

# Worcester Institute for Senior Education

Overview Presentation  
Academic Year 2026-2027

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[assumptionwise.org](http://assumptionwise.org)



# WISE



# Our Mission & Vision

WISE is a member-driven organization providing lifelong learning opportunities for older adults.

Our vision is to be a learning community that offers adults intellectual stimulation, socialization, personal growth and opportunities for service.

Through peer learning concepts, members share their knowledge and experiences with each other by creating, coordinating, and participating in courses.



# The History of WISE

1992-1993: Several retired social workers created the Worcester Area Institute for Learning in Retirement

1993: The Worcester Institute for Senior Education (WISE) becomes an affiliate organization of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies at Assumption University in Worcester, MA

1993-1994: 146 registered for the first academic year

2023: WISE celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> year with approximately 300 members and 60 courses



# Lifelong Learning is WISE



No tests + no quizzes + no grades or credits = no pressure



# WISE Academic Calendar



Fall  
(Sept – Dec)

Session A  
(5 weeks)

Session B  
(5 weeks)

In Person  
and Zoom

In Person  
and Zoom

Mon-Fri at 10 am, 1 pm, 3 pm

Spring  
(Feb – May)

Session C  
(5 weeks)

Session D  
(5 weeks)

Zoom  
only

In Person  
and Zoom

Mon-Fri at 10 am, 1 pm, 3 pm

Summer (as scheduled)



# WISE Curriculum



*Othello*

Asia & the British Mystery Writer

Dante's *Purgatorio*



# WISE Curriculum



## Art & Art History

Five Great World Art Museums

10 Women Painters Over Five Centuries

21<sup>st</sup> Century African Photography



# WISE Curriculum



Ocean Quest

Unraveling Chromosomes

The Changing World of Work

# WISE Curriculum



The Lives & Times of Great Musicians

Greatest Protest Songs of the Past 60 Years

Josephine Baker and Jazz in Paris

# WISE Curriculum



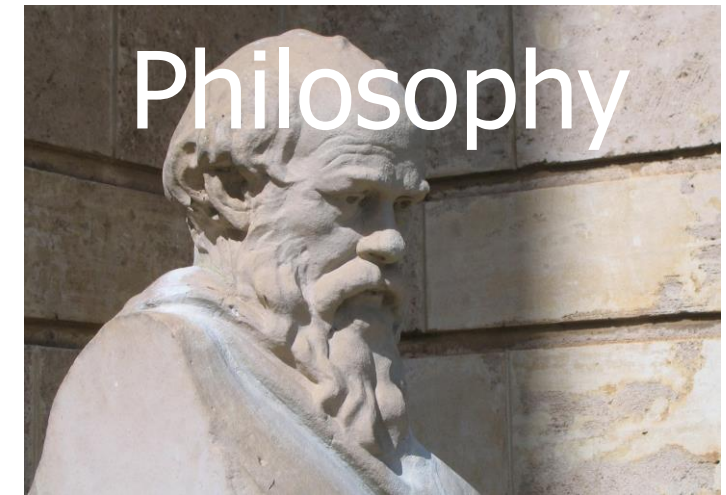
The Underground Railroad in New England

Extraordinary Life of Jane Goodall

The Book of Kells



# Something for Everyone



# Peer-to-Peer Learning



We are a community of adult learners who enjoy teaching and sharing our experience with our peers



