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By Meredith Bryan

WEDNESDAY, October 22

CLASS WITH GRUSS: *Phew!* For a minute there we were worried this economic disaster was going to *fix itself!* But the fun is just beginning. ... Today, at the **Plaza**, the upper class indulges in some group therapy: a seminar and luncheon hosted by socialite **Audrey Gruss** benefiting the Hope for Depression Research Foundation. High-society folk showing up in the hopes of a stiff cocktail (well, hel-lo, sir!) include **Coralie Charriol Paul**, **Muffie Potter Aston**, **Samantha Boardman**, **Christina Greeven Cuomo**, **Zani Gugelman**, **Somers Farkas**, **Fabiola Beracasa**, Seinfeld-ex and designer-of-busty-bathing-suits **Shoshanna Gruss**, frighteningly ageless model **Stephanie Seymour**, **Dayssi Olarte de Kanavos**, **Tinsley Mortimer**, *Gossip Girl* bit player **Jay McInerney**, writer **Salman Rushdie** and friendly TV anchor **Chuck Scarborough**. Bring your own Wellbutrin. Later, Mr. Rushdie hops on his moped and zooms over to the IAC Building, where Swiss watchmaker **Vacheron Constantin** has wrangled R&B singer **Ne-Yo** to perform in his honor. Architect **Richard Meier** will also be feted (say, are rents plunging yet in his transparent towers on the West Side Highway?) along with, for some reason, **Afghanistan**. In attendance: designer-socialite **Diane von Furstenberg**; culinary socialite **Katie Lee Joel**, tall socialite **Byrdie Bell** and annoying writer-socialite **Derek Blasberg**.

[A Mission of Hope luncheon, Plaza Hotel, 10 a.m., 212-446-4295; Vacheron party, IAC Building, 555 West 18th Street, 7 p.m., 877-714-2600]