



NEW·YORK·SOCIAL·DIARY

*Last night I went down to the Hotel Indigo, on 127 West 28th Street because a woman named **Farah Moinian** (whose husband owns the new hotel) was giving a book signing reception for **Anne Ford** and her third book (with **John-Richard Thompson**), *A Special Mother*, with Foreward by **Judy Woodruff**.*

Anne's subject is learning disabilities. This came about because her daughter **Allegra** was born with learning disabilities. When Anne was made aware of them she was confronted with something she didn't even want to look at. Her personal experience of facing her realities, however, gave her the opportunity to learn more about herself and to gain strength from it.

For a long time she was actively involved in the National Center for Learning Disabilities, and, along with **Carrie Rozelle** and a few others, built it into an influential organization that has made enormous strides in teaching us what learning disabilities are, and how common they are among us. A century ago people with serious learning disabilities were often locked away in institutions. Today people with serious learning disabilities lead independent, constructive lives.



Anne Ford and her new book, *A Special Mother*. [Click to order.](#)

Alina Pedroso and Tina Sloan McPherson.

Anne Ford learned that. The story she has to tell today is a story in all our lives. Last night her editor **Esther Margolis** read a passage from this book about Anne's discovery of herself as a mother when confronted with reality.

While she was I was thinking about this "Special Mother" Anne as a mother and how she regards and treats her children (direct, yet gentle; supportive, understanding) (really). This is her underlying message about Learning Disabilities but also about parenting, and families, and a better world. It was a good message to fortify us before we went back out into the storm.

I was thinking how she is also an amusing lady with a surprisingly acerbic sense of humor and what at first appears to be a low key personality. Both she and her sister **Charlotte** have lived their international lives mainly in New York, and as younger women they led a very public glamorous existence that almost belied the fact that they grew up in Grosse Pointe. However, they still exude that Midwestern sensibility in their presence. These books have come out of that sensibility – neighborly, useful, and optimistic.



Esther Margolis, John-Richard Thompson, Anne Ford, and Farah Moinian