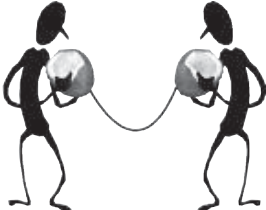


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## Editorial: Good Riddance 2017 and Welcome 2018!

The good news is we survived Hurricane Irma. Many of us pulled together to help each other, but other folks were just out for themselves. Some things are downright baffling... here are a few.

Many states across the country threw benefits raising millions of dollars for hurricane Irma relief as well as local fundraisers. Where did all that money go? I don't know anyone who has seen any of it. Be wary of online fundraisers.

As with hurricane Andrew, crooks and scammers are drawn here to profit on our misfortune. While the people who were hardest hit worked diligently on their homes, grateful they still have homes, others used the aftermath of the disaster to

swindle the helpless. One guy has a couple of Go-Fund-Me and Facebook sites to raise money because he says "he lost everything in the hurricane". He even went as far as to drive to the lower Keys and take a photo of himself outside someone else's wrecked home! He is currently still living in a motel even though his home is fine as well as his motorhome sitting in the front yard.

Another woman ran around town hysterically crying like a lunatic and claiming she lost everything to anyone who would listen. I know she did not lose everything. I'd taken photos of her house and emailed them to her the day after Irma (while she was evacuated) to ease her mind.

A friend of mine was murdered in November. One of

her so called "friends," looking smug, bragged how she crossed the police line and stole the murdered woman's bracelet off the porch floor! Stealing from the dead is despicable, but she's not so smug now.

Another local lady was devastated when her cute little dog escaped her home and vanished. She posted photos on Facebook and fliers all over town. The dog was missing a week and the owner got phone calls that her sweet baby Lillith had been seen at a gift shop at MM 103, so the owner of the dog went there. The owners of said gift shop swore to her that they did not have the dog but the dog's owner threatened to call the police



Lillith

because could hear her pet barking within the building! The husband and wife gift shop owners then rushed to surrender the dog they had been keeping hostage in an upstairs apartment. The owner was delighted to get her beloved therapy dog back only to be shocked and appalled when the dognappers had the audacity to phone her later and ask for a reward!

Marsha Garrettson of the Humane Society told me it is unlawful to knowingly keep another person's pet. Pets are considered property. A police report has since been filed. There are many dogs at the Humane Society that need homes, please adopt, don't steal. Pets are family!

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## Remembering Mike DiMaggio



## Celebration of Life

**Sunday January 28th**  
2:00 PM at the  
**Big Chill**  
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More information:  
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