

Worcester Institute for Senior Education

Overview Presentation
Academic Year 2025-2026

assumptionwise.org





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 30th 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

WISE Curriculum



Hamlet One Act at a Time

Asia & the British Mystery Writer

Maryse Conde's *Windward Heights*

WISE Curriculum



Art & Art History

Five Great World Art Museums

American Art of the 1930s

21st Century African Photography

WISE Curriculum



Seeing Stars & Exploring the Sky

Unraveling Chromosomes

The Past, Present & Enigmatic Future of AI

WISE Curriculum



Music

The Lives & Times of Great Composers

The British Invasion - Sans the Beatles

Jazz History in 4-parts

WISE Curriculum

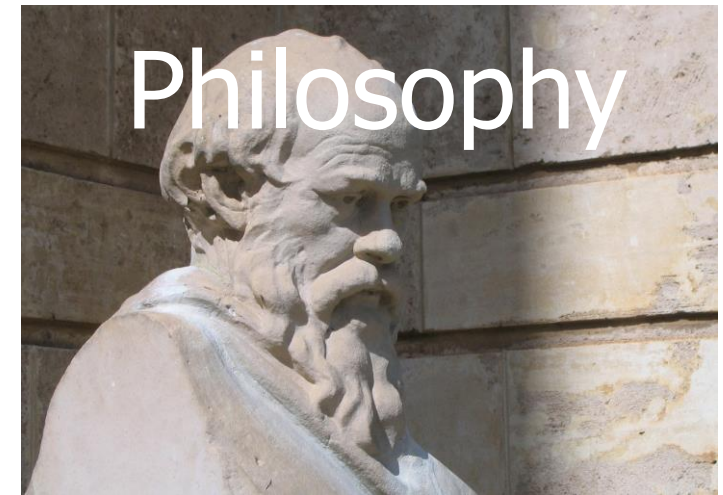


Women and the Underground Railroad

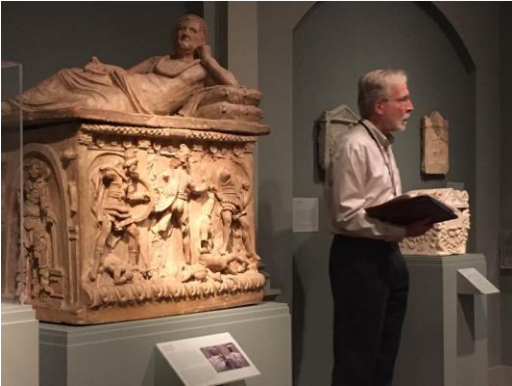
Lost and Displaced Persons after World War II

Chair City Journal – Gardner, Mass

And so much more!



WISE Instructors



We are a community of adult learners who enjoy teaching and learning



Instructors at WISE come from every academic level

Doctorate - Master's - Bachelor's - Enthusiast



Meet some WISE Instructors



Joe Corn
WISE President Emeritus



Martha Chiarchiaro
MA, MBA Seeing History

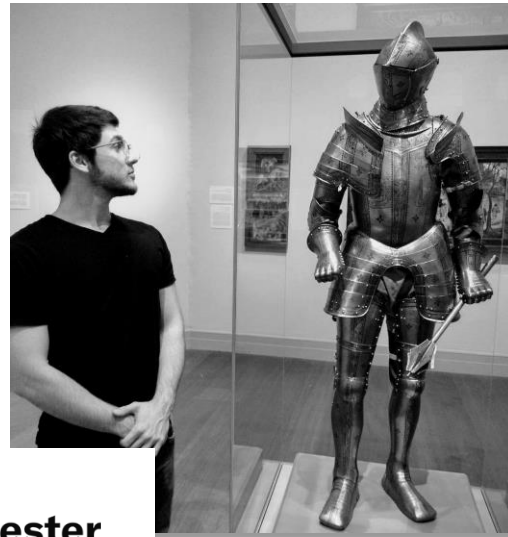


Paul Buono
Music faculty at WPI, Clark and Assumption

WISE and the Worcester Community



HANOVER THEATRE
& CONSERVATORY



Worcester
Art Museum



New England
Botanic Garden
AT TOWER HILL



Worcester
Institute for
Senior
Education

Enjoy the Benefits of Membership

Unlimited Classes Each Session



BLANCHETT **TÁR** Movie Club

IN THEATERS AND ON DEMAND NOW

Spotlight Lectures

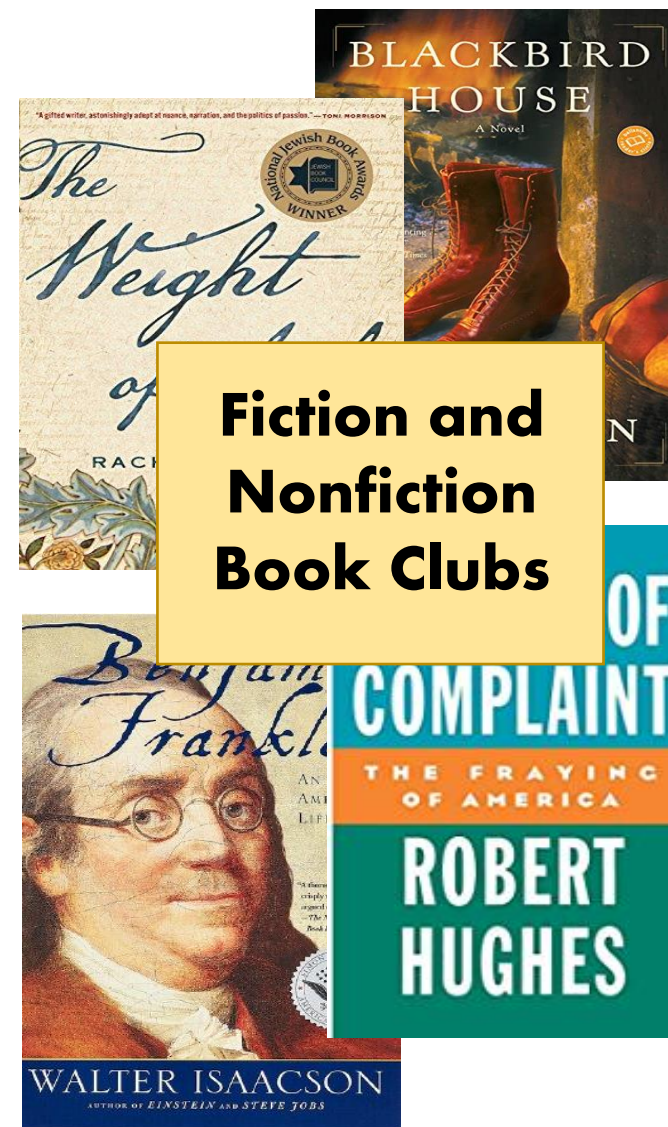
Motown & the Civil Rights Movement

-Tom Ingrassia
Creative Director,
The Supremes

Special Events



Fiction and Nonfiction Book Clubs



And so much more!



Ready to join WISE?

Individual membership fees for the 2025-2026 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)

WISE and Organizational Memberships



WISE partners with senior centers and retiree communities to bring courses to its members/residents

Why join WISE? Just 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

Phone

508-767-7513

Email

wise@assumption.edu



Questions?



WISE

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