

NEW·YORK·SOCIAL·DIARY

November, 30th 2007

Yesterday at noon at the Metropolitan Club Audrey Gruss held a luncheon to announce the launch of the Hope For Depression Research Foundation which she founded in April 2006 in honor of her mother **Hope** who suffered from clinical depression. HFDR was originally funded by the Audrey and Martin Gruss Foundation. Since the foundation is now a public charity with a 501 (c) (3) tax status, they are obliged to raise a portion of its funds from the public.

The mission of the Hope For Depression Research Foundation is to quickly fund groundbreaking international research into the origins, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of depression and related disorders, with the ultimate goal of finding a cure.

Audrey's mother suffered from depression for most of her late adult life. Her family witnessed "decades of misdiagnosis, trials of medication, troublesome side effects, the psychic pain and life-sapping loss of energy that is the mark of clinical depression." Hope was, in spite of all this a "creative and talented woman, a writer and a poet" who produced hundreds of beautiful poems which chronicled her difficult life.

After she passed away in December 2005, her daughter vowed to do all within her power to conquer this dreadful illness. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH), almost 21 million people in the U.S. suffer from clinical depression.

Yesterday's luncheon included **Dominick Dunne** leading a discussion of depression in the creative community. **Jay McInerney** read from his book on depression. Mrs. Gruss discussed the need to accept depression as a chemical imbalance and a medical illness. **John Roland** was the emcee.

The new foundation's approach is to focus research in the fields of neuroscience which hold the greatest possibility for breakthrough developments – genetics and epigenetics, neuroanatomy, neurochemistry, and neurophysiology. HDRF hopes this approach will revolutionize treatment of depression as well as related disorders such as anxiety, bipolar disorder, post-partum depression, post-traumatic stress syndrome and ADHD.



Audrey Gruss

Among the guests listening and participating were **Pat Altschul, Doug Hannant, Stephanie Krieger, Ann Barish, Cornelia Bregman, Sandra Whitney, Beth DeWoody, Susan Gutfreund, Hilary Geary Ross, Carole Guest, Somers Farkas, Maggie Norris, Ann Tisch, Adrienne Vittadini, Dailey Patte, Virginia Coleman, Jackie Weld Drake, Peter Gregory, Max Federbush, Nancy Schaffel, Andrew Solomon, Catherine Adler, Sharon Bush, Dr. Samantha Boardman, Dr. Anna Chapman, Sharon Handler, and Lis Waterman**