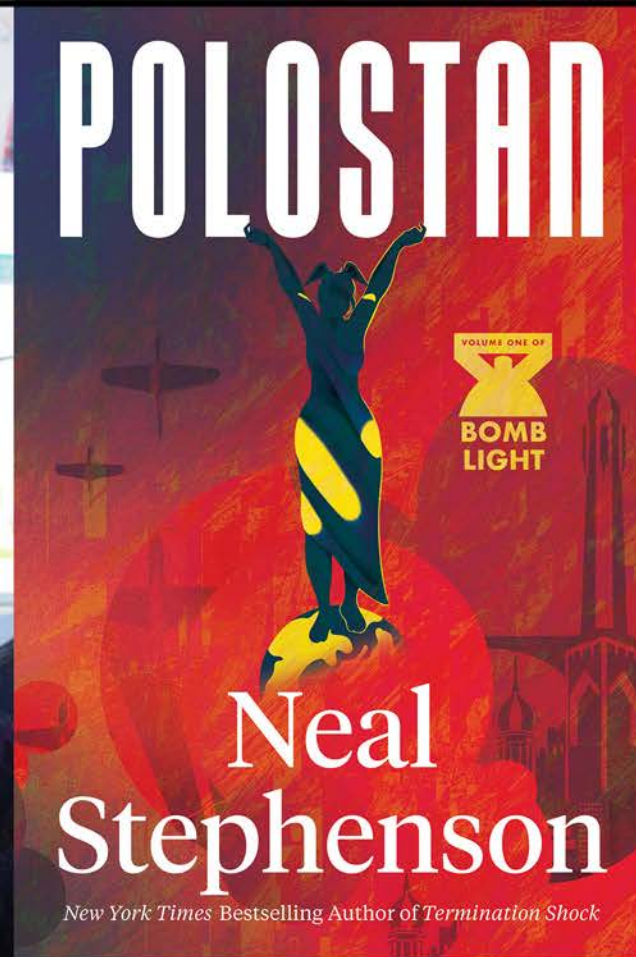


**FAN**



## Polostan: An Evening with Neal Stephenson

#1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the novels *Termination Shock*, *Fall; or, Dodge in Hell*, *Sevneves*, *Reamde*, *Anathem*, *The System of the World*, *The Confusion*, *Quicksilver*, *Cryptonomicon*, *The Diamond Age*, *Snow Crash*, and *Zodiac*, and the groundbreaking nonfiction work *In the Beginning . . . Was the Command Line*.

**Monday, October 21, 2024, 7:00 PM**

**The Book Stall**

**811 Elm St., Winnetka, IL 60093**

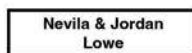
**SPACE IS LIMITED, REGISTRATION REQUIRED: [www.bit.ly/StephensonFANEvent](http://www.bit.ly/StephensonFANEvent)  
BONUS BOOK GIVEAWAY of *Polostan* at the event.**

This event is #freeandopentothe public and will be recorded but not live streamed.  
Suitable for youth 12+

Presented by **FAN** and 37 of our member schools and organizations.  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NEAL STEPHENSON – IN PERSON**

**CONTACT:** Lonnie Stonitsch, FAN Executive Director, [lonnie@familyactionnetwork.net](mailto:lonnie@familyactionnetwork.net)

**Monday, October 21, 2024, 7:00 PM, *Polostan: An Evening with Neal Stephenson*, The Book Stall, 811 Elm St., Winnetka, IL 60093. **BONUS BOOK GIVEAWAY of *Polostan* at the event. SPACE IS LIMITED – REGISTRATION REQUIRED: <https://bit.ly/StephensonFANEvent>****

The #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of thirteen previous critically acclaimed works of fiction, including *Termination Shock* and *Cryptonomicon*, **Neal Stephenson** delivers the first part of an epic new historical trilogy that illuminates the origins of the Atomic Age with ***Polostan: Volume One of Bomb Light***. Centered around an extraordinarily intrepid, resourceful, and lively protagonist with roots in both America and Russia, the novel spans two continents and many of the seminal events of the early twentieth century as Stephenson weaves a spellbinding tale of social and economic upheaval, revolution, espionage, invention, sport, and romance.

As *The Atlantic* has recently observed, “Perhaps no writer has been more clairvoyant about our current technological age than Neal Stephenson. His novels coined the term *metaverse*, laid the conceptual groundwork for cryptocurrency, and imagined a geoengineered planet. And nearly three decades before the release of ChatGPT, he presaged the current AI revolution.”

Stephenson is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the novels *Termination Shock, Fall; or, Dodge in Hell, Seveneves, Reamde, Anathem, The System of the World, The Confusion, Quicksilver, Cryptonomicon, The Diamond Age, Snow Crash, and Zodiac*, and the groundbreaking nonfiction work *In the Beginning . . . Was the Command Line*. He is also the coauthor, with Nicole Galland, of *The Rise and Fall of D.O.D.O.* His works of speculative fiction have been variously categorized as science fiction, historical fiction, maximalism, cyberpunk, and postcyberpunk. In his fiction, he explores fields such as mathematics, cryptography, philosophy, currency, and the history of science.

Born in Fort Meade, Maryland (home of the NSA and the National Cryptologic Museum), Stephenson comes from a family comprising engineers and hard scientists he dubs “propeller heads.” He holds a degree in geography and physics from Boston University, where he spent a great deal of time on the university mainframe.

This event is suitable for youth 12+. It will be recorded but not live streamed and will be available on FAN’s website and YouTube channel.

Sponsored by **FAN**, in partnership with The Avery Coonley School, Baker Demonstration School, Beacon Academy, Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School, British International School of Chicago/Lincoln Park, British International School of Chicago/South Loop, Catherine Cook School, Chicago Jewish Day School, Compass Health Center, Countryside Day School, Evanston Township High School D202, Family Service Center, The Frances Xavier Warde School, Francis W. Parker School, Gorton Center, Haven Youth and Family Services, Hyde Park Day School, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Kenilworth D38, Lake Forest Country Day School, Latin School of Chicago, Leo Catholic High School, Lycée Français de Chicago, North Shore Country Day, Northwestern University Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations, Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy, Pope John XXIII School, Regina Dominican High School, Resurrection College Prep High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Roycemore School, Santa Clara University School of Law, The Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School, Stevenson High School D125, Wilmette Public Library, Wolcott College Prep, Woodlands Academy.