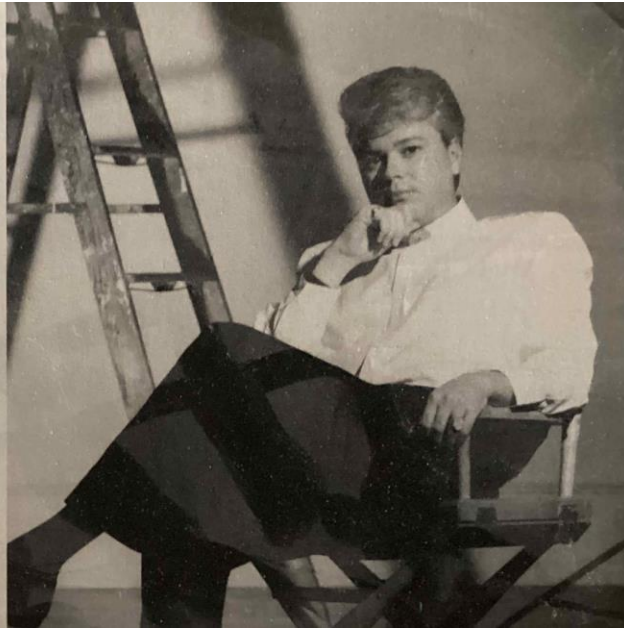


ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Danton Thompson is an Arizona native. The youngest in a very creative family, he was encouraged early in life to develop his artistic talents. Under the guidance of his mother, Amy, a multi-talented, award-winning artist, Danton became an accomplished painter and jewelry designer. The sense of color, balance and design he acquired from this training can be seen in the work he does today. In 1976 he became the co-owner of Richard Danton's, one of Scottsdale's premier hair and make-up boutiques. In 1982 Danton moved to New York to further his career as a make-up artist. Although he has worked with a number of rock and movie stars, he still prefers to help everyone he meets develop the star within.



Danton Thompson

**June 10, 1953 –
Nov. 23, 2023**

Here is a picture of him from his New York Times best-selling book "It Only Seems Like Magic."

Danton was creative since the day he arrived. He opened the first exclusive salon in Scottsdale and he started a motivational speaking business in his 20s -- with his main client being Mary Kay. Plus, there is the "about the author" (above) that has his story, as well.



Michael Fitzgerald

Aug. 28, 1941 – Apr. 12, 2024

He was eccentric, funny, gentile and an accomplished painter and artist. Michael served in the US army in the 1960s in the Chaplains Corps and was discharged honorably. He worked as a graphic designer and security professional at the University of Washington in Seattle. He moved to Scottsdale in 1999 to care for his mother, Mildred Fitzgerald, until her passing in 2002. He lived at the house in Scottsdale with his dog Mona.

Barbara Sipple
Dec. 31, 1935 - Oct. 9, 2024

Barbara was active in our community for many years. We could count on her gracing our festivities with her beautiful smile and enthusiasm, as well as her behind-the-scenes efforts in planning and managing those events. She made a positive difference to our small community. For the past year, she was blessed to have the care, love, and companionship of her daughter, Barbie Bickham.



Charlie Bessenger
April 30, 1936 - Jan. 23, 2025

Charlie was a long-time resident of VM III. His mother purchased and occupied the home on Thornwood when VM III first started selling homes in the mid-1960s. With her passing, Charlie inherited the home and lived there until his death. As all who knew him will attest, Charlie was a great addition to our neighborhood. He will be missed. (No photo available)

Joan Sanders
July 25, 1933 - Sept. 9, 2024

Having grown-up in Ohio, Joan was an alum of Cleveland Shaw High. After college, she moved to Arizona where she enjoyed the second half of her life, climbing Camelback Mountain, working at Delavan Electronics and retiring from Fender Music Co. Joan was a practical joker and could make just about anyone laugh. She and her middle child, Laura Perkins, made quite the team. They filled out many a book with "The Great Adventures of Joan & Laura" with their get-togethers, meals, and drives around the Valley.

