



## Wednesday, April 22 8:00 p.m. EST

Join **PBS Books & Librarian, Heather-Marie Montilla** for a timely and thoughtful conversation with **Daniel Montgomery, Executive Director of the American Library Association (ALA)**, as they explore the enduring importance of libraries and librarians in shaping American society, culture, and civic life.

Together, they will discuss the powerful new film ***The Librarians***, streaming on the **PBS YouTube channel** and **PBS app**. The documentary examines how librarians across the United States are increasingly finding themselves on the frontlines of public conversations about access to information, education, and community values. Drawing on historical context and current events, the film highlights how librarians navigate challenges surrounding library collections while continuing their mission to serve their communities.

Montilla and Montgomery will also reflect on the previously released documentary ***Free for All: The Public Library***, which traces the inspiring history of the public library movement. From the pioneering women who helped establish the "Free Library Movement" to today's librarians working to keep libraries open, welcoming, and accessible to all, the film celebrates the individuals who helped build one of America's most enduring civic institutions.

The conversation will also highlight **PBS Books' Filmmaker Talks**, featuring insights from **Kim A. Snyder, director and producer of *The Librarians***, and **Dawn Logsdon and Lucie Faulknor, creators of *Free for All: The Public Library***. Through these discussions, audiences will gain a deeper understanding of the vision behind these films and why their stories resonate so strongly today.

This conversation highlights the vital role libraries continue to play as community anchors—places where knowledge, curiosity, and opportunity remain open to everyone.