Instructors at WISE come from every academic level

Doctorate - Master's - Bachelor's - Enthusiast



# Meet some WISE Instructors



**Kathleen Fisher**  
PhD, Medieval History & Religion



**Martha Chiarchiaro**  
MA, MBA Seeing History



**Paul Buono**  
Music faculty at WPI, Clark and Assumption



# WISE and the Worcester Community



HANOVER THEATRE  
& CONSERVATORY



Worcester  
Art Museum



AMERICAN  
ANTIQUARIAN  
SOCIETY





Worcester  
Institute for  
Senior  
Education

# Benefits of Membership



**Unlimited Classes  
Each Session**



**Special Events**



**BLANCHETT** **Movie Club**  
**TÁR**

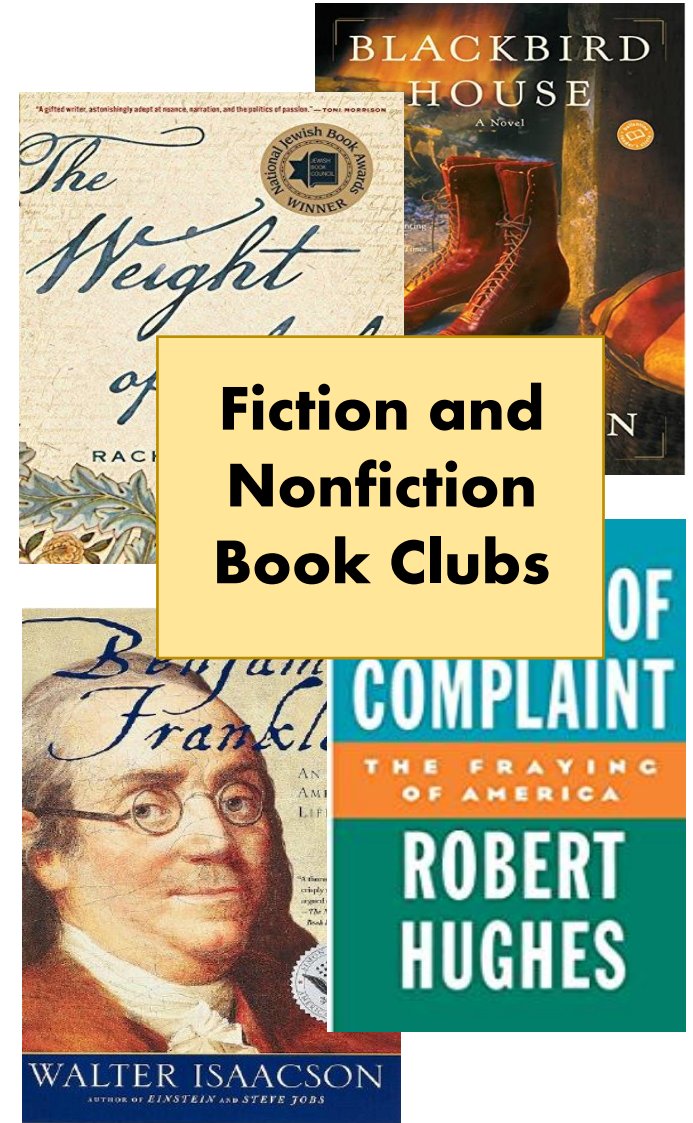
IN THEATERS AND ON DEMAND NOW



**Spotlight Lectures**

**Motown & the Civil  
Rights Movement**

-Tom Ingrassia  
Creative Director,  
*The Supremes*



**Fiction and  
Nonfiction  
Book Clubs**

**BLACKBIRD  
HOUSE**  
A Novel

*The Weight of My Wings*  
RACHEL



*Benjamin Franklin*  
WALTER ISAACSON  
AUTHOR OF *EINSTEIN* AND *STEVE JOBS*

**OF  
COMPLAINT**  
THE FRAYING  
OF AMERICA  
**ROBERT  
HUGHES**

# On Campus



# Ready to join WISE?

Individual membership fees for the 2026-2027 academic year:

Full-Year Membership = \$365    Fall **and** Spring semesters (A, B, C, and D sessions)

Half-Year Membership = \$185    Fall (A & B sessions) **or** Spring (C & D sessions)

Summer Session 2026: \$10 per class



# Organizational Memberships



WISE partners with senior centers and +55 communities to bring courses directly to its members/residents



# Why join WISE? Ask a member...

“The joy of learning and the company of others who have a curiosity about the world – that is what WISE means to me.”

“Outstanding instructors, intellectual challenges, new information and the analysis of it, members who become friends and colleagues, and a welcoming campus embody the WISE experience.”

“Fourteen years of learning and teaching in WISE has shown me that, when smart, good people gather together, magic happens.”



# Lifelong Learning is WISE



Become a WISE member today and engage with our friendly, active community of lifelong learners



# Contact us today

## **Website**

[assumptionwise.org](http://assumptionwise.org)

## **Phone**

508-767-7513

## **Email**

[wise@assumption.edu](mailto:wise@assumption.edu)



# WISE

Questions?



**WISE**

*“Learning is the only thing the mind never exhausts,  
never fears and never regrets.”* Leonardo da Vinci