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Women of Substance & Style

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AT THE ROYAL POINCIANA PLAZA IN PALM BEACH



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its effect on our daily lives has been profound. Whether that profundity is long lasting remains to be seen. But one very profound effect has been that on our lives as social beings, as everyone knows. So, in presenting my notes on the life in New York—and other major centers of social activity such as, for example, Palm Beach—I mark them with the dates that record the changes that have been occurring sometimes on a daily basis, to try and make sense of what we have been experiencing.

Tuesday, March 3rd. New York was like a beautiful early Spring day. Lots of bright Sun (there is such a thing as “dull”

Sun in the city), temperatures touching 60 degrees, and in the neighborhoods, people getting out. My favorite observation was of a fatherly type, maybe a grandpa, with his hands accelerating a wheelchair moving it along the pavement at a steady pace with a little one (maybe age two) sitting erect on his lap and a sibling (maybe age four) at a three-wheel scooting alongside. A sweet trio of life on another sobering, yet beautiful day.

Wheels and Wheels. The general news, i.e. the virus, is so confounding, not to mention scary and panicky in the morning news that we concluded the only solution for

the moment-to-moment is to look for the brighter sides.

Then back at my apartment, on the Upper East Side, and on the terrace, I see the deliveries had begun unloading their cache on the roadway. I have several opinions about this phenomenon, none of which are glorious. It is a current phenomenon, just like the hundreds of empty retail and service establishment storefronts across the city and the country. It is a veritable shutting down of community. BUT. It does speak of some prosperity somewhere and all those guys and gals who work these routes always remind me of librarians delivering the

books (goods) to the neighborhood. Nevertheless, getting the goods delivered beats lugging them home...

George Balanchine, the legendary choreographer once said: “Ballet is woman.” Even those of us who have little knowledge of this dance form see that classical ballet is (or was) decidedly female. The ballerina is its supreme practitioner—highly trained and an accomplished artist, her performance embodies our modern ideals of beauty and grace, encased in a sleek and enviably toned physique.

But did you know the ballerina’s elevated position is a relatively recent phenomenon?