Reading While Driving: Let’s Talk Audio Books

Thirty-five OLLI members gathered on June 15 to talk about audio books. For those of you planning long car trips this summer or who just want to listen to a book while cooking, gardening, or exercising, the class wanted to share their favorites with you.

According to a 2008 consumer survey by the Audio Publishers Association, 28% of adults have listened to an audio book in the past year and audio book users are more likely than the general public to be readers of print books and college educated. The most popular genre for those over 35 and the favorite genre for all listeners is Mystery/Suspense/Thriller, followed by general fiction. The same held true for OLLI listeners.

OLLI MEMBER FAVORITES IN AUDIO BOOKS

Mystery/Suspense/Thriller, by author:

Any book by--

Alexander McCall Smith
Bruce Alexander (Henry Fielding series)
David Baldacci
M. C. Beaton (Agatha Raisin series, Hamish Macbeth series)
Edna Buchanan
James Lee Burke (Dave Robicheaux series)
Clive Cussler
Janet Evanovich (Stephanie Plum series)
Elizabeth George (Inspector Lynley series)
Tony Hillerman
P. D. James
Donna Leon
John Lescroart
Laura Lippman
Patrick O’Brien (Jack Aubrey series)
Sara Paretsky
Anne Perry (Inspector Monk series)
Ellis Peters (Brother Cadfael Series)
Ruth Rendell
John Sanford (Lucas Davenport series)
Margaret Truman
Jacqueline Winspeare (Maisie Dobbs series)

**Mystery/Suspense/Thriller, by title:**

*Dracula* by Brian Stokes

*Cell* by Stephen King

*The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon* by Stephen King

*Lisey’s Story* by Stephen King

*The Mistress of the Art of Death* by Ariana Franklin

*The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield

*A Woman of Independent Means* by Carl Hiaasen

**General Fiction by author:**

Any book by--

Jan Karon (At Home in Mitford series)

Barbara Kingsolver

Fannie Flagg

**General Fiction by title:**

*Winter Solstice* by Rosamond Pilcher
The Help by Kathryn Stockett

Beach Music by Pat Conroy

Classic Fiction by title:

Emma by Jane Austen

Nicholas Nickleby by Charles Dickens

House of Mirth by Edith Wharton

Non-fiction by author:

Any book by—

Frank McCourt

David McCullough

Non-fiction by title:

Barbarians at the Gate by Bryan Burrough and John Helyar

Game Change by John Heilemann

The Great Railway Bazaar by Paul Theroux

The Infidel by Ayaan Hirsi Ali

The Olive Farm by Carole Drinkwater

The Professor and the Madman by Simon Winchester

Presidents’ Wives by Cokie Roberts

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson

Truman by David McCullough

A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson