The next selection for the Iona-Hope Book Club is the novel “Brave New World” by Aldous Huxley. John Winters will lead the group discussion at the church on Friday, August 21st at 1:15 p.m.

Brave New World was written in 1931 and was Huxley’s fifth novel. Set in London in the year 2540, it anticipates developments in reproductive technology, sleep-learning, psychological manipulation and classical conditioning that combine profoundly to change society. The title comes from a line in Shakespeare’s “The Tempest.”

Huxley is considered a prophetic genius and one of the most important literary and philosophical voices of the 20th Century. Brave New World is his masterpiece and a powerful work of speculative fiction. It has enthralled and terrified readers for generations. Brave New World remains relevant to this day as both a cautionary dystopian tale in the vein of the George Orwell classic 1984, and is considered a thought-provoking, thoroughly satisfying entertainment.

Aldous Huxley (1894-1963) was an English writer and philosopher. He was educated at Oxford and Eaton colleges. In 1911 he suffered an illness which left him nearly blind for 3 years and which ended his dream of becoming a medical doctor. He was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature seven different years. In 1999, the Modern Library ranked this novel 5th on its list of the 100 best English language novels of the twentieth century. He was named the greatest 20th century writer in English by the Chicago Tribune.