pieces. Brother Gary was looking for an opportunity to use such a beautiful tool but was looking for a carpet in one piece, and in newer condition.

The carpet he found online was originally priced at \$1,500. WB Gary spoke with the gentleman, who as luck would have it, also turned out to be a Mason. Both brothers talked for a while and hit it off,

and the brother selling the carpet finally let it go for only \$400. He was excited to see it back in Masonic use, knowing that Gary and Lou B Winsor Lodge would be employing it for education and wanted to support their efforts. While Brother Scramling has no idea of the true value of the carpet, he knows that its value to the lodge is priceless.

Brother Gary indicated in our interview that a Fellowcraft is coming up, likely in June, and the Lodge can't wait to use the carpet in the process. I asked him to send a few photos of the carpet and he quickly sent those you see below.



Brother Gary loves to see “old stuff” that finds new uses. He combines that enthusiasm with a penchant for well-performed ritual, spoken slowly and with meaning. He believes that Regular Communications, visiting other lodges and well-performed ritual work help to refresh what it means to be a Mason.

He says that Lou B. Winsor’s focuses on education, lodge visitations, community involvement in local festivals, ritual performance and well-performed degrees have paid great dividends. Brother Gary says that the younger members, especially, seem to really “get a lot out of it.” He believes that we need to understand what the new brothers are looking for and showing up early for meetings to greet the new brothers – making them feel welcome -- is crucial.

If you would like to know more about the Lodge’s Fellowcraft carpet, see its use in action, or just ask some questions of Worshipful Brother Scramling, please feel free to send him an e-mail at [teamcoychev@gmail.com](mailto:teamcoychev@gmail.com). Or, call him at [\(231\) 335-4800](tel:2313354800).

In this case, it’s a Fellowcraft carpet that found a new home and is serving a useful purpose again. You may be finding ways of doing old things in a new, exciting way. We have much to teach others and they have much to teach us. As we study and learn more deeply about the “by a flight of winding stairs... to a place representing the Middle Chamber of King Solomon’s Temple” let’s share and do so together. We’ll surely all benefit.



Would you like to discuss how your lodge can be even better? Would you like to learn about best practices and successful ideas from other lodges? We have lots of ideas and would love to help. Please contact me at [fkaiser@michiganmasons.org](mailto:fkaiser@michiganmasons.org). Or give me a call at (248) 544-2222.

<sup>1</sup> “The Importance of the 5 Senses in Learning and Studying.” Maryville University. September 26, 2022 blog: <https://online.maryville.edu/blog/importance-of-5-senses-in-learning/